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YOUTH
LEADER GUIDE—UNIT 8

Flexible curriculum that nurtures
lifelong disciples of Jesus

Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum
can be used during Sunday School,
Midweek programs, small groups,
and homeschool—*any time, any day*
your congregation meets weekly. With
several age levels, the curriculum
supports your church’s members at
whatever stage of life they are to
sustain faith that endures for a lifetime.

LESSON	LESSON TITLE / TEXT
1	A Welcome Truth—Mary and Martha <i>Luke 10:38–42</i>
2	Lost-and-Found Wonders—Jesus Seeks the Lost <i>Luke 15</i>
3	The Seeing Sign—Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind <i>John 9</i>
4	A Resurrection Sign—Jesus Raises Lazarus <i>John 11:1–44</i>
5	The Thankful One—Jesus Heals Ten Lepers <i>Luke 17:11–19</i>
6	The Kingdom of Children—Jesus Blesses the Children <i>Luke 18:15–17</i>
7	The Passion Prediction—Mary Anoints Jesus <i>John 12:1–8</i>
8	The King Arrives (SEASONAL: Christmas)— Jesus Rides into Jerusalem <i>Matthew 21:1–11; Psalm 24:7–10</i>
9	A Trusting Widow—Jesus Teaches about Offerings <i>Mark 12:41–44</i>
10	Forever Food—The Lord’s Supper <i>Luke 22:7–23</i>
11	Betrayed and Arrested—Jesus in Gethsemane <i>Matthew 26:36–56</i>
12	Standing Trial—Jesus on Trial/Peter Denies Jesus <i>Mark 14:53–72</i>
13	The Living Wonder—Jesus’ Death and Resurrection <i>Mark 15:16–16:8</i>
14	The Proof Room—Jesus Appears to Thomas <i>John 20:19–31</i>

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Email us at sundayschool@cph.org.

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YOUTH
LEADER GUIDE
Unit 8: Jesus Saves the World





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RELIGION / Christian Education /
Children & Youth

