WEEK 11: JESUS IS …. THE GOOD SHEPHERD Part 1

AIM: To show the children the character of Jesus with the predominance of unselfish love, as illustrated in the parable of the Lost Sheep.

OPENING IDEA: GAME—THE LOST SHEEP
Materials required: Blindfold
How to play:
1. Choose two children, one to be the shepherd and one to be the sheep.
2. Rest of the children to sit in a large circle.
3. Blindfold the shepherd.
4. Within the circle made by the seated children, the shepherd must find the sheep by calling 'where's my sheep?'
5. The sheep must not run but quietly sneak away to another point within the circle as soon as the shepherd calls. The sheep stands still and answers 'Baa, baa' and must remain in the same spot until the shepherd calls again.
6. Set a time limit for each pair.
7. If the shepherd touches the sheep, choose a new pair.

MEMORY VERSE: LUKE 19:10
“The Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

SUGGESTED PRESENTATION:
Use either 'Lose/Find' puzzle and fill in the missing words at bottom, or write memory verse on Dot-to-Dot puzzle.

STORY: PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP (Luke 15:3-7)
There once was a young man who lived many years ago in a far country. He was kind and caring and had worked on his father’s farm as a young boy. His job was to care for the sheep and he had learnt his job well. As he grew older he decided to buy a farm of his own and look after his own sheep.

But he was poor and it cost a lot of money to buy a farm so the young man left home and got a job with a rich man who could afford to pay him to look after his sheep.

The young shepherd worked very hard for several years and carefully saved his wages until he had enough money to buy a small farm with 100 sheep. He loved his sheep very much and because he had worked so hard for so long, he took great care of his sheep.
Every morning he would get up early and go to the sheepfold and take his 100 sheep out to the green fields so they could feed on the best grass. He knew each one of them by name and would talk to them or sometimes sing songs as he spent the long sunny days watching his flock.

The shepherd always carried a stick with a large knob on the end. It was called a rod. If a wolf or wild dog came to kill the sheep, the shepherd would chase it away by hitting it with his rod. He also carried a long stick with a curved top called a staff. If one of his precious sheep fell down a ditch, or over the side of a hill or got caught in a prickle bush, the shepherd would use his staff to bring the sheep to safety.

One afternoon, after being in the field all day, the shepherd was counting his sheep as they went back into the fold when he discovered one missing. He quickly called a friend and asked him to watch the 99 in the fold while he went to look for his lost sheep. The shepherd put on a warm cloak as it was getting cold and dark, and picked up his rod and staff and walked back to the place where the sheep had been grazing through the day.

As he walked, he called the name of the lost sheep so that the sheep would hear the kid shepherd’s voice and let him know where he was. Even though the shepherd was hungry and tired and it was cold and dark, he did not give up because he loved his sheep very much. After a long time, the shepherd heard the bleating of his sheep. It had wandered away from the flock and fallen over the side of a hill into a bush. The shepherd was so glad to see his sheep. He gently picked it up and wrapped it in his warm cloak and carried it home.

The shepherd’s friend was worried about the shepherd because he had been away so long. As soon as he saw him coming in the distance, he ran to tell all the neighbours that the little lost sheep was found. The neighbours were happy also and they brought hot food and bread and cakes and drinks to the shepherd’s home for a party to welcome both the shepherd and the sheep home again.

RELATE THIS STORY TO THE LIVE OF THE CHILDREN USING THESE POINTS:
1. Jesus is like the shepherd.
2. He created us and we are like his sheep.
3. He cares for us and loves us just like the shepherd loved his sheep. He also knows our name.
4. Sometimes we wander away from God, we do our own thing and maybe get into trouble, just like the lost sheep.
5. Jesus comes after us to bring us back because he loves us.
6. The angels in heaven are like the neighbours, they are happy when we come back to Jesus.
7. Jesus is always with us.
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Help the shepherd search for his lost sheep.....

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Read 'The Parable of the Lost Sheep,' in Matthew 18:10-14 or Luke 15:3-7.
Jesus Christ is like a tender, loving Shepherd. He created us and we are like His lambs and sheep. He cares for us and provides everything we need in the same way a shepherd looks after his sheep when they are hurt or lost or hungry.

Sometimes sheep wander away and the shepherd has to go and find them. Similarly, we can move away from Jesus, do our own thing, and lose our way in life. He loves us too much to let us stay lost, so He comes after us, calls us and brings us back into a relationship with Him.

A shepherd is often willing to face danger, spend long hours alone on cold nights and go without much to really care for his sheep. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, was willing to lay down His life for us, His ‘sheep’, to show how much He loves us.

(Luke 15:3-7)
Connect the Dots.

Who Is This With What?

The sheep has gone astray. Follow the clues. To change the word least to find.

6. The Son of Man came to save what?

5. “Where are His sheep?”

4. The Son of Man will leave Him.

3. Where was the sheep when He came to save it?

2. Which of them will go and look for it?

1. Which of them will find it?
Write the Parable of the Lost Sheep in your own words.
**Fuzzy Lamb**

(25-30 MINUTES)

**Materials**
- Ear Pattern
- cotton balls
- white felt
- black chenille wire

**For each child—**
- white paper plate
- black medium-sized pom-pom
- two wiggle eyes

**Standard Supplies**
- pencils
- glue
- scissors
- ruler

**Preparation:** Trace Ear Pattern onto white felt—two ears for each child. Cut out ears. Cut chenille wire into 4-inch (10-cm) lengths.

**Instruct each child in the following procedures:**
- Cut through the rim of the paper plate at approximately 1-inch (2.5-cm) intervals.
- Using a pencil, curl back the paper-plate fringe (sketch a). (Younger children may need help with curling the fringe.)
- Glue one felt ear to each side of plate edge.
- Glue cotton balls to front center of plate to cover.
- Glue on black pom-pom for nose, chenille wire piece for mouth and wiggle eyes to complete lamb’s face.

**Bible Bits:** David loved and took care of his sheep. Do you have an animal to take care of? How do you show love to your pet? God wants us to show love to animals and especially to each other. How could you show love to your friends? This Fuzzy Lamb will help you remember to show love to others.
SPOT THE 12 DIFFERENCES

ANSWERS: Snake, part of house missing, clouds, sun, mountain peak missing, sheep facing other way, sheep missing, camp fire, size of rocks, shepherd's robe has darker stripes, plant missing.

LOST SHEEP MAZE Help the shepherd reach his lost sheep. Luke 15:4-7
The shepherd rescues the lost sheep. Jesus rescues us from sin to