



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

REVEALED

BIG IDEA

God will never stop loving me.

THE BIBLE

The Lost Sheep, Coin, and Son: Luke 15:4-32;
(Psalm 23)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | "Reckless Love"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sing [the song](#) together.
- Did you notice these lyrics: "Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine"? Today we are going to hear a Bible story that explains exactly what that means!

OBJECT LESSON | I Wool Always Love You

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get a ball or skein of yarn, and have two people try to stretch out the yarn as wide as they think God's love is for them. Then, show [this video](#) of the Guinness World Record for longest knitted scarf.
- Did you know the longest knitted scarf in the world was almost 15,000 feet long? Can you imagine how much yarn they used to make that? But you know what? We could buy all the yarn in the world and we still wouldn't have enough yarn to show how much God loves us!

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

VIDEO | Revealed, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#). (found in Teaching Videos folder)



BIBLE STORY | Luke 15:4-32

- The hidden message in Jesus' story today is so important, Jesus uses three different parables to help us understand it. **Who remembers what a parable is?** (*Pause for answers.*) That's right (*or "Remember,"*) it's a short story that tells us a deeper message about God.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Luke 15:4-10. Then, assign the following roles: Narrator (needs to be able to read), Father, Lost Son, Older Brother, Citizens of Foreign Land and Pigs (optional, but fun, especially for very littles). The narrator reads Luke 15:11-32 while the rest of the characters act it out without speaking. Encourage the kids to be dramatic! Use props if you'd like (such as play food, play money, etc.).*
- Okay, so let's think back to all three of the stories we read. They all had something in common. **What was it?** (*If you need to prompt, "Remember, the first one was about a sheep that got...? And the second was about a coin that got ...?"*) Right! They're all about something or someone that got lost! Jesus told these stories about something or someone very valuable and precious who is lost. And the lost thing or person was found by someone who loves them very much!
- The hidden meaning in this story is not just that God loves us. It's that God will never stop loving us! Each one of us is so valuable and so precious to God, and God wants to make sure we are never lost.
- Now, you probably don't think you're lost, right? We all know where we are! We are at *[name of church]* in *[name of town]*. But the hidden meaning of these stories means that some people are lost because they haven't yet discovered how big God's love is. But no matter who we are or where we are or what we are doing, **God never stops loving us.**
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *An alternative to volunteers acting out the story is to create a puppet play. With a puppet play, the teacher has better control of the information being presented, and you have the ability to make it concise. And you don't need fancy puppets! You could use simple drawings cut out and pasted on to popsicle sticks to hold them up!*

STORY | What I Lost

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story of a time when you lost something really valuable to you. Stick with something that kids would recognize as valuable (they might not quite understand the impact of losing a passport or a credit card). Perhaps you can tell a story about losing your favorite blanket or stuffed animal as a child, or maybe even a story (if it isn't too traumatic) of you getting lost when you were a kid, or of losing one of your own kids. Hone in on how you felt like you would do anything to get the item back or find the person you'd been separated from.*
- **Has anyone else ever lost something or someone that was very important to them?**
- **What are some of the feelings you would have if you were the one that was lost? How would those feelings change if you had someone with you to help you, especially an adult?**

- **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have your students use their imaginations and problem-solving skills to work through the following "survival" situation: "You are taking the bus on a long trip. You fell asleep as soon you got on the bus, and when you wake up, you realize you've missed your stop and now you're in a city you don't recognize. The last text message you got was from your friend (who took another bus) who told you to meet them at the pizza place for dinner. But now you have no reception so none of your apps work. You are lost. Take five minutes to brainstorm how you will find your way to the pizza place to find the rest of your friends." Have everyone share their methods and discuss how they would feel if they were really lost like that.*

IMAGE | Sheep and Shepherd

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [these images](#) on a screen or pass around printouts.
- This shepherd had 100 sheep. But one went missing. Now, I want you to imagine what it would be like to be a shepherd. Your whole job is to keep track of these sheep. It is very important to you! Doing this job is how you care for your family and your community. **So, what would you do if that happened to you, if you were in charge of 100 sheep and one wandered off?** (Allow for some answers.) To this shepherd, that one missing sheep was so important that he left all the others – the ones that were safe – to go find it.

