

The Lost Sheep

Passage: Luke 15.1-7

Theme: Christians believe that Jesus is the good shepherd who thinks everyone is special.

Resources : Memory stick with song words and music; CD with music on; Laptop (check cable); Projector (check 2 cables); Extension lead; Schools team t-shirts (3 spare); Spare scripts. 1 robe; Sheep.

Person 1 - Introduction, Questions

Person 2 - Shepherd, Prayer

Person 3 - Narrator, Talk

Introduction:

Hello everyone, we are so pleased to be back with you again! We are _____ (*insert church/organisation name*), I am _____, and this is _____ (*introduce rest of the team*).

I wonder if you have ever lost anything? Maybe you've lost your favourite toy, maybe you've lost your favourite teddy, or your favourite game. Or maybe you've even been lost yourself. Today we are going to be thinking about things which are lost and found.

Can you have a think about something that you have lost before? [pause]

We've all lost things before, I once lost my... (*tell short story of you losing something*).

Sometimes we find the things we lose but sadly sometimes we don't. Today we're going to hear a story from the Bible that Jesus told, where someone loses something very special to them...

Story/Drama:

Before assembly starts, hide the toy sheep.

Narrator to get 2 children up to be sheep.

Narrator: There once was a Shepherd.

Shepherd: *(Waves)*

Narrator: Who had lots of sheep. He always counted them as they went into the sheepfold.

Shepherd: *(counting - pointing out towards the children, include 2 children on stage) 99, 100 (Thumbs up, big smile on face)*

Narrator: But one day he realised one was missing.

Shepherd: *98, 99.... (Look confused)*

Narrator: He counted again

Shepherd: *97, 98, 99... Oh dear.*

Narrator: The shepherd knew he should have one hundred sheep, what was he going to do?

Shepherd: *(Think to yourself)*

Narrator: The shepherd couldn't leave the one sheep lost, so he made sure all the other sheep were safe, *(sit the children who are sheep down on one side of the stage)* and set off to look for the lost sheep.

Shepherd: *(go looking)*

Narrator: The shepherd looked behind walls, he searched in the bushes, he scrambled over rocks (*shepherd act out searching*) until finally he found his lost sheep. (*Shepherd finds sheep!*)

The Shepherd was so happy he had found his lost sheep, he lifted it onto his shoulders and carried it safely home. (*Shepherd carry sheep home looking happy*)

The Shepherd thought that every single one of his sheep was special.



Talk:

I wonder how you would feel if you realised that you had lost something very special to you? You might feel sad, or worried, or maybe a little bit frustrated. I know that I felt very sad when I lost my _____. All I wanted to do was stop what I was doing to go and look for it.

In the Bible, Jesus tells a story about a Shepherd who looks after one hundred sheep. One day he realises one is lost! The shepherd now has a decision to make: Does the shepherd just continue with only 99 sheep, or does he go looking for the one lost sheep?

Well, the shepherd decides to go looking for his lost sheep. He searches and searches and searches, until FINALLY he finds his lost sheep! The shepherd is so happy, he picks the sheep up and carries it home to have a party. It doesn't matter which sheep is missing, the Shepherd thinks every single one is special.

Christians believe that God is like the good shepherd in this story. Just like the shepherd who thinks that every single one of his sheep is special, Christians believe that Jesus is the good shepherd who thinks everyone is special. In fact, God thinks we're so special, Christians believe he sent his Son Jesus - the Good Shepherd - to look for us when we had gone far away from him.

Sometimes we don't feel very special, maybe there are things that we are not so good at, maybe someone is being mean to you, or you're left till last when picking football teams; or maybe we are treating someone like they're not very special, then we can remember this story from the bible. Remember the shepherd who went looking for his lost sheep and remember that Christians believe that Jesus is the good shepherd who thinks everyone is special.

Song: God's love is big!

Questions:

I am now going to ask you some questions so that you can show me how well you have been listening. Now, I am not going to be able to hear your answers, so what you might want to do is say your answer to the person next to you, or teachers, you can pause the video, chat about the answer, and then press play again.

1. What did the Shepherd do when he realised one of his sheep were missing? (*Left the others and went to find the missing one*)
2. What did the shepherd do when he found the missing sheep? (*Carried it home and had a celebration*)
3. What have we learnt today about what Christians believe? (Christians believe that Jesus is the kind shepherd who thinks everyone is special.)

Prayer:

To finish our assembly, I am going to say a short prayer for us all. So if you can please close your eyes so you aren't distracted and if you agree with what I say, you can join in with 'Amen' at the end.

Dear God, thank you so much for _____ (*insert school name*). Thank you that we have learnt from this story, that Christians believe that you think everyone is special. I pray that you would bless every child and every member of staff in this school. **Amen.**

Close:

Thank you for having us today. We hope you have a fantastic summer and we will see you again soon!