

Growing Together

Bible Story

Jesus tells about a shepherd looking for a lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7).

In Touch

Jesus Cares 8:
Jesus cares about people who are left out.

Bible Verse
“yet I am not alone because the Father is with me” (John 16:32b).

Today your child learned that Jesus includes everyone in his love and protection and that Jesus is sad when people reject others. Today’s lesson taught the children to be kind to those who tend to be left out, making them feel welcome and loved. The children also learned that when they feel lonely, they can remember that Jesus is right beside them.

Hugs For the Lonely

Buy a yard of light-colored felt at a fabric or craft store. Have your child use markers to draw on the felt pictures of things that are comforting when he or she is feeling left out. Your child could include pictures of Jesus, friends, family, or a pet. Keep the fabric in his or her bedroom. Then, whenever your child feels lonely, he or she can wrap up in the blanket for a hug that is a reminder of those good things. You could even devise a signal when your child feels in need of special attention. He or she could hang the felt blanket on the bedroom doorknob, for example.

Alone, Not Lonely

Feeling lonely is awful, but it’s important for children to learn to enjoy solitude. Encourage all your family to spend time alone by designating one evening as “On Your Own” night. Your child might read a book, put a puzzle together, play with quiet toys, or listen to music—anything but watch television or talk on the telephone. Plan for your evening to begin right after dinner. After two hours of quiet time, bring the family together for cookies and milk before bed. Perhaps you could play a family game then, too. Talk about the difference between feeling left out and spending time alone.

Never Alone

Choose pictures of places your family has visited. Include pictures from vacations as well as pictures of places you go every day, such as your home, school, and church. Help your child arrange these photos on a bulletin board. Use them as a reminder that God is with us no matter where we are.

One of the Bunch

Host a dinner party for a few of your child’s friends this week. Challenge your child to invite one or two people who tend to be left out. Have each guest bring a banana. Serve fun food such as sloppy Joes, carrot sticks, and chips. For dessert, give the children each a butter knife, and have them slice their bananas into a big bowl. Then spoon bananas into individual bowls, and have the kids top them with their choice of the following treats: mandarin oranges, crushed pineapple, granola, chopped nuts, candy sprinkles, chocolate chips, butterscotch chips, strawberry sauce, chocolate sauce, and whipped cream.