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 23

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Psalm 23 as a group. Encourage children who have Bibles to take turns reading a verse out loud, or project the verses on to a screen.
- God loves us all very much. And God will never, ever, no matter what, stop loving us. This Bible verse compares God's love for us like how a shepherd takes care of their sheep, which reminds us of the story of the lost sheep we read earlier. So, just like the shepherd went to find his missing sheep, God wants to help each and every one of us find our way back to the safety and love that God offers us.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | Yes or No

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make simple voting paddles out of paper plates by attaching a tongue depressor in between two paper plates. Have the kids write "yes" on one side and "no" on the other (pre-readers can do smiley faces and frowny faces). Read the following situations and have the kids hold up "yes" or "no" based on their answer (Feel free to modify this activity and use whatever materials you have on hand, or you can do this verbally, with the kids signaling a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down").
- I'm going to tell you a situation. If you think God would love you even in this situation, hold up your paddle and vote "yes." If God wouldn't love you, hold your paddle so it says "no." Are you ready?
 - You build a rocket ship and become the first person to live on Mars!
 - You move to a different country and become a painter when you are 18.



- You try out for the soccer team, but you don't make the team.
- You say something really mean to your parents.
- You have a huge fight with your best friend and you call your friend a hurtful name.
- You cheat on a math test at school.
- You think maybe you don't even believe in God.
- *(Use other examples, including some things you know the kids in your group will find particularly funny.)*
- So, you might have noticed that the answer to all of these is yes! God will never stop loving you. No matter where you go, what you think, or what you do, God will never, ever, ever stop loving you.

ACTIVITY | Lost and Found

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Label a cardboard box with the words, "Lost and Found" with odds and ends (such as a sweater, hat, pencil, button, etc.) – you could probably even use items in your actual Lost and Found at church! Take out the items and briefly describe each item and how the owner must be missing said item. Print and prepare this week's printable (or use blank [name labels](#)), and put the name badges inside the box for later in this activity.*
- Sometimes, we feel like we are lost just like these items, don't we? We might feel like we aren't doing enough to show we belong to God. Or, no matter how hard we try to be good people, sometimes we slip up. Even though you might feel this way, God loves each of us so much. You are the most precious lost and found item, and unlike some of the items in this box, you are constantly being searched for... by God!
- Now, I don't want any one of you to get lost again, so let's put name labels on ourselves so everyone can know who we belong to *(Pass out name badges and have kids write their names and "God" after "I belong to ____."* Have kids proudly wear their new name badges!)
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *To aid comprehension of these abstract concepts, try giving more tangible or easy to grasp words and phrases. Synonyms for "lost" may be: disconnected, far, unable to call/talk, unable to locate, unable to know, feeling like a stranger, and so on. Synonyms for "found" may be: connected, close, able to talk anytime, able to locate, feeling like the best friends and so on.*

MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 33:3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask the kids to say the memory verse together a few times. Then, tell them you have an imaginary volume dial (pretend to hold a circular dial) that when you turn to the right ("turn" counterclockwise, the kids' right), the kids need to say it louder, and when you turn to the left ("turn" clockwise, the kids' left), they need to get quieter. Repeat this as many times as you want, and have fun with when in the verse to turn the volume up or down.*
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Get a ball of yarn (from our earlier activity) and have the group sit in a circle (if you have a large group, break it down into groups of 5 or 6). The first student says the first word in the memory verse and holds on to*



the beginning piece of yarn. Then the student rolls the rest of the yarn to a friend across the circle. That student says the second word of the verse, holds on to a piece of string, and rolls the rest of the yarn to another friend sitting around the circle. All the kids will enjoy watching the yarn criss-cross across the circle each time the ball of yarn is passed. This will increase retention and interest, as students are physically engaged in memorizing the verse.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What did the shepherd do when he lost one of his 100 sheep?**
- **What did the woman who lost one of her ten coins do?**
- **What did the father who lost one of his two sons do?**
- **Re-read Psalm 23. What part in this Bible verse shows us God will never ever stop loving us?** (*Let the kids explain their answers, but verse 6 is the most obvious choice!*)
- **What are some ways you can see God's love for you in your life?**
- **What kinds of things could you do that might make God stop loving you?**
- **How does knowing that God will never stop loving you make you feel towards God?**

ACTIVITY | God's Sheep

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask the kids to trace one of their hands on black cardstock paper. After they cut it out, hold the hand upside down (with fingers pointed down) and punch a hole near the top (where the wrist would be) and loop a piece of yarn or string to it. Then, kids can glue cotton balls to both sides of the "palm" and "back" of the hand, leaving the fingers uncovered (these are the sheep's legs). You can glue on googly eyes to the thumb, too (For a visual guide of what your craft might look like, look for a webpage like [this one](#)).*
- How awesome that Jesus is the kind of shepherd that doesn't give up on any of His sheep! Hang up your sheep craft somewhere you can see it every day to remind you God will never stop loving you!