



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Jesus and the Lost  
Winter Year 2, Lesson 38

# Jesus and the Lost Sheep

**Take Home Point:** \*I am important to God.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

**Bible Event:** Luke 15:1-7

**We will help children know:**

- Every person is important to God.
- God wants us to be in his family.




**We will help children feel:**

- Excited that God thinks I am important.
- Happy that God loves me.

**We will help children do:**

- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack that looks like a sheep.
- Make a lamb to remind them of the lost sheep.
- Play a learning game called *Lost or Found?* and a movement game called *Follow the Sheep*.
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce learning today's Take Home Point: \*I am important to God.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Warm-Up</b> (5-10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>toys of your choice</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group Opening</b> (5-10 minutes) 	3 3 5	Sing (Optional) Puppet Presentation Bible Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>songs of your choice</li> <li>Judy puppet</li> <li>Pink pony</li> <li>children's picture Bible</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> (10 minutes—each activity) 	6 8 9 11	Activity 1: Acting Out Bible Event Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Craft Activity 4: Learning Game Movement Game	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>children's picture Bible</li> </ul> <i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>napkins</li> <li>cups of water</li> <li>vanilla pudding</li> <li>graham crackers</li> <li>Optional: crisped rice cereal and a bowl</li> <li>plastic spoons</li> </ul> <i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>black construction paper</li> <li>small size paper plates</li> <li>cotton balls</li> <li>glue sticks</li> <li>tape</li> <li>wiggly eyes</li> <li>Take Home Point sticker or permanent marker</li> </ul> <i>Activity 4: Games</i> <i>Learning Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>none</li> </ul> <i>Movement Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 bean bags</li> <li>shoebox or small container</li> <li>two hula hoops</li> <li>8 foot rope</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group Wrap-Up</b> (5-10 minutes) 	13 13 14	Review Lesson and Take Home Point Pray Sing (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>songs of your choice</li> </ul>

## **Warm-Up** (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

*Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.*

## **Large Group Opening** (5-10 minutes)



*Purpose: You may use singing as a large group activity and to gather attention. The opening puppet presentation is a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the “joke” but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.*

**Singing:** Use music of your choice.

## **Puppet Presentation**

*Supplies: children’s picture Bible  
Judy’s pink pony hidden behind the stage*

### **Judy Learns She is Important to God**

**Presenter:** Boys and girls, let’s call out Judy.

Kids call for Judy. **Judy...Judy...Judy.**

*Judy enters, frantically searching by moving from one side of the stage to another, looking over the stage wall.*

**Presenter:** Hi, Judy!

Judy: Don’t bother me now. I’m looking for something.

**Presenter:** I guess you are.

Judy: AHHHHH! It’s not here.

**Presenter:** My goodness, what is wrong?

Judy: AHHHHH! It’s not over here either.

**Presenter:** What are you looking for?

Judy: I lost her! I lost her!

**Presenter: My goodness what have you lost?**

Judy: I lost my PINK PONYEEEE!! I know I brought it to church but I now cannot find it.

**Presenter: I'm sure you'll find her soon.**

Judy: No, I need to find her now. My pink pony is very, very important to me.

**Presenter: But it's time to talk about what we are going to learn in the Bible. Can you wait?**

Judy: Don't you understand? I've lost my pink pony. I need to find it now.

*Presenter reaches behind the puppet stage and picks up the pink pony.*

**Presenter: Well, here it is, Judy. We've found it.**

Judy: Ya-hoo! Finally! Come here my precious pink pony. I've missed you so much. Thank you for helping me.

**Presenter: I'm glad you've found your pink pony. That reminds me of what we are going to learn today.**

Judy: Not to lose your pink pony?

**Presenter: No, we are going to hear how Jesus told a story about a shepherd who lost a sheep.**

Judy: Did he find him?

**Presenter: Yes. He was looking for him just like you were looking for your pink pony. The sheep was very important to him, even though he had many others.**

Judy: I guess sheep are as important as pink ponies.

**Presenter: God says we are the most important. God says he will always come looking for us when we feel alone or are far away from him.**

Judy: Wow!

**Presenter: Yes. I am important to God. Say that with me.**

**Presenter: See what I am holding? This is the Bible. It is God's word. Everything in the Bible is true. Now I am going to read about our lesson from the Bible. Let's put on our listening ears.**

Read the Bible Event from a children's picture Bible.

**Presenter:** Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: \*I am important to God. I am important to God.

**Presenter:** Judy, will you help us sing our song of the week?

Judy: Sure, I love to sing.

**Song:** to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

*Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.*

I am IM-por-TANT to GOD.  
YES I AM. YES I AM.  
I am IM-por-TANT to GOD.  
He LOVES me ALL the TIME.