438120

Pontius Pilate becomes
prefect of Judea
AD 26

KEY

Bible Survey

New Testament
Exploration

World History

Jewish historian
Flavius Josephus born
AD 37

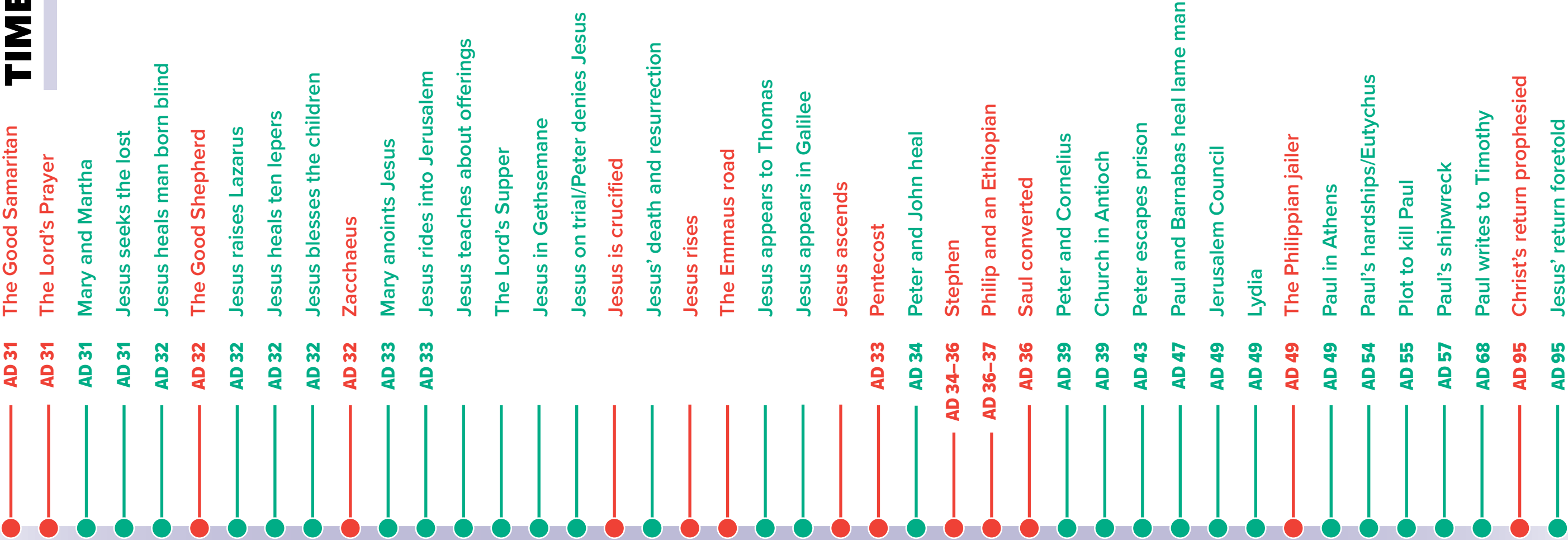
Book of James is written
AD 50

Great fire in Rome
AD 64

Jerusalem and the temple
destroyed, Jews deported
AD 70

Mt. Vesuvius erupts, destroying
Pompeii and Herculaneum
AD 79

TIMELINE C



ADDITIONAL LEADER HELPS

YOUR ROLE AS YOUTH LEADER

As a youth leader, you have the opportunity to challenge your group of learners to become critical thinkers who embrace God’s Word as truth and connect it to their lives, empowering them to *defend* their faith. Your role is to be a positive, encouraging, nurturing guide who listens and facilitates discussion as you share the saving truth and love of Jesus Christ.

Building positive relationships with and between youth is very important. When you create a safe, nurturing environment where everyone shows care and respect for one another, youth will feel comfortable sharing their thoughts, ideas, and questions.

Make your classroom a place where students can talk openly and share struggles. Remind students to respect one another’s privacy. Tell them you will not share their stories outside of class. However, if a student shares something that is potentially dangerous to self or others, you have the responsibility to take it to your pastor for guidance.

Most likely, you will have a group of learners with varying degrees of familiarity with the Bible. Make it easier for everyone to find Bible verses by providing Bibles in the same version and writing down page numbers. Or bookmark pages ahead of time with sticky notes. Explain book, chapter, and verse numbers as needed.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Additional resources are available in the online digital resource center at **cph.org/digitalcontent**, including the Planning Guide, Pastor Guide, Unit Planner, Leader Devotions, Lesson Openings, Social Media Helps, and music resources. Ask your coordinator for access to the online digital resource center to get these materials.

DEFEND THE FAITH: SOCIAL MEDIA HELPS

Engage with your students and their families outside the classroom! The Youth level of this curriculum includes two images per lesson as well as some discussion helps.

- 1. Use the Prep Question post before class, preparing youth and their families with a topic for discussion.
- 2. Use the Follow-Up post after you meet, equipping families to talk about the lesson this week.

You can share these images from a church social media account. With your post, include the discussion helps found in the online digital resource center. If you prefer, you can use the content in an email, pasting the images there. Adapt the content to make it your own.

MAKE YOUR OWN LIBRARY OF CPH RESOURCES

Throughout the teacher-preparation sections, we have pointed to some key resources that would benefit you to have on hand as you prepare your lessons.

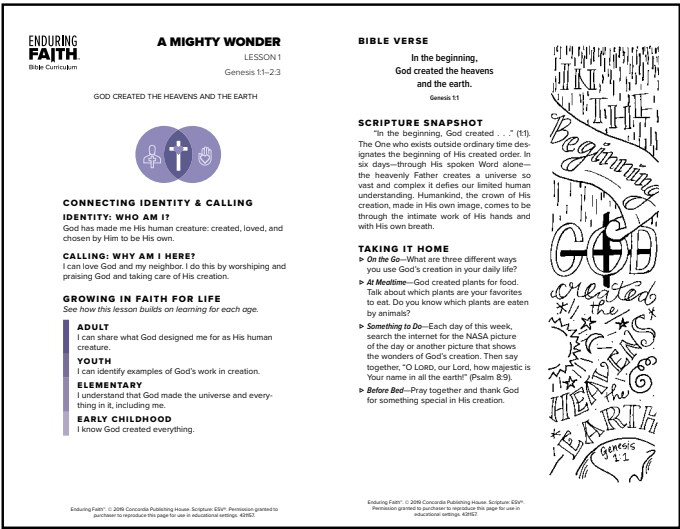
The Lutheran Study Bible (CPH, 2009), also referred to as *TLSB*

