

Lost and Found

(Luke 15)

PREPARATION:

- Obtain **Bible costumes**, one for a girl and four for boys.
- Provide a **large coin** and a **broom** as props.
- Make sheep's ears from paper, and attach them to a **child's hair band**. Make one for each student who is assigned to be a sheep.
- Make three pig snouts from paper, and attach **elastic thread** to each one.
- Select "**All We Like Sheep**" from the music CDs.
- Several weeks prior to the program, assign the following parts to students: a sheep, a shepherd, a woman, a father, two sons, three pigs. Students who are not assigned a part can be sheep or townspeople.



Narrator: (*addressing audience*) Have you ever lost something or someone? The people in these three parables that Jesus told all lost something or someone, too. Listen to find out what was lost and how it was found.

(*Sheep and Shepherd enter from the back of the room. Sheep need to be on hands and knees.*)

Shepherd: (*herding several Sheep and talking to them*) Come on, Sheep. Let's go into the pen now. It's getting dark, and there are wolves around here.

Sheep: Baa. Baa. (*Wait until the group of sheep reaches the front of the room before having the Shepherd speak again.*)

Shepherd: (*counting sheep*) Almost finished counting—95 ... 96 ... 97 ... 98 ... 99 ... Wait a minute! I have 100 sheep. What happened to number 100? Oh, no! One of my sheep is lost.

Narrator: May I help you, Mr. Shepherd?

Shepherd: Why yes, you can. Can you keep an eye on these 99 sheep? I've lost one, and I must go and find him. He may be cold or in danger.

Narrator: But you have 99 sheep. Isn't that enough? What does it matter if you lose one sheep?

Shepherd: Even one sheep is important to me! I must go and find him!

(The Shepherd exits and returns with a sheep. The Sheep bleats happily.)

Narrator: One sheep certainly was important to you, just as one person is important to God.

(Sheep and Shepherd exit. The Woman enters, carrying a broom and looking around the floor.)

Narrator: Excuse me, miss. I can see you're looking for something. I can help you find it.

Woman: I've lost a coin, and I can't find it anywhere.

Narrator: A coin? What's the big deal about a coin? Surely you have more than one coin.

Woman: Even though I have more than one, each coin is valuable to me. *(bending down)* Ah, here it is! *(picks up the coin)* I'm so grateful that I was able to find it, I think I'll call a few friends over and celebrate. *(She calls two or three Townspeople over, and all are happy.)*

(The Father and two Sons enter.)

Narrator: There was once a father who had two sons. The younger boy came to his father and asked a question.

Son 1: Father, I want all the money that would be mine if you were to die. I'm leaving town!

Father: All right, Son. This makes me sad, but I'll give you your money now. *(Father pretends to give money to Son 1. Son 1 walks to the other side of the stage.)*

Narrator: The younger son went to a faraway country. He spent all of his father's money on having fun. Pretty soon, he had nothing left. He went to work for a farmer and fed the pigs.
(*Three Pigs enter and surround Son 1.*)

Narrator: The boy was hungry, but no one gave him any food. The pig food was stinky, but it was starting to look pretty good to him. Then he thought about the life he once had with his father. Not even his father's servants went hungry. He decided that he would see if his father would hire him as a servant.

(*Son 1 goes to Father and kneels at his Father's feet.*)

Son 1: Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I shouldn't have selfishly demanded money from you. I'm no good. Don't think of me as your son; hire me as one of your servants.

Father: No! You're my son. I can see you're sorry for what you've done. Here is my best robe for you to wear, a ring for your finger, and shoes for your feet. (*Have Father pantomime giving the robe, ring, and shoes to the Son; have the Son pantomime putting the items on.*)

Son 2: (*to Father*) Hey, what's going on here? Oh, I see. My brother wasted all your money, and yet you're treating him like an honored guest. I've worked for you all these years, and you've never even given me a gift!

Father: (*to Son 2*) Son, everything I have is yours. But shouldn't we be happy that your brother has come back? It's as if he had died, but now he is alive again. He was lost, but now he is found!

(*Characters leave the stage. Narrator addresses the audience.*)

Narrator or Teacher: You've just seen three parables that Jesus told. Sin separates you from God; it's as if you are lost to Him. God wants you to come to Him. If you truly repent, He forgives your sin and the separation is removed through Jesus. Let's ask God to forgive us and help us to always do what is right. (*Narrator or Teacher leads the group in prayer.*)

Lead students in singing "All We Like Sheep" from the music CDs.