

Lost and Found

Matthew 18:12-14; Luke 15:3-7; *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 186-192

Seven-year-old Carla was with her mother at the market. She stopped to watch a man showing how a toy plane worked. When she looked around, her mother was nowhere in sight! Carla was afraid. She was lost and didn't know what to do.

A long time ago, a little lamb was lost. Let's read about it.

Broken bits of bushes stuck to the wool of the tired sheep as they moved along the path. The shepherd gently guided his flock of one hundred sheep. The scraping sound of their hooves on the rocks mixed

with the bleating of the young ones. It made a kind of song in the shepherd's ears.

"Come back over this way," he coaxed, smiling at a playful lamb.

The sheepfold was in sight now. Like most of the sheepfolds in the area, the shepherd had made it secure. He had piled many rocks on top of each other. Then he had placed thorn bushes along the outside of the rocks.

Finally, the shepherd and the sheep reached the sheepfold gate. As each one went into the sheepfold, he checked it carefully for cuts or bruises. He ran his strong but gentle hands over every sheep. The shepherd spoke soothing words and poured medicine on sore places. The impatient animals bumped against one another, eager to get in to rest. Tired and hungry, the shepherd would be glad to reach home as well.

"Ninety-four, ninety-five, ninety-six," the shepherd counted. Every morning he took his sheep to pasture. And every evening he counted them as he brought them home.

"Ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine," he kept on counting. *Ninety-nine? What?* thought the shepherd. *I'm so tired tonight that I didn't count correctly.* Slowly he counted again. A frown crossed his face. "Ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine." His eyes checked every ewe, every ram and lamb. Oh no! Where was the little lamb the shepherd



The Message

Jesus comes looking for me
when I am far from Him.

Memory Verse

“ ‘Your Father in heaven
is not willing that any of
these little ones should
be lost’ ”

(Matthew 18:14, NIV).



had been calling back to the flock? It was there just a short time ago. Now it was nowhere in sight. Number one hundred could be anywhere!

Carefully, the shepherd latched the gate to the sheepfold. He turned back the way he had just come in spite of the rising storm. He called out to his missing sheep. *I'll really have to listen*, he thought. *With the wind blowing like this it will be hard to hear, especially if my lamb is hurt.*

The shepherd called. Then he listened. Then he called again. Carefully the shepherd worked his way in the dark back over the

rough ground. *Where are you, little one?* he thought.

A stinging rain began to make the rocks slippery. The wild wind howled. How could the small lamb have strayed so far in such a short time?

Straining once more to hear anything, he paused. “Yes!” he shouted into the storm. “Yes, I found you!”

There it was, just over there, beside some rocks. The lamb lay in a crumpled heap, tangled in thorns, and bleeding.

“OK, OK, you’ll be fine.” The shepherd’s gentle words calmed the frightened lamb. He untangled the thorns and scooped the lamb up into his arms. “I’m so glad I found you,” he whispered. “Let’s go home.”

The rugged shepherd hiked back over the slick trail again. But this time he smiled. This time he was holding his rescued one close. Bursting into the house, the shepherd gently laid the sheep down.

“Call the neighbors!” he cried joyfully. “I have found my lost sheep!” He was so happy! He wanted to share the good news with his friends.

When we wander far from Jesus, He comes looking for us, too. We are His “sheep.” He loves us so much. And He is very happy when all His sheep are safe at home again.



S A B B A T H

DO If possible, take a walk with your family. Play "Hide and Seek." (Choose a family member to be "It." "It" closes their eyes and counts to ten while everyone else hides. Then "It" says, "I am coming to find you," and searches for the "lost.")

READ Find a place to sit and read your Bible lesson story.

DO Read and discuss Matthew 18:14. Thank Jesus for His love for children.

M O N D A Y

READ For family worship discuss Luke 15:5, 6.

DO Make family plans to invite some neighbors to rejoice with you Friday evening. Plan to share a meal and tell them what God has done for your family. Ask Jesus to bless your plans.

SING Sing "The Lord Is My Shepherd" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 48).

T U E S D A Y

READ With your family read and discuss Luke 15:7. Ask each person to name three things for which they praise God. Then thank God for those blessings.

DO Ask: Have you ever "rejoiced" when someone who wasn't close to Jesus came back to Him? Let your family tell about it.

S U N D A Y

READ Together with your family read and discuss Luke 15:3, 4. The shepherd had _____ sheep. He lost _____ of them. How many did he have left? _____

DO Look in a book and find out three things you didn't know about sheep.

MAKE Make nine paper sheep. Write two words from your memory verse on each one. Write Matthew 18:14 on the ninth sheep. Cut out the sheep and put them in the right order. Then thank Jesus for sheep.



Shepherds were expert trackers and often risked their lives to find a lost sheep.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE Read and discuss Matthew's version of the lost sheep story (Matthew 18:12-14) for family worship.

DO Did you show someone the lamb puppet you made in Sabbath School? Did you tell them about the lost sheep? (If you don't have a lamb puppet, make one with a white sock. Glue some cotton balls on top of the puppet's head. Add some cloth ears, some button eyes, and draw a mouth.) Ask Jesus to bless that person.

DO Have the puppet say your memory verse. Save the puppet for Friday.