Lutheran Service Book (CPH, 2006), also referred to as *LSB*

Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation (CPH, 2017)

ENDURING FAITH PAGES

Enduring Faith Pages are reproducible take-home resources that summarize each Bible lesson and provide suggestions for “taking home” Bible truths from the lesson. Each page also has an illustrated version of the day’s Bible verse, perfect for coloring. Ask your coordinator for access to the Enduring Faith Pages from the online digital resource center for copying.



ENDURING FAITH BIBLE CURRICULUM

OVERVIEW

The Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum features a Christ-centered, three-year chronological survey of Bible history with uniform outlines across all levels. The materials have been designed to help you teach the Christian faith in age-appropriate ways, with the goal of helping your students grow deeper in their understanding of God’s Word.

- Year 1 is an overview of the Bible and its major themes, tracing God’s plan of salvation from Genesis to Revelation.
- Year 2 looks at the Old Testament in depth.
- Year 3 looks at the New Testament in depth.
- There are three units per year, with fourteen lessons per unit; this allows for a seasonal lesson in each unit. Teachers can choose to teach the seasonal lesson when Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter occurs, or disregard it if they wish to stick with the chronology.
- There are four overlapping levels as well as materials for a one-room classroom. Here is a handy chart that shows the focus of the levels and how all the levels connect:

Level	Age Range	Objective	Summary Word
Early Childhood	Preschool through grade 1, nonreaders	Discover the account	Know
Elementary	Grades 1 through 6	Explore the context	Grow
Youth	Grades 6 through 12	Defend the faith	Go
Adult	Grade 11 through adult	Equipped to teach	Show
One-Room Classroom	Preschool through grade 6		

FEATURES OF THE *DEFEND JOURNAL FOR YOUTH*

You will need one journal per student.

Page 1

- “The Big Picture” gives an overview of the Bible narrative.
- Thoughts, questions, and images guide youth as they study and discuss the Bible text.

Page 2

- “Christ Connection” shows how Jesus’ work of redemption is central to every lesson.
- An open-ended question helps youth take the Bible text to heart as they consider what it means for their lives. Learners have space to write their own thoughts and questions in their journal as they discuss with others.
- A final thought, question, or prompt leads youth to take what they’ve learned and put it into action.
- A Bible verse sums up the truth of the lesson.

APOLOGETICS HELPS

DEFEND THE FAITH

Mary and Martha lived in the town of Bethany with their brother, Lazarus—the same Lazarus whom Jesus raised from the dead (see John 11–12). Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were close friends of Jesus. The town of Bethany was a small town on the Mount of Olives, about two miles east of Jerusalem. The village is still there, but now it is named *Al-Azariyya*, which is Arabic for “Lazarus.”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

► Is it wrong to want to serve like Martha?

Jesus Himself said many times that we are to serve others. He told His disciples, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all” (Mark 9:35), and Jesus washed His disciples’ feet as an example, telling them that they “ought to wash one another’s feet” (John 13:14). Martha’s service wasn’t wrong; her priorities were. She put service before listening to and receiving God’s Word. This can happen to us too—for example, when we get so busy setting up for the Easter breakfast that we miss the Easter worship service. God’s Word comes first, nourishing our faith; service flows from that faith.

► How could Martha talk to Jesus like that?

