

Bible Story 243
The Parable of the Lost Sheep
Matthew 18:10-14

OPENING ACTIVITIES

- Craft -- Make Sheep
 - Give each child a cut-out of a sheep on poster-board
 - Have the children glue cotton balls onto the sheep

WORSHIP

PRAYER

STORY

Matthew 18:10-14

- Introduce the story by showing the children a collection of something that is special to you. Discover that something from the collection is missing. (Hide it before class.) Have the children help you find it. Rejoice when it is found. Have the children share times they have lost something and how happy they were to find it
- Tell the parable of the lost sheep
 - Use stuffed animals to help illustrate the story as you tell it
- Apply the story to the children. Encourage them to make sure they are sheep and to stay right by the shepherd. Jesus loves us and He rejoices when we follow Him

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 18:11

“For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.”

- Share experiences of being lost. How did it feel when you were found? We are all lost in sin. Jesus came to save us so that we could be found in Him
- Practice verse by acting
 - Choose a child to be Jesus
 - Cover a stuffed sheep with a blanket
 - As the children say the verse, “Jesus” takes the blanket off the sheep, picks it up, and holds it close

ACTIVITIES

- Act out the story
 - With a teacher or helper as the shepherd, have the children be the sheep and the shepherd's friends
 - The sheep are all "baaing" in one area
 - One sheep crawls off
 - The shepherd finds it and carries it back to the others
 - The shepherd gathers his friends and they all cheer and rejoice together

- Color
 - Color the picture with the memory verse on it

- Testimonies/Snack
 - Share briefly when you became a Christian. Teach the children that Jesus and the angels celebrated
 - Give the children a chance to tell when they prayed to ask Jesus in their hearts, and remind each one that Jesus and the angels celebrated
 - Celebrate salvation with a special snack

MATERIALS

- Coloring paper with memory verse on it (Print the coloring page from <http://www.calvaryknoxville.org/NTTableOfContents.pdf> and cut and paste the memory verse onto the bottom)
- Crayons
- Poster-board cut-out of a sheep for each child
- Cotton balls
- Glue
- A collection of something special to you (or to someone)
- Stuffed and/or toy sheep
- Blanket
- Snacks
- Drinks
- Cups
- Plates