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,  
You are with us. You are with us.  
We love you. We love you.  
I am important to you. I am important to you.  
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.  
Amen. Amen.

# Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



**Purpose:** Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for three-year-olds should be one to six or fewer. Divide into groups of six with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds.

Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of up to twelve. The ratio will be maintained at one to six.

## Activity 1: Acting Out the Bible Event

Supplies:

- Children's picture Bible

### Jesus and the Lost Sheep

Luke 15:1-7

#### Introduction

Hold up a children's picture Bible.

**This is the Bible. It is God's word. Let's act out what it says in the Bible. When you see me do the actions, you do them, too.**

#### Jesus preaches to sinners.

- One day Jesus was teaching a crowd of people. Most of the people were tax collectors. People did not like tax collectors. The tax collectors stole money from people. Pretend to take some money from someone near you.
- People did not think Jesus should talk to tax collectors. They said tax collectors are bad people who stole money. The people did not think Jesus should be friends with people who did wrong things. (Shake head "no".)
- But Jesus loves everyone. Jesus knew that the tax collectors needed to hear him. He told a story to help the people understand. The story Jesus told is called a parable. Help me act it out.

#### Parable of the Lost Sheep.

- Jesus told this parable: Pretend you are a shepherd and you have 100 sheep. Let me hear you sound like a sheep.
- The sheep are outside in the field. Some sheep are wandering around eating grass. Let's pretend to be sheep and chew some grass.
- Some sheep are sleeping. Let's pretend to be sleeping sheep.
- Some sheep are standing still. Suddenly, the shepherd noticed that one sheep is missing!

### Searching for the lost sheep.

- You count the sheep. Let's pretend we are counting by pointing.
- You are right. One of the sheep is missing. You must find your precious sheep. You look around. Let's look around.
- You look up. Let's look up.
- You look down. Let's look down.
- You do not see your sheep anywhere. What should you do? (shrug shoulders)

### Finding the lost sheep.

- The lost sheep must be found. You knew that sheep since it was born. You loved that sheep. It is very special to you. You call the sheep. Let's say, "Here, sheep."
- The sheep does not answer. You must leave the 99 sheep to go find your lost sheep. Let's walk around and look for our lost sheep.

### The lost sheep is found.

- You look and look and look. Finally you find your lost sheep. You are so happy. Say, "Oh boy!"
- You are so happy you jump for joy. Let's jump up and down.
- You are so happy you clap your hands. Let's clap.
- You take your lost sheep back to the other 99 sheep. Now you have 100 sheep again.

### You celebrate finding your lost sheep.

- You are so happy that you found your lost sheep. You decide to have a party to celebrate. You invite all your friends to come and share your happiness. Let's invite our friends. (Make beckoning motions with hand.)

### Everyone is important to God.

- After Jesus told this story about the lost sheep, it helped the people understand that Jesus loves everyone. (Put hands on heart)
- Jesus is like the shepherd; he does not want anyone to get lost. Sometimes we are like the lost sheep. Everyone is important to Jesus. He comes looking for us and will find us.
- The people then understood that even the tax collectors and people who do bad things are important to Jesus. They were like the lost sheep and he invited them home so they could know God's love and not do bad things anymore.

## Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

### Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

I am important to you. I am important to you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Let's sing our song of the week.

**Song:** to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

*Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.*

I am IM-por-TANT to GOD.

YES I AM. YES I AM.

I am IM-por-TANT to GOD.

He LOVES me ALL the TIME.

### Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: \*I am important to God. I am important to God.

## Activity 2: Snack

*Supplies:*

- Napkins
- Cups and water
- Vanilla pudding
- Optional: crispy rice cereal and bowl to mix
- Graham crackers
- Plastic spoons for spreading

*If using the cereal option, mix pudding and cereal together in bowl. This will look more like sheep wool.*

*Break graham crackers in half so they are an oblong shape.*

BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES CHILDREN MAY HAVE BEFORE YOU GIVE THEM ANY FOOD TO EAT.
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Today we are going to eat a snack that looks like a sheep. Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,  
You are with us. You are with us.  
We love you. We love you.  
I am important to you. I am important to you.  
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.  
Amen. Amen.

Today we are hearing the parable of the lost sheep. If you use your imagination, our snack today looks like a sheep. We are going to spread this pudding on our cracker (demonstrate while you talk) so it looks like a sheep. (Spread the pudding with the back of a spoon. Use your own judgment in letting children spread their own pudding.) **Now you can eat your sheep.**

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: \*I am important to God. I am important to God.

Let's sing our song of the week.

**Song:** to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*  
*Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.*

I am IM-por-TANT to GOD.  
YES I AM. YES I AM.  
I am IM-por-TANT to GOD.  
He LOVES me ALL the TIME.

## Activity 3: Craft

*Children take pride in making something themselves. Resist trying to do too much for children so that they can say, "I did it myself."*

*Supplies:*

- *Black construction paper*
- *Small paper plates*
- *Cotton balls*
- *Glue sticks*
- *Tape*
- *Wiggly eyes*
- *Sticker that says: "I am important to God." or a permanent marker to write it on the back of the sheep.*

*Before class:*

*Using Appendix A as a size guide, cut out in black construction paper one head, four legs, one neck and two ears per child.*

*Cut paper plate in half.*

*Put Take Home Point sticker or write Take Home Point on back of plate (eating side will be the back of the sheep).*

**Today we are going to make a sheep like the one in our story. First we will tape the legs to the back of this plate on the straight edge.** (Tape about one half inch of leg to the plate with the rest of the leg showing below the plate.) **Then we will tape on a neck and head.** (Tape the head to the neck, covering as much neck as you can with the head so it will be sturdier.) **Next we will glue on two ears and two wiggly eyes. Now take your glue stick and rub it all over the plate so we can stick the “wool” (cotton balls stretched out a little) on our sheep.**

**Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: \*I am important to God. I am important to God.**

**Let's sing our song of the week.**

**Song:** to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

*Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.*

**I am IM-por-TANT to GOD.  
YES I AM. YES I AM.  
I am IM-por-TANT to GOD.  
He LOVES me ALL the TIME.**

**Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:**

**Dear God, Dear God,  
You are with us. You are with us.  
We love you. We love you.  
I am important to you. I am important to you.  
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.  
Amen. Amen.**

## Activity 4: Games

Choose one or both games to play. Children with lots of wiggles should play the Movement Game first.

### Learning Game

Supplies:

- none

Have you ever lost anything and been really sad? How did you feel after you found it? You were happy weren't you? Today we are going to play a game called *Lost or Found*. After you answer the questions, you can do the actions.

1. If a coin is under your bed, is it lost or found? (Lost.) Let's pretend to look under the bed.
2. If a ball is in your toy box, is it lost or found? (Found.) Let's pretend to bounce a ball.
3. If you put your video game on the table, but now it is gone, is it lost or found? (Lost.) Let's pretend to move the buttons on your game.
4. If you put your blankie on your pillow after your nap and it is still there at bedtime, is it lost or found? (Found.) Pretend to feel your soft blankie.
5. If your puppy gets out of your house and runs away, is it lost or found? (Lost.) Let's bark like a puppy.
6. If you are digging in the dirt and you dig up a whistle, is it lost or found? (Found.) Let's pretend to blow a whistle.
7. If your ring falls off your finger, is it lost or found? (Lost.) Let's make a sad face about our lost ring.
8. If you are playing in the park and you see your ring, is it lost or found? (Found.) You are happy you found your ring, let's clap.
9. If your mom throws away your drum, is it lost or found? (Lost.) Let's pretend to beat a drum.
10. If someone returns a book you left at a friend's house, is it lost or found? (Found.) Let's pretend to read a book.

### Movement Game

Supplies:

- 3 bean bags
- shoebox or small container
- two hula hoops
- 8 foot rope

Today we heard the story Jesus told about the lost sheep. Did you know that sheep like to follow each other? When I call out your

name, I want you to start playing our game of *Follow the Sheep*. I will say everyone's name and each of you follow the other person.

Put 3 bean bags on a line about 3 feet away from the box or container. About 2 feet away, have two hula hoops flat on the floor next to each other. Close by, have the rope on the floor in a wavy pattern.

The first person I call will run up to the line where the bean bags are and throw them into the box. Next, you will hop into and out of the hula hoops. Then you will crawl next to the rope and follow it to the end. When I call the next child's name, you will follow the first child and do the same thing. Ok, let's be sheep! If time permits, let the children go around the stations again.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: \*I am important to God. I am important to God.

Let's sing our song of the week.

**Song:** to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

*Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.*

I am IM-por-TANT to GOD.  
YES I AM. YES I AM.  
I am IM-por-TANT to GOD.  
He LOVES me ALL the TIME.

Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,  
You are with us. You are with us.  
We love you. We love you.  
I am important to you. I am important to you.  
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.  
Amen. Amen.

# Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



## Lesson Review:

Presenter reviews the lesson with questions or by supplying key parts of the lesson with some words left out. Children are to supply the answers as the presenter shares the Bible Event.

**See if you know the words I'm thinking of when I tell the Bible Event.  
If you know it, you may say it out loud without raising your hand.**

**Jesus loved people that others did not love. Some of these people had done bad things. Tax collectors did something bad. What did they steal from people, money or peanut butter sandwiches? (Money.) Did people think Jesus should be friends with bad people? (No.) But Jesus was their friend. In the parable, or story, that Jesus told, were there 100 sheep or cookies? (Sheep.) When one sheep was lost, did the shepherd sit down and cry or did he look for it? (He looked for it.) After the sheep was found, what did they do, have a party or go to the movies? (Had a party.) Jesus was teaching that a lost sheep was like the tax collectors who had done bad things. Jesus is happy when they are found and come into God's family.**

## Lesson Prayer:

**Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.**

**Dear God, Dear God,**

**You are with us. You are with us.**

**We love you. We love you.**

**I am important to you. I am important to you.**

**Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.**

**In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.**

**Amen. Amen.**

## Lesson Song:

Let's sing our song of the week.

**Song:** to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

*Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.*

I am IM-por-TANT to GOD.  
YES I AM. YES I AM.  
I am IM-por-TANT to GOD.  
He LOVES me ALL the TIME.

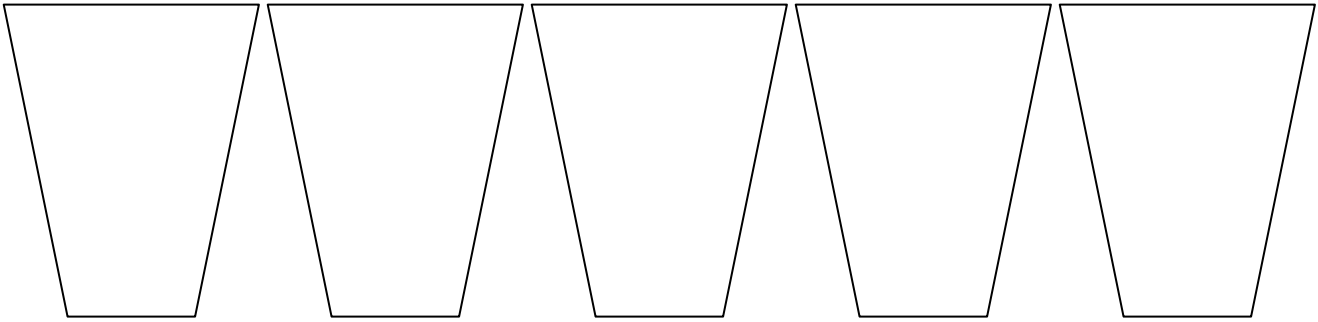
## Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: \*I am important to God. I am important to God.

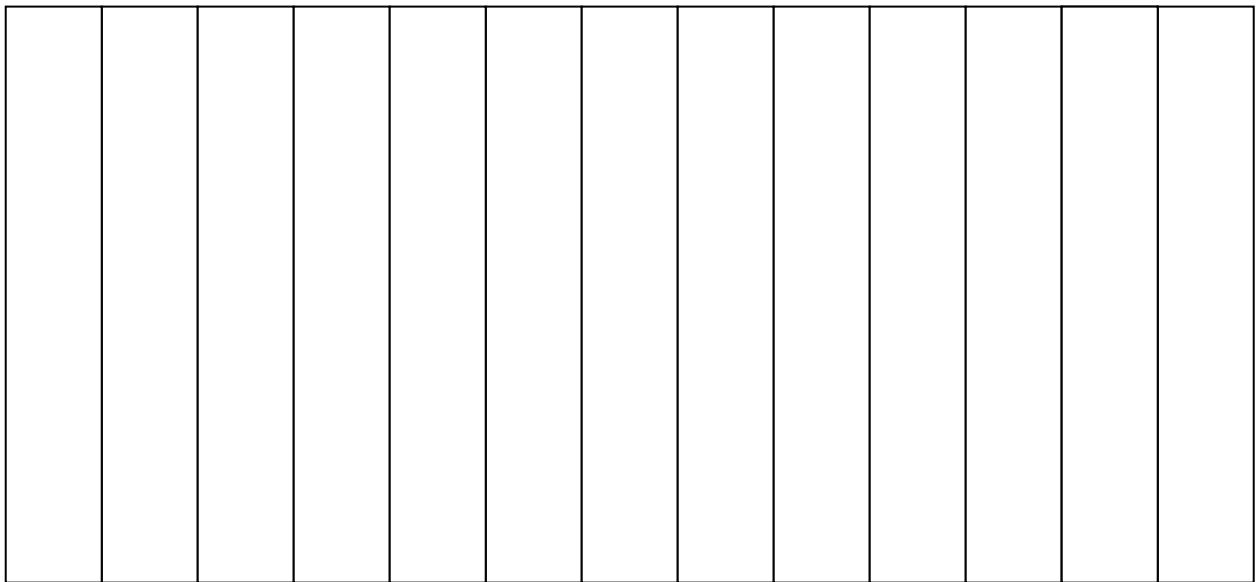
*Lead the children in singing songs from a CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out God Talk at Home.*

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

*Heads*



*Legs and Neck*



*Ears*