When we read Martha’s words to Jesus, it almost sounds as though she’s scolding Jesus for not telling Mary to help her—and maybe she was! But notice how Jesus responds to Martha’s complaints: tenderly, patiently, and lovingly. “Martha, Martha,” He says soothingly. Jesus acknowledged her anxiety over the situation then reminded her what was most important: Him. Jesus knows our troubles too, and He invites us to come to Him: “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

BONUS ACTIVITIES

TO-DO LIST
5–10 minutes

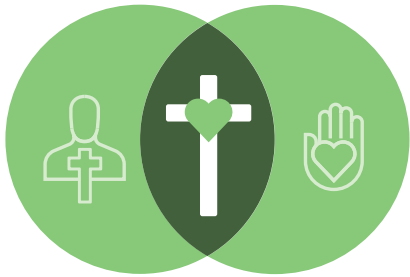
Help your group consider what Martha was thinking by imagining that Jesus and His followers are coming to your church. What would you need to do to prepare? Get a special choir together? Make a fancy meal? Decorate? Make a to-do list together.

MY ONE THING
10–15 minutes

Look online for the lyrics and music to the song “My One Thing” by Rich Mullins. What are the connections between the message of this song and the Bible narrative of Mary and Martha?

BIBLE READING CHALLENGE
15–20 minutes

We know that spending time in God’s Word is important, so why do we often forget to read the Bible? Challenge youth to pick a book of the Bible (John is a good one to start with) and read ten minutes a day. Ask how they’re doing each week and what God is teaching them.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God gives me His Word as the Spirit leads me in faith.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can focus on God’s Word as I read and hear it.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT

I can relate the narrative to how God desires that we prioritize our lives as His people today.

YOUTH

I can describe the one thing necessary—faith in Christ received through God’s Word.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God gives faith in Christ through His Word.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God wants me to listen to His Word.

ENDURING
FAITH™
Sunday School • Midweek
Bible Curriculum

YOUTH
Unit 8
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1

A WELCOME
TRUTH

Mary and Martha
Luke 10:38–42
AD 31

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God gives us faith in Christ through His Word.

BIBLE VERSE

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. John 6:68

LEARNER GOAL

I can describe the one thing necessary—faith in Christ received through God’s Word.

LAW & GOSPEL

I get distracted from focusing on Jesus, my Savior.

God forgives my sins and guides me as I study His Word.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Jesus and His disciples visit the home of sisters Mary and Martha. Mary sits at the Lord’s feet to hear His words. Martha, busy with meal preparations, asks Jesus to tell Mary to help. Instead, Jesus gently tells Martha that Mary has chosen the more important thing.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Luke 10:38–42 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read “Apologetics Helps” on the back page in preparation for the “Live” section.

IN DEPTH Read the Third Commandment with its explanation in *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

SUPPLIES

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ “Survival items”: rope, compass, whistle, flashlight, lighter, etc.
- ☐ Sticky notes

FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Student copies of *Defend Journal*
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Shareable images from digital resource center
- ☐ Supplies for bonus activities



LEADER NOTE

As an option, ask youth to describe an item that is very special and why it means so much to them.



DEFEND JOURNAL

Hand out journals and turn to Lesson 1.



LEADER NOTE

Give youth the opportunity to discuss the first question in pairs before joining together for group discussion. This will allow them more time to think through the text.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Help youth think about what they would do in this situation with the “To-Do List” activity.

LAUNCH

WALK-IN QUESTION

What’s one thing that you couldn’t live without?

ONE THING

Show the survival items you brought in (rope, compass, etc.), and hold them up one by one. Ask youth to vote on which one they think is most important for survival and why.

SAY These things might help us survive in the wilderness, but today, we’ll talk about what’s most important in this life *and* the next.

PRAY Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Your Word. Help us focus on You and Your love for us. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

LEARN

READ “THE BIG PICTURE” AND TALK IT OUT

► Do you think Martha had a right to be upset? Why or why not?

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Let youth share their thoughts. It’s understandable that Martha would be frustrated that she was doing all the work to care for the guests. But Martha lost sight of what was most important—listening to the life-giving words of Jesus.

LEARN ABOUT “A WELCOME TRUTH”

Read **Luke 10:38–42** or ask volunteers to read as others follow along in their Bibles. Have youth get in pairs to talk about what each sister might have been thinking when Jesus arrived at their house. Have them make notes in their journals.

