

Alley SG - March 9-10, 2019

Bible Story: Between You and Me (The Lost Sheep) • Luke 15:1-7

Bottom Line: God wants to have a relationship with me.

Key Question: What does it mean to have a relationship with God?

Memory Verse: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalm 139:14, NIV)

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, Bead (1 per group)

What You Do:

- **Explain** to the students that you have hidden a bead somewhere in your small group area, and they have 2 minutes to try and find it. The team that finds the green bead first wins that round.
 - **NOTE: You will hold the bead in the grip of your hand the entire time.**
- **Ask:**
 - What about this game frustrated you? Why?
 - Did you want to give up and just stop looking for the bead? Was there a point where you were just “done” and didn’t care if you found the bead or not?
- **Read** Luke 15:1-7.
- **Review** the Bible Story. Potential discussion questions could be:
 - What prompted Jesus to tell the story of the lost sheep? (*Luke 15:1-2*)
 - Why did it bother the religious leaders (Pharisees) that Jesus ate with and welcomed people who were sinners?
 - Think about the shepherd searching for their lost sheep. What could he have been thinking or feeling?
 - Why did the shepherd leave 99 sheep to find the one lost sheep? Why do you think the shepherd never stopped searching for the lost sheep?
 - What happened when the sheep was found?
 - What does this story tell us about God’s desire to have a relationship with us?
 - What does a relationship with God look like? What does it mean to have a relationship with God? (Use the butcher paper from the Take a Snapshot Activity as a springboard for discussion.) As kids give examples, when appropriate, encourage them to dig deeper. For example: To have a relationship with God you need to spend time with Him. Dig deeper by asking how you might spend time with God.
 - Why do you think Jesus told this parable/story? (*This could be an opportunity to emphasize that Jesus told this story as a way to show you how much God wants you to know Him. You are so important to God. And no matter what you do or say, God will not give up on you. When we admit or confess we sin, and when we believe Jesus died for the forgiveness of our sins, when we choose to have a relationship with God now and forever, God and all of heaven celebrates!*)
 - **NOTE: Explain that just like the bead was “lost”, it was in the palm of your hand and safe the whole time. We may judge others as “lost”, but God sees them and has them in the palm of His hand.**

2. Discussion Questions

- Imagine a new kid moved into your neighborhood. He seems like a nice kid and you would like to get to know him better—what would you do to get to know him? What can you do to help this new kid get to know Jesus? Role-play a discussion with this new kid.
- Why do you think God wants a relationship with us? Why should we want a relationship with God?
- Talk about a time you’ve felt like a lost sheep. Maybe you were actually lost or you just felt lost. What happened? Who found you and helped you get back to where you belonged?
- What can you do if you feel like you’re far from God? Who can you talk to about it?

3. Verse to Take with You

What You Need: Index cards (25 per group per service), "Psalm Cards" (1 set per group), pens (campus supplies)

What You Do:

- **Pair** kids into teams.
- **Give** teams five index cards and pens.
- **Fan** out the "Psalm Cards" and **instruct** teams to select a card.
- **Instruct** teams to read their cards and summarize the verses into one sentence. **Tell** kids to write their summary on one of their index cards.
- When teams are finished summarizing, **ask** teams to pass their "Psalm Card" to the team on their right.
- **Repeat** the activity with the new "Psalm Card," using another index card to write their summary.
- **Continue** until teams have summarized all the "Psalm Cards." Teams should have five index cards with summaries.
- **Lay** out the "Psalm Cards" and **ask** teams to match their index cards with each of the respective "Psalm Cards."
- **Discuss** the summaries. Potential discussion questions could include:
 - Compare and contrast the summaries. For each "Psalm Card," what is the similar? What is different?
 - What do the verses say about God?
 - What do these verses tell you about God's desire to have a relationship with you?
 - What can we do to know God?
 - If you didn't ask this question in the discussion for the Bible story Extension Activity or if you want to review the kids' answers from the previous activity, ask: What does a relationship with God look like? What does it mean to have a relationship with God?

4. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Index cards from the Verse to Take with You Activity, pens

What You Do:

- **Allow** kids time to reflect on the discussions today and on the story of the lost sheep.
- **Challenge** kids to pick one thing they are going to do this week to get to know God or to grow their relationships with God. Maybe they are going to start a journal as an ongoing conversation with God. Or memorize a verse. Or spend time each day in the Bible, maybe a parable each day.
- **Ask** kids to select one of the index cards from the Verse to Take with You activity and write on the back of it what they plan to do this week and write a prayer asking God for His help and guidance.
- **Encourage** kids to take their index cards home as a reminder.
- **Close** in prayer.

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT "COMMUNION CALL"

HAND OUT "GOD TIME" CARDS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH!