

# City LG - 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.

**Memory Verse:** *How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.* Psalm 139:14, NlrV

**CG: Countdown Video**

**WORSHIP:** “I Am Yours” and “Dance”

**NOTE: Take some time to teach a few of the dance moves to your group.**

*(Worship Leader Prays)*

**WELCOME:**

**Supplies Needed: 100 Cotton Balls (1 bag campus), Action Figure (1 per campus)**

“Hi, everyone! You might already know this, but when Jesus lived on the earth, there was always a crowd following Him. And while sometimes He spent time with the religious leaders, most of the time Jesus was spending time with people who were very different from the religious leaders. Jesus spent most of His time with people that were often rejected and looked down on. He spent time with tax collectors, sick people, and people who didn’t make very good choices.

“Jesus knew the religious leaders weren’t happy that He was spending time with those people, so He told this story to help them understand.”

“The story Jesus told was written down, and we can find it today in the book of Luke, chapter 15. Listen to what Jesus said.

*Open the Bible to Luke 15:4 (NlrV) and read.*

*“Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses one of them. Won’t he leave the 99 in the open country? Won’t he go and look for the one lost sheep until he finds it?”*

“So there’s this guy (*hold up the action figure*), and he has 100 sheep (*hold up the bag of 100 cotton balls*). But one of the sheep runs away.

*Take one cotton ball out of the bag and throw it on the other side of the stage.*

“This guy (*hold up the action figure*) would actually LEAVE the 99 other sheep to go and get the one that was lost.”

*Walk over to the cotton ball that you threw. Pick it up and put it back in the bag.*

“Okay, okay. I know what you might be thinking. ‘[Your name], I have no idea why Jesus told them this story. I don’t have any sheep, I don’t think I’d go looking for missing sheep, and I’m not sure what the religious leaders were supposed to learn from this.

“So let me put it another way. What if you misplaced your tablet? Birthday money? Favorite video game or doll? That’d be terrible, right?!?! It is valuable to you, so you would do anything in your power to find it. You have the same value to Jesus, and He will do anything to find you and bring you into a close friendship! You are worth it! That’s what our story is all about today. Let’s take a look!”

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 5:30)**

“The religious leaders really wanted Jesus to hang out with the people who seemed like they had it all together. But Jesus knew that His mission was clear. He knew He was there to bring hope to EVERYONE.

“You see, ALL of us have sinned. All of us have messed up. God is perfect, so our sin separates us from Him; it’s like we’re lost sheep that got separated from the shepherd. But Jesus came to find us and rescue us. He came to make a way so each person could have a forever relationship with God. He died on the cross to take care of our sin problem so our sin wouldn’t have to be in the way between God and us. All we need to do is believe!

“Say this with me.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “God wants to have a relationship with me.”**

**KIDS: [Bottom Line] “God wants to have a relationship with me.”**

“It’s true! Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God. He loves each one of us so much that He was willing to pay the price for us on the cross. It’s so good to know that He wants each one of us to know Him and believe in Him. He wants us to be in His family forever, just like the lost sheep that was found.

“Let’s pray and thank God for loving us the way He does.”

**Pray:** “Dear God, thank you so much for wanting to have a relationship with us. Thank you for sending Jesus to make that possible. It’s amazing that You love us so much that You would leave everything to find US—just like we’re that one lost sheep. Please help all of us understand just how much You care about us and that You want to have a relationship with us that will last forever. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“In the story that Jesus told, the missing sheep was so important to the shepherd that he left the other 99 sheep to find it. Then, when the shepherd found the missing sheep, what did he do? *(Pause for response.)* Right, he celebrated!”

“God sent Jesus to earth to save us because He wants to have a relationship with us. He knew we’d be lost without Him. We MATTER to Him. He wants us to know Him and believe in Him. When we do—when we make the decision to trust Jesus and believe that He died for our sins—then we get to have a relationship with God that will last forever.

“Isn’t it amazing to know that God loves us that much? He wants what’s best for us. He loves us so much that He’ll never leave us—even when we mess up and even when we get lost. You will head to your small groups in a moment, but first, let’s worship God with our offering!”

**Offering Time:**

“Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else’s life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to an organization called ‘Missions of Hope’ to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God’s love for them.”

Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

***Homer Glen: Victor***

***New Lenox: Daniel***

***Orland Park: Michael and Valerie***

***CG: Picture of Child***

“(Your Campus Child) lives in Nairobi, Kenya and is part of a really great place called Mission of Hope International! Here’s a picture of Missions of Hope!”

***CG: Missions of Hope JPEG***

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here in our offering container while our Offering Video plays! (*show offering container*).”

***CG: Offering Video “Good Always” (Runtime: 3:00)***

*Dismiss to Small Groups*