► **Imagine what each sister was thinking when Jesus came to their house.**

- Martha most likely was concerned about showing hospitality to Jesus and the other guests. She had to prepare food; she wanted to make sure they were comfortable.
- Mary recognized the opportunity to be “fed” by Jesus, to listen to His words and His teaching. She understood how important it was to listen to Jesus.

Read **Genesis 18:1–8**; **Luke 9:2–4, 58**.

► **What do these verses tell you about the importance of hospitality?**

- Showing hospitality to guests was very important in Jewish culture, especially considering there were not many inns where people could stay. Travelers stayed in people’s homes. It was considered socially unacceptable and even shameful to treat travelers poorly.
- During His time of ministry, Jesus had no home. He depended on the hospitality of others, just as the disciples did when they were sent out to teach and heal.

Reread **Luke 10:41–42**.

► **Jesus said to Martha, “One thing is necessary.” What is that one thing?**

- Guide youth through answering this question by asking what Mary was doing. Mary was sitting at Jesus’ feet, listening to Him.
- God’s Word is the one thing that is necessary. It is through God’s Word that we know about Jesus. God’s Word tells us about His plan of salvation in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit works through the Word to give us faith.

LIVE

DISCUSS “THE ONE THING NECESSARY”

Hand out five (or more) sticky notes to each person. Ask them to write one thing they need on each sticky note. When everyone has finished, have the group work together to decide which things are most important for life. Then show the hierarchy of importance by arranging the notes in a pyramid shape on the wall or whiteboard, with the most important things at the top. Finally, have youth look up the Bible references in the discussion points below, write them on sticky notes, and add the notes to the pyramid shape. Discuss the question below using the notes, discussion points, and the “Apologetics Helps” on the back page to guide your discussion.

► **What’s the one thing everyone needs?**

DISCUSSION POINTS

- **Matthew 4:4:** But [Jesus] answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”
- **John 1:1–3, 14:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
- **John 20:31:** But these [signs] are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.
- **John 14:6:** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
- We have basic needs in this life: physiological, safety, love and belonging, esteem, and so forth (look up Maslow’s hierarchy of needs). But our greatest need for this life and the next is faith in Jesus Christ. That faith comes by the Holy Spirit, working through the Word of God.

CONSIDER “THE GOOD PORTION”

Luke 10:42 says, “Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”

Jesus compares hearing the Word to eating a meal when He talks about Mary choosing the good “portion.” The food that Martha was preparing would only last a little while, but the “food” of God’s Word will last for eternity.

► **What is a favorite Bible verse of yours that nourishes your soul?**

Encourage students to write their verses down in the *Defend Journal*.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Check for understanding by asking youth to answer this question: **What’s the most important thing in life?** Thank those who share.

LEAVE

Read the Bible Verse, written in the *Defend Journal*:

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. John 6:68

Ask for prayer requests. Offer to pray, or invite a student to pray for everyone.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh, the one thing necessary for our salvation.



LEADER NOTE

Encourage youth to find and memorize Bible verses that speak to their needs, such as fear, loneliness, weariness, and thankfulness. God’s Word really does speak to every situation in life.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Help youth pick the “one thing necessary” with “Bible Reading Challenge.”



SHAREABLE DOWNLOAD

Connect with youth before and after the lesson by using the shareable images from the digital resource center.

APOLOGETICS HELPS

DEFEND THE FAITH

Shepherding, though common, was not a highly regarded job at the time of Jesus. Shepherds often worked together to watch the sheep, especially when there was a large flock, so in Jesus’ parable, the ninety-nine sheep would not have been left alone and unguarded. A good shepherd counted his sheep often to make sure none had been stolen, wandered off, or become “cast down.” A cast sheep was one that had fallen on its back and couldn’t stand up again on its own. Without help, a cast sheep would surely die. Rescuing a lost or cast sheep might put the shepherd’s life in danger, but shepherds who cared for their sheep took on this responsibility.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

► Can an atheist become a believer?

