

City 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.

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, NIV

1. 100 Fingerprints

What You Need: Large cardstock (2 per group, per service), ink pads (2 per group), wet wipes (campus supplies)

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Give each team a poster board and an ink pad.
- Teams must race to place 100 fingerprints on their poster board.
- Give them 30 seconds to decide how their team will place the fingerprints on the page. They can use all their players' fingers or just one person's fingers. It's up to them.
- Once you say, “Start,” teams will race to place 100 fingerprints on their poster board. The first team to finish is the winner. BUT they must have exactly 100 fingerprints! If the first finisher has more or less than 100, the other team wins!
- Pass out the wipes for kids to clean their fingers, and put the stamp pads away.

What You Say:

“Great job! I love how each of your fingerprints are individual and special just like each one of you! God made you unique and special! There is no one in the world like you!”

2. Where's the Sheep?

What You Need: Dot stickers (one sheet per bin)

What You Do:

- Circle up the kids and select one kid to sit in the center of the circle. He will be your “shepherd.”
- Instruct the shepherd to close his eyes as you walk around the circle. Quietly place one dot sticker on the back of one of the kids. The selected kid will be your “sheep.”
- Ask the shepherd to open his eyes and guess who he thinks the sheep is.
- If the shepherd is correct, he remains in the center to play another round. If incorrect, the sheep with the dot sticker becomes the new shepherd.
- Play several more rounds to allow as many kids to play the sheep or shepherd role as possible.
- Discuss the following questions from today's Bible story:
 - Who does the shepherd represent in this story? (*God*)
 - What did the shepherd do when he realized he only had 99 sheep instead of 100? (*He left the 99 behind and searched for the lost sheep until he found him.*)
 - Why do you think Jesus told this story? (*To illustrate just how much God wants everyone—no matter who they are or what they've done—to have a relationship with Him.*)

What You Say:

“In the beginning of today's Bible story, Jesus was eating with some people the religious leaders didn't like. But Jesus wanted them to know that He had come for EVERYONE. So Jesus told this story about the lost sheep to help them understand that.

“This is really good news for you and me. Because we can't possibly do everything right all of the time. We might do the right thing some of the time but eventually, we won't. We do things that are wrong. The Bible calls this sin. God sent Jesus, His only Son, to show us just how much He loves us.

Because of Jesus, we can have a relationship with God. Jesus died for us to take the punishment for EVERYONE's sin. Why would He do that? Because **[Bottom Line] God wants to have a relationship with me.**"

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about how you first learned that [Bottom Line] God wants to have a relationship with me. Who first told you about Jesus? When did you choose to follow Jesus as your Savior?)

3. Cotton Ball Counting

What You Need: Cotton balls (1 400-count bag per group)

What You Do:

- Place a large pile of cotton balls in the center of your rug/area.
- Divide your group into 3 teams.
- When you say, "Go," teams will race to place 10 rows of 10 cotton balls in front of them.
- When each team finishes, check their work to make sure they have 100 cotton balls.
- Ask for one person on each team to pick up a cotton ball. As they're holding it, explain that the shepherd in Jesus' story left all of these other sheep behind to go and rescue this one lost sheep.
- Ask:
 - Why would the shepherd leave all 99 of his sheep behind to rescue one? *(Because he was lost and because the shepherd loved ALL his sheep, not just the 99 that stayed with him.)*
 - Why does a sheep need to be rescued? *(Sheep are not very smart; the sheep could not rescue himself.)*
 - Do we need to be rescued? If so, what do we need to be rescued from? *(Yes, we need to be rescued from our sin—the things we do that are wrong. Our sin separates us from God.)*
 - How do we have relationship with God? *(By trusting Jesus as our Savior. We must admit we are sinners, believe that Jesus came to die and take the punishment for our sin on the cross, and then rose again on the third day.)*
- **NOTE TO LEADERS:** Please remember when it comes to a child making a decision to trust Christ personally as his/her Savior that we want to include parents in that decision. Please answer any questions your kids might have about this as they come up, but clue in parents at pick up if you feel a kid might be ready to make that decision!

What You Say:

"This story is such a good illustration or picture of the way God loves us. He doesn't expect us to try harder or be perfect. When we mess up—when we move away from Him because of our sin or the wrong things we do—God looks for us. Why? Because **[Bottom Line] God wants to have a relationship with me.**"

4. Free Choice Memory Verse

What You Need: Bibles, "Memory Verse" Activity Page (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Circle up and have the kids sit on the floor in your small group area.
- Select a volunteer to look up Psalm 139:14. Remind her that you can usually find the book of Psalms by opening to the center of your Bible.
- Select another volunteer to read the verse aloud.
- Place the "Memory Verse" Activity Page in the center of the circle for reference.
- Say the first word of the memory verse along with one motion (like a clap, a wink, a head nod, or a silly face). The kid to your left will say the next word of the verse as they perform a new motion. Continue around the circle clockwise, as each child says the next word of the verse and performs their own individual motion. They may not repeat a motion they've already seen.
- Continue around the circle until you finish the verse, including the reference.
- Repeat three or four more times. Make sure to select a different kid to start the verse each time.

What You Say:

"I love our memory verse for this month. The individual and unique way that God made you is wonderful and amazing! There is no one in the history of the world exactly like you. And God LOVES you more than you could ever imagine. He sent Jesus to prove just how much He loves you. So remember, **[Bottom Line] God wants to have a relationship with me.**"

5. Who Has the Sheep?

What You Need: Cotton ball (from activity 3)

What You Do:

- Play a game of "Sheep, Sheep, Who Has the Sheep?" which is a take on "Button, Button, Who's Got the Button?"
- Guide kids to stand in a circle, facing inward.
- Show them how to cup their hands together behind their backs, like they're waiting for someone to put something into their hands.
- Hold up the cotton ball and tell kids that's the sheep.
- Explain how the game works:
 - You will walk around the outside of the circle and touch each kid's cupped hands.
 - When you touch a kid's hands, he should close them.
 - You will drop the cotton ball into one kid's hands. That kid should also quickly close his hands.
 - When you've gone all the way around the circle, they can bring their hands in front of them, not revealing if they have the cotton ball.
 - With all hands closed, each kid will guess who has the sheep.
 - After each kid has guessed, the kid with the sheep reveals it.
- Play the game as many times as you wish.

What You Say:

(Hold up the cotton ball.) "It wasn't always easy to find the sheep, was it? But we all gave it a try anyway. Jesus will do whatever it takes to find us, because He is a Good Shepherd!"

6. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Remind kids that God looks for the lost so He can save them.
- Lay out the salvation message for them: God loved us so much that God gave us His Son, Jesus, to save us. When we believe this, we receive the gift of life that lasts forever.
- Say it again, but emphasize the phrases: God loved. God gave. We believe. We receive.
- Ask kids to repeat those short sentences after you.

What You Say:

"Yes! God loved us SO much that He sent Jesus to save us so we can live with Him and have a relationship with Him FOREVER. Wow! That's so amazing, and that gets me so excited. **[Bottom Line] God wants to have a relationship with me**, and He wants to have a relationship with each of you, too! Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus!"

"Dear God, Thank You so much for loving us, even when we were lost and far from you. Thank You for sending Jesus to make a way for us to be with You forever. We love you. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen."

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT "COMMUNION CALL"

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

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!