

The Lost Sheep

Bible Verse

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10:27)

Bible Story

Luke 15:3-7

Leap of Faith

Jesus teaches me what God's kingdom is like.

Before You Begin

A shepherd's job was to care for sheep. Shepherds protected the flock from dangerous animals. Shepherds found pastures of fresh, green grass for the sheep to eat. A shepherd would risk his life to care for the sheep in his flock. Every sheep was important, every single one.

In his stories, Jesus often used common, everyday images to help people understand what he was saying. Shepherds and sheep were common in Palestine. A flock of one hundred sheep would have been a fairly good-sized flock for a single shepherd. How the people must have gasped when Jesus told about a shepherd who would leave ninety-nine sheep in order to go after one lost one. What would happen to the other sheep while the shepherd was away?

But Jesus wanted the people to understand that each of them was important to God, important enough to risk the other ninety-nine in order to find the one who was lost. (In fact, the shepherd probably left the sheep in a pen or with another shepherd and probably did not completely abandon the other sheep.)

God seeks people out, like the shepherd who searched for his sheep. God rejoices in the rescue of just one person, like the shepherd who rejoiced when his sheep was found.

Children have basic needs. They need food to eat, a place to live, shelter, and clothing to keep them warm. But these are not the only needs of a child. They have emotional and spiritual needs as well. Every child needs to feel loved and important. Children need to believe that someone cares about what they do and where they are. This concrete example of love helps them better understand God's seeking love.

Continually remind the children you teach that they are loved and that they are important—not only to you but also to God. Rejoice in the children just as God rejoices in them. Pray for those “lost” children in your group who may not be as easy to love. Ask for God's help in showing them love, because they probably need it most of all.



Requires
preparation.

Lost and Found

Mr. Carson:

Hi, everyone. How was your week?

Michael:

It was good until yesterday.

Erin:

What happened yesterday?

Michael:

I had gone to the mall with my mom and dad, and everything was fine. I was looking at some video games. Then, all of the sudden, I looked up and couldn't find them anywhere.

Amanda:

That happened to me at a soccer game once. That is scary.

Erin:

What did you do?

Michael:

I did what Mom and Dad told me to do. I stayed where I was. Then I saw a security guard and I told her that I didn't know where my parents were.

Amanda:

You were lucky she was there.

Michael:

Yeah. She helped me find them. They had been looking for me. I think they were as excited to see me as I was to see them.

Mr. Carson:

I can promise that they were excited—and relieved—to find you. Your experience reminds me of a story Jesus told.

Erin:

Did someone get lost in a mall?

Mr. Carson:

No, but the story is about something that was lost and then found. Let's take turns reading.

Amanda:

(Read Luke 15:3-4.)

Erin:

(Read Luke 15:5-6.)

Michael:

(Read Luke 15:7.)

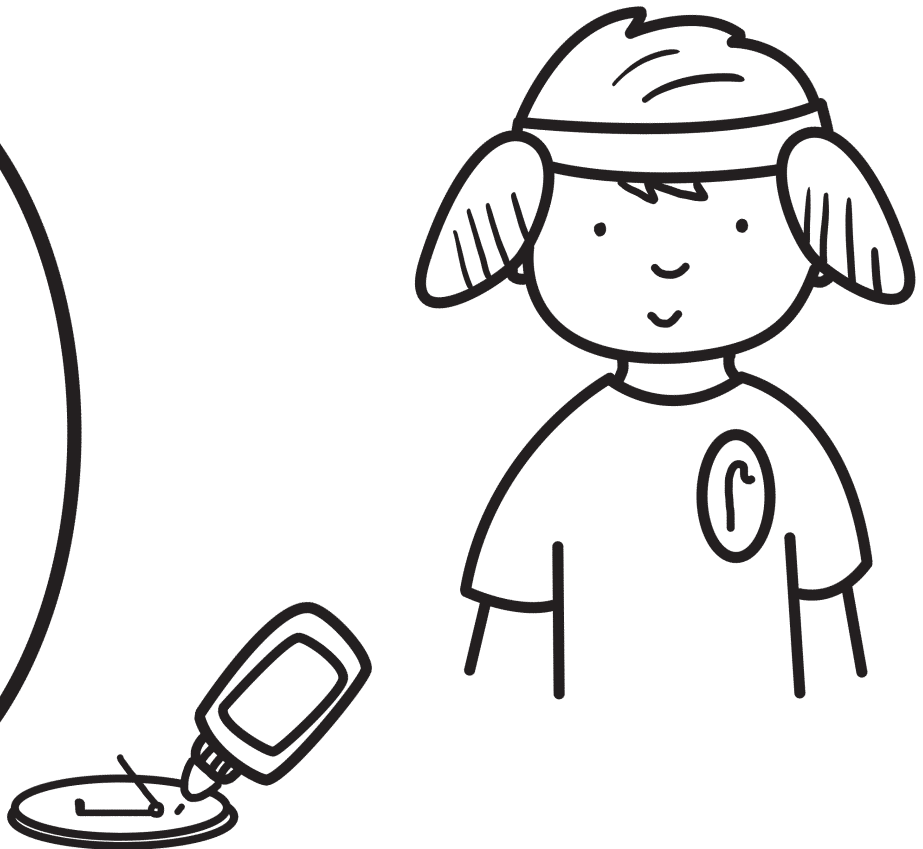