An atheist is someone who does not believe in the existence of a god or any gods. Can the Holy Spirit create faith in the heart of an atheist? Absolutely! “The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

► Why do some people stay lost?

God does not force anyone to believe. God offers life and salvation to all people (John 3:16), but some choose to refuse God’s grace and mercy. John 3:19 says, “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.”

BONUS ACTIVITIES

FELLOWSHIP SNACK

5–10 minutes

Sharing food together was an important part of fellowship in Jesus’ time, and it’s still important today. Bring in some snacks to share as you talk about the Bible narratives.

ENCOURAGING NOTE

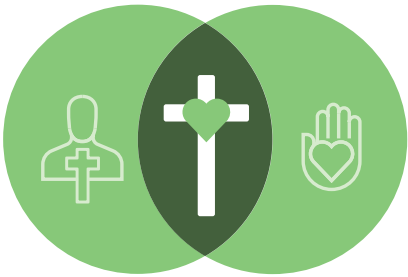
10–15 minutes

Hand out note cards and ask youth to write a short, encouraging note to a younger child or someone who is a newer believer. It’s important for Christians to encourage one another in the faith.

HIDE-AND-SEEK

15–20 minutes

If you have a large indoor or outdoor area, play a quick game of hide-and-seek. Afterward, ask if anyone was ever lost as a small child. How did it feel when they were found? How do they think their parents felt? God’s joy is even greater when someone comes to faith.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God seeks all who are lost and separated from Him.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I have been sought and redeemed by Christ, my Savior.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT

I can analyze the text to understand what it means that Jesus seeks lost sinners like me.

YOUTH

I can give biblical examples to show how Jesus seeks lost sinners.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that Jesus comes to find lost sinners like me.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God is my loving, forgiving Father.

ENDURING FAITH

Sunday School • Midweek Bible Curriculum

YOUTH
Unit 8
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2

LOST-AND-FOUND WONDERS

Jesus Seeks the Lost
Luke 15
AD 31

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus seeks lost sinners.

BIBLE VERSE

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.
Luke 19:10

LEARNER GOAL

I can give biblical examples to show how Jesus seeks lost sinners.

LAW & GOSPEL

Because of my sin, I am lost from God.

My heavenly Father does not abandon me, but seeks me out, forgives me completely for Jesus’ sake, and keeps me safe in faith.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Jesus shares three parables demonstrating our heavenly Father’s concern for the lost. The shepherd leaves the ninety-nine sheep to seek one that was lost. A woman sweeps the house to find one of ten silver coins. In the parable of the lost son, a young man squanders his inheritance, ending up in squalor. Determined to plead for his father’s mercy and beg to return as a servant, the son instead receives a celebration. Angered at his father’s welcome for the prodigal, the older son confronts his father. The father’s gentle response reassures the young man of the father’s everlasting love and care.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read **Luke 15** and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible (TLSB)*.

MORE TIME Read “Apologetics Helps” on the back page in preparation for the “Live” section.

IN DEPTH Read the notes on table fellowship in *TLSB*, pages 2230–31.

SUPPLIES

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Chocolate coins or small candies
- ☐ Whiteboard or large sheet of paper
- ☐ Dry-erase marker or regular marker
- ☐ Permanent marker

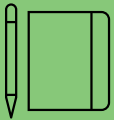
FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Student copies of *Defend Journal*
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Shareable images from digital resource center
- ☐ Supplies for bonus activities



LEADER NOTE

As an option, share lost-and-found stories, focusing on how it felt when something or someone was lost and how it felt when it was found.



DEFEND JOURNAL

Hand out journals and turn to Lesson 2.



LEADER NOTE

If you have a smaller group, you might choose to study the three parables together instead of in three groups. Encourage each person to participate in retelling the parables.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Let your group celebrate together with “Fellowship Snack.”

LAUNCH

WALK-IN QUESTION

Have you ever lost something important and found it later?

HIDE-AND-SEEK

Before class, hide chocolate coins or small candies around the room. Give youth several minutes to find the hidden objects.

