

Mission possible

Luke 15.1-10

Jesus is speaking to a group of unpopular people, annoying those who considered themselves important. So, he tells two parable stories: the first about a shepherd who leaves all his other sheep to look for a lost one, and the second about a woman who loses a precious coin and searches until she finds it.

Now read **Luke 15.1-10** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

These two stories are well known and much loved. From the earliest days, Jesus has been depicted as a good shepherd carrying the lost sheep on his shoulders. We can all remember what it feels like to lose something really important and to look and look until we find it.



Make a sheep. Stuff an old, single-coloured sock with anything to hand. Use an elastic band to close it at the open end, leaving a little stumpy tail. Use another band to section off a bit of the toe end to make a head. Give it eyes, a nose and mouth with a felt pen, or some stitches. Group 12 cocktail sticks into threes and bind each three with tape or wool to make four legs. Stick the ends into the sheep. You could trim the sharp feet ends for safety. Once you have your sheep, it might help you to wonder a bit: I wonder what the sheep felt when it was lost. I wonder what it felt like to be found. I wonder how the shepherd felt.



How does it feel to find something you thought was lost?

Pray



Through this week, try between you to find 100 things to be grateful for, and rejoice. Maybe you could tell other people.

Hide and seek

Go to a park or recreation ground, or to some woods, and play hide and seek. You could talk about what it feels like to be looking and looking for something.

Hunt the COIN

Play this game with a coin. One person goes out of the room. The others hide a coin somewhere in the room, then the outsider is called back in. They have to find the coin. Everyone helps by clapping them: if they get close to the coin, the clapping is loud, when they move away, the clapping is soft. When the coin is found, someone else has a turn.

WATCH



Watch some extreme shepherding:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2FX9rviEhw

Some sheep farmers in Wales, with their very clever dogs, teamed up with some film makers to show just how skilled they all are.

Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

Tax collectors and sinners were coming to listen to Jesus. The Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'He welcomes sinners and eats with them!' So Jesus told them this parable: 'If you had 100 sheep and you lost one of them, wouldn't you leave the 99 and search for the one that was lost until it was found? And when you had found it, wouldn't you lay it across your shoulders and carry it home, rejoicing? And when you brought it home, wouldn't you call your friends and neighbours together, saying, "Rejoice and celebrate with me, because I have found my lost sheep!"'?"

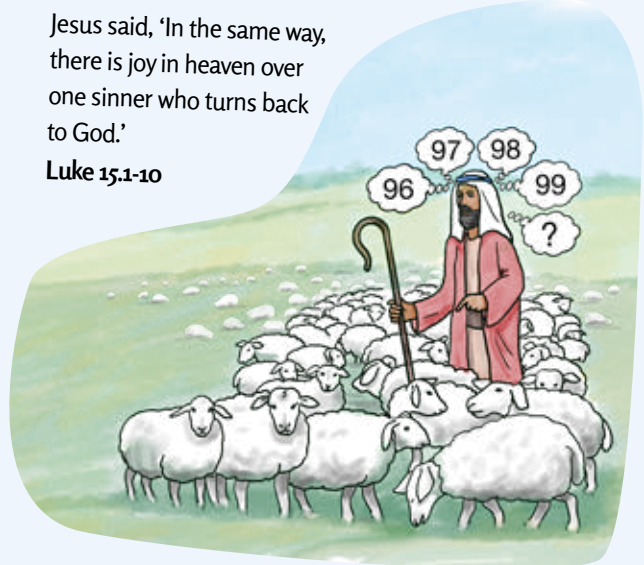
Jesus said, 'In the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who turns back to God, than over 99 good people who don't need to change.'

Jesus told them another parable. 'If a woman had 10 silver coins and she lost one, wouldn't she light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she found it? When she found it, wouldn't she call her friends and neighbours

together, saying, "Rejoice and celebrate with me, for I have found my lost coin!"'?"

Jesus said, 'In the same way, there is joy in heaven over one sinner who turns back to God.'

Luke 15:1-10



Did you know?

- Tax collectors worked for the Romans, and sinners were judged not to be living as God wanted.
- The Pharisees and scribes kept the Jewish law strictly and grumbled when Jesus didn't do the same.

Luke 15.1-10 (NRSV)

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

Jesus told this parable: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for

I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance. 'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'