

**VBS**

**2026**

**GOD  
CARES  
FOR  
ME**

**FRIDAY**

**PRE-K/KINDERGARTEN**

**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

Young children learn through repetition. Try to repeat this call and response 3-4 times throughout the lesson to help the truth stick.

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 people need God's forgiveness, and that Jesus came 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** - 1 Peter 5:7

“Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

## On Repeat

Teacher: Who came to save the lost?

Kids: Jesus came 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

Many people were coming to listen to Jesus. Some of these people had made many bad choices and did not follow God. The religious leaders did not like that Jesus spent time with them. They thought Jesus should only spend time with people who seemed good. To teach them an important lesson, Jesus told a parable about a 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 one hundred sheep. One day, one of the sheep wandered away and became lost. The shepherd left the ninety-nine sheep and went to look for the one that was lost. When he finally found the sheep, he was very happy. He picked up the sheep and carried it home on his shoulders. Then he called his friends and neighbors together to celebrate because the lost sheep had been found.

Jesus said that there is joy 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.

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

# LOOK

All week we have been learning that God cares for us. We learned that God cares for us, our needs, our obedience, and our service. Today we are learning about the greatest way God has shown His care. God cares about our salvation! He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to save us from our sins.

Have you ever lost a favorite toy or stuffed animal? When something important is lost, we want to find it. If a person is lost, it's even more important for them to be found! In Jesus' story, a shepherd lost one of his sheep. The shepherd loved his sheep, so he went looking for it until he found it.

The lost sheep reminds us of people who are lost in sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God. The Bible tells us that everyone has sinned and needs God's forgiveness. Sin separates us from God. Just like the sheep wandered away from the shepherd, our sin causes us to wander away from God.

The good news is that Jesus loves us. Just as the shepherd went looking for his lost sheep, Jesus came to seek and save people who are lost in sin. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again so anyone who puts their trust in Him can be forgiven and belong to God.

When the shepherd found his sheep, he was so happy! Jesus said that there is rejoicing and celebration in heaven when a sinner repents and turns to God. God loves sinners and rejoices when they are saved.

# LOOK (Continued)

If you have trusted in Jesus as your Savior, thank Him for saving you. If you have not trusted in Jesus, remember that He loves you and wants you to come to 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 on the cross for our sins and rose again. Encourage any child with questions about following Jesus to speak with a teacher after class.

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

As a class, memorize 1 Peter 5:7.

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

**Pray:** Father, thank You for caring about our salvation. Thank You for sending Jesus to seek and save the lost. Help us to trust Him and follow Him 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.”