SAY It feels good to find something, doesn’t it? Today we’ll hear about how God rejoices when sinners who were lost are found and come to faith in Him.

PRAY Heavenly Father, thank You for seeking out all who are lost to You. Help us rejoice when unbelievers come to faith. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

LEARN

READ “THE BIG PICTURE” AND TALK IT OUT

► Why do you think Jesus told these three parables?

DISCUSSION POINTS

- This question will help you see what your group understands about these parables.
- Jesus told these parables to the crowds of tax collectors and “sinners,” and also to the Pharisees, to teach about God’s love for the lost and the need for repentance.

LEARN ABOUT “LOST-AND-FOUND WONDERS”

Luke 15 contains three parables that show how God seeks lost sinners. Divide the youth into three groups and have each group read one of the sections, discuss the question, and choose a way to retell that section by acting it out, drawing pictures, retelling it part by part, and so on. Groups can make notes in their journals. Walk around, guiding discussion as needed with discussion points. Give groups time to read and prepare before sharing.

Section 1: Luke 15:1–7

► How do the shepherd’s actions show God’s love for the lost?

DISCUSSION POINTS

- The shepherd values one sheep so much that he goes into the wilderness to find it, carries it back on his shoulders, and calls others to rejoice that the sheep was found.

Section 2: Luke 15:8–10

► How does Jesus use a coin as a picture of a lost sinner?

DISCUSSION POINTS

- The coin can’t do anything to help itself be found. Jesus seeks out the lost sinner, who is precious to Him. The angels rejoice when a sinner repents.

Section 3: Luke 15:11–32

► How does the father show his love to both the lost son and the elder son?

DISCUSSION POINTS

- God is the loving and forgiving father who runs to forgive and embrace the lost son. The father calls the elder son to rejoice with him and join the celebration.
- The Pharisees should have rejoiced when sinners repented, but instead, they grumbled, and they refused to see or admit that they, too, needed to repent.

LIVE

DISCUSS “TO SEEK AND SAVE”

Give youth markers or dry-erase markers, and ask them to list on a large paper or whiteboard all the people whom Jesus came to seek and save. Give them five minutes. Then, look at the list together. Who is on the list? Non-Christians as well as Christians? Are the youths’ names listed? How about your pastor’s name—or yours? Talk about the question below, using the discussion points and the “Apologetics Helps” on the back of this guide to support discussion.

► Who did Jesus come to seek and save?

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Jesus came for sinners—and that’s everyone who has ever been born, including you and me!
- God seeks out sinners to save them, no matter how sinful they are or what horrible things they have done. This can be hard to comprehend. How can God love a murderer as much as He loves a baptized baby? But every person is born sinful, and every sin separates us from our holy God. It is only through Jesus that sinners can be reconciled and brought back into a relationship with God.
- **Romans 3:10–12:** None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.
- **Romans 3:23–24:** For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.
- **Luke 19:10:** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.
- **Ezekiel 34:16:** I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

CONSIDER “WELCOMING SINNERS”

The Pharisees often criticized Jesus for welcoming “sinners” and eating with them.

► How do you feel when you see someone “bad” receive mercy and forgiveness?

God’s love is for all, and He invites us to rejoice when a person comes to faith, no matter what he or she has done.

Ask youth if they know someone who is lost to God. Ask them to write a prayer for that person in their journal, and give them a few minutes to pray silently or with a partner for that person. Or pray as a group for those who are lost to God.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Check for understanding by asking youth to describe how Jesus seeks lost sinners.

LEAVE

Read the Bible Verse, written in the *Defend Journal*:

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10

Ask for prayer requests. Offer to pray, or invite a student to pray for everyone.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus came to seek and to save lost sinners like me through His redeeming work on the cross.



LEADER NOTE

If youth are willing, draw a small cross using a permanent marker on each learner’s hand as a reminder that Jesus came for them.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Need to get up and move a bit? Try “Hide-and-Seek.”



**SHAREABLE
DOWNLOAD**

Connect with youth before and after the lesson by using the shareable images from the digital resource center.