



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Meet the Amazing Jesus  
Winter Year 3, Lesson 34

# God Wants to Get Close to You

**Primary Scripture:** Luke 15:1-10 The parable of the lost coin and the lost sheep

**Key Verse:** Romans 5:8, "Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God's love for us."

## How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need to know that they are valued. They need to feel significant, especially at times of loneliness. Kids need to know that God really does care and would never forget them. In fact, God will come looking for them and do whatever is necessary to bring them close to himself. It is God who wants to get close to them, and he did that by giving us his Son, Jesus. Jesus taught about the Father's love through parables that touch all of us at our point of need. We need to be loved and valued by God himself.

## How does Jesus fill this need?

**Jesus for us:** While we are still sinners, Jesus died for the ungodly. He did not wait for us to first search for him. Instead, Jesus paid the price for our salvation.

**Jesus in us:** Jesus says in Ephesians 3:17 that Christ dwells in our hearts through faith. That is how close Jesus wants to be to us.

**Jesus through us:** Once we discover how God has found us in Jesus Christ, we want to share that message with others and bring them to him also.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

*Supplies: lost-and-found basket. (It is best to fill the basket with genuinely misplaced items and a stuffed animal.)*

Show kids the basket; explaining it is filled with lost-and-found items.

Take the stuffed animal out and ask what the animal would feel like if it were lost. Then ask the kids if they have ever felt that way. Explain that God wants every single child to be found, not lost, when he/she comes to him.

**God wants us found. That is why he sent his Son, Jesus, from heaven to earth. Jesus lived a life that was perfect, and he gave his life for us so that we can be forgiven and found by God. We will be with God forever if we trust in Jesus.**

**Let's worship God who came to find us!**

### Songs of Worship:

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

# The Power of the Cross:

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

Read Psalm 119:176:

***“I have wandered away like a lost lamb. Search for me, because I have never forgotten your commandments.”***

Ask the following:

**What do you think a person’s life would be like if they were “lost” from God?**

Let kids respond.

Guide them to realize that all of us are “lost” in a sense, every time we sin. Help them to understand that God in his mercy comes after us and restores us to himself.

**Romans 5:8 says, “Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God’s love for us.”**

**Even while we were still lost in our sin, God came looking to save us.**

## Song of Response:

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*



# The Word

## Offering and Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

*Supplies needed: dollar bill and a quarter*

Before kids arrive, hide a dollar where it can be easily found.

Announce to the kids that you have lost a dollar bill and it must be in the room somewhere. Tell them that there will be a reward for finding it.

The kids can scour the room for the dollar. After the dollar is returned to you, offer the child a piece of candy as a way to say “thank you.” Then, put twenty-five cents in the offering as an expression of thanksgiving to God for having found the money.

**We give our offerings for this same reason. We give back to God out of thankfulness. It is not money that has been lost. We have all at once been lost and separated from God because of our sin. God has found us and brought us back to him, and our offerings are a way to say “thank you” to him.**

## Bible Presentation:

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

Show the video, *The Animated Stories from the New Testament: The Lost Is Found*, from Nest Family Entertainment.

Summary:

*The twenty-three minute video covers the parables of the lost coin and the good shepherd seeking the lost sheep.*

Alert the kids to listen carefully to the stories that Jesus told about being lost and found. See if they can think about how God and people must feel when God finds them.

## **Application:**

Discussion questions:

**This was a movie about lost things that were found. Who or what was lost in the movie?**

**How did the woman feel when she found the lost coin?**

**Why was she so happy?**

**How many total sheep did the shepherd have? What does this tell us about the shepherd's love for the one lost sheep?**

**What does this story (all these stories) teach us about God?**



# Witness

## Witness and Tell:

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

Ask if anyone was ever lost. Invite one or more kids to come up and tell their stories about how they had once been lost but were found again. Be sure to ask questions at different points in the story about how they felt.

## Prayer:

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

## Blessing:

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

# Supplies:

## Attention Grabber:

- lost-and-found basket (*It is best to fill the basket with genuinely misplaced items.*)
- stuffed animal

## Offering:

- dollar bill
- quarter

## Bible Presentation:

- video, *The Animated Stories from the New Testament: The Lost Is Found*, from Nest Entertainment Network — order from:  
[http://www.nestfamily.com/childrens-bible-stories/store/product\\_detail.asp?ProductID=LFD&ProductIDF=&deptid=1&start=21&page\\_rec=20](http://www.nestfamily.com/childrens-bible-stories/store/product_detail.asp?ProductID=LFD&ProductIDF=&deptid=1&start=21&page_rec=20)

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