

VBS

2026

**GOD
CARES
FOR
ME**

FRIDAY

1ST-5TH GRADE

**God Cares About
Our Salvation**

CC PHILLY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

God Cares About Our Salvation

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word.

Objective To teach that all have sinned and are lost, but God loves everyone, and sent His Son Jesus to seek and save the lost.

Key Verses

Luke 15:1-7—Main Teaching Passage

Romans 3:23

Isaiah 53:6

John 10:11

Romans 5:8

Memory Verse - Luke 19:10

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Hook

Have a helper hide before class, either in the room or just stay out in the hallway. Begin like normal, then pause— “Wait a minute! Someone is missing... Has anyone noticed that _____ isn’t here? We can’t just leave him missing. Let’s go look for him.”

Have the helper step out or be found nearby. Return to seats.

Today we're going to hear about someone who was lost. But it wasn't a teacher—it was a sheep. And the most important part of the story is not that the sheep found its way home. The shepherd went looking for the sheep and brought it back. Jesus told this story to teach us how He seeks and saves people who are lost in sin.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Tax collectors and sinners were following and listening to Jesus. These were considered the “bad people” in Jesus’ day, people who others viewed as being far from God. Many believed they did not deserve God’s love and mercy. The Pharisees and scribes (religious leaders who thought of themselves as the “good people”) were saying that if Jesus really were a righteous man, He would not eat with these sinners. In response, Jesus told the parable of the lost sheep.

(Jesus often taught using parables. A parable is a story that teaches a spiritual truth. In this parable, Jesus wants us to understand how much He cares about people who are lost in sin.)

A shepherd had a hundred sheep and lost one of them. He left the ninety-nine sheep and went to look for the one that was lost. When he finally found the sheep, he rejoiced and put it on his shoulder to bring it back to the flock. Then, when he arrived home, he called together all of his friends and neighbors to celebrate the return of this lost sheep. Jesus told the crowd that there is great rejoicing in heaven when even one sinner repents and turns to God. The shepherd's joy over finding the lost sheep helps us understand God's joy when a lost sinner is saved.

LOOK

All week we have been learning about God's care. We learned that God cares for us, our needs, our obedience, and our service. But the greatest way God has shown His care is by sending Jesus to save us from our sins. God cares about our salvation! The shepherd in today’s passage of Scripture helps us understand what God has done for us by sending Jesus into the world to seek and save people who are lost in sin.

Have you ever gotten lost before? Maybe you lost sight of your parents in a store, got separated from your group, or couldn't find your way back to where you were supposed to be. Being lost can be scary because you don't know where to go or how to get back.

In Jesus' parable, the lost sheep represents people who are lost in sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that goes against God. The Bible tells us that all of us have sinned and gone our own way (Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23). Sin separates us from God. Just like the sheep wandered away from the shepherd, we have all wandered away from God by choosing our own way instead of His.

The good news is that Jesus loves lost sinners. The shepherd did not ignore the lost sheep or say, "It's just one sheep. It doesn't matter." He went looking for it until he found it. In the same way, Jesus came into the world to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). Jesus knew that we could never save ourselves, so He came to rescue us. He died on the cross for

The interpretation/
exegesis of the
passage. What does
this passage mean?
How does this passage
apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

our sins and rose again so that anyone who trusts in Him can be forgiven and have eternal life.

When the shepherd found his sheep, he rejoiced. Jesus said that there is also joy in heaven when a sinner repents. To repent means to turn away from your sin and turn to God. He lovingly calls all people to Himself and rejoices when they are saved. That is why Jesus spent time with sinners. He came to seek them, save them, and bring them to God.

Today, if you have trusted in Jesus as your Savior, you can thank Him for finding and saving you. If you have never trusted in Him, remember that Jesus loves you and invites you to turn from your sin and put your faith in Him.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

Offer the students a chance to ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. Remind students that Jesus died for our sins and rose again. Encourage any child with questions about salvation to speak with a teacher or assistant after class.

Fill out a Welcome to God's Family card for anyone decides to follow Jesus.

Encourage students who have already trusted in Christ to thank God for saving them and to share the Good News with others.

As a class, memorize Luke 19:10.

Anyone who can recite this week's verses will receive a certificate and a candy prize.

Pray: Father, thank You that You care about our salvation. Thank You for loving us when we were lost in sin, and thank You for sending Jesus to seek and to save us. Help us to trust You and follow You every day. Amen.

Family Question: How is Jesus like the shepherd in the parable of the lost sheep?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 15:1-7 by David Guzik

The Joy of Finding the Lost

A. The lost sheep, the lost coin.

1. ([Luke 15:1-3](#)) Jesus responds to an accusation from the Pharisees.

Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eats with them.” So He spoke this parable to them, saying:

a. **Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him:** In speaking to a large number of people ([Luke 14:25](#)), Jesus strongly challenged them regarding discipleship and commitment. His strong challenge did not drive people away; it attracted them to Jesus.

b. **So He spoke this parable to them, saying:** This, one of the most beloved chapters in the Bible, is made up of parables spoken in response to the accusation “**This man receives sinners and eats with them.**”

i. The following parables were spoken to **the Pharisees and scribes** who **complained**. The religious leaders of Jesus’ day divided humanity into two classes: the unclean and the righteous. They decided to live, as much as possible, in complete separation from the unclean. Some rabbis of Jesus day took this idea so seriously that they refused to teach the unclean God’s word (Morris).

ii. “Let not a man associate with the wicked, not even to bring him the law.” (*m. Mek. Ex. 18:1*, cited in Pate)

iii. The following parables were spoken to **the Pharisees and scribes**, but in the hearing of the multitude of **tax collectors and sinners** who **drew near to Him to hear Him**.

2. ([Luke 15:4-7](#)) Finding a lost sheep.

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found *it*, he lays *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together *his* friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.”

a. **If he loses one of them:** It isn’t strange that a sheep would be lost or that a shepherd would seek the

sheep. It does seem strange that a shepherd would endanger 99% of his flock for the sake of 1%. Either the safety of the 99% was assumed, or the point of this parable is in the *rejoicing*, not in the neglect of 99% for the sake of 1%.

i. “No creature strays more easily than a sheep; none is more heedless; and none so incapable of finding its way back to the flock, when once gone astray: it will bleat for the flock, and still run on in an opposite direction to the place where the flock is: this I have often noticed.” (Clarke)

b. **Go after the one which is lost until he finds it:** The lost sheep would never save himself, or find the shepherd himself. If the shepherd did not take action, the sheep was doomed.

i. Many rabbis of that time believed that God received the sinner who came to Him the right way. But in the parable of the shepherd and the sheep, Jesus taught that God actively *seeks out* the lost. He does not grudgingly receive the lost; instead, He searches after them. God finds the sinner more than the sinner does find God.

ii. “A great Jewish scholar has admitted that this is the one absolutely new thing which Jesus taught men about God — that he actually searched for men.” (Barclay)

c. **He lays it on His shoulders:** When Jesus finds His people He also carries them. *For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.* ([Romans 5:6](#))

d. **Rejoicing... Rejoice with me... more joy in heaven:** The emphasis in this parable is not on the proportion, but on the *joy* of finding the lost. This was the error of the Pharisees and scribes who complained. They were not joyful when tax collectors and sinners drew near to Jesus.

e. **Over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance:** Though the sheep does nothing to rescue himself or repent, Jesus mentioned the need for repentance in the last few words of this brief story. It’s almost as if He said, “the sheep doesn’t repent, but you need to when God finds you.”