

Upper Elementary

WEEK 2 - STARTER



Activity Name: Search for Sheep

What You Need: 2-3 party hats Paper Cotton balls

What You Do:

- Give 2 or 3 kids a party hat.
- Explain that they need to wear their party hat over their eyes so they can only look through the small hole at the end to see.
- Scatter a few cotton ball “sheep” on a table or on the floor.
- Challenge them to find all the “sheep” while looking only through the tiny hole in the party hat. It will be surprisingly difficult and disorienting.
- Let them try for a minute, then allow the kids to take the hats off and easily find the sheep.
- Repeat until all kids have had a turn

What You Say:

That was pretty tough, right? When you’re only looking through a tiny hole, you can miss a lot of what’s right in front of you. It’s easy to get a limited perspective. In our Bible Story today, some people had a very limited perspective about who belonged in God’s kingdom. But Jesus told them a story called a parable to show them they were missing the big picture. Let’s go hear it

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



Bible Story: The Story of the Lost Sheep • *Luke 15:1-7 (supporting 1 Timothy 1:15)*

Bottom Line: Jesus made a way for you to be part of God's kingdom.

Conversation Starter: What is the way to God's kingdom?

Monthly Memory Verse: "May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven." • Matthew 6:10 NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why did the shepherd go after the one sheep when he still had 99?
- Why did Jesus tell this parable?
- What is the way to God's kingdom?
- How does it feel to know that Jesus cares for YOU? Out of everyone in the entire world, you are special to God, and **[Bottom Line] Jesus made a way for you to be part of God's kingdom!**

Activity Name: Prayer Activity

What You Need:

Paper Writing supplies Paper Box

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- Ask them to think of one thing that sometimes makes them feel “lost.” (It could be a worry, a fear, a friendship problem, or a question they have.)
- Instruct them to write that “lost” feeling down on their paper.
- When they’re done, have them ball up the paper.
- Explain that the box represents the sheep pen, being home close to God, which is a place of safety.
- Let them take turns tossing their balled-up prayer into the pen.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

It’s good to be honest about the things that make us feel lost. The great news from our Bible Story is that we have a Shepherd who loves us so, so much. He has brought us home to Him, and He wants to be our safe place. Let’s pray together and thank God for that.

Close in prayer/Invite kids to pray as well.

God, thank You for being the Good Shepherd. Thank You for paying a great price to bring us home to You. We are so grateful that Jesus made a way for us to be part of God’s kingdom. Teach us how to rest in Your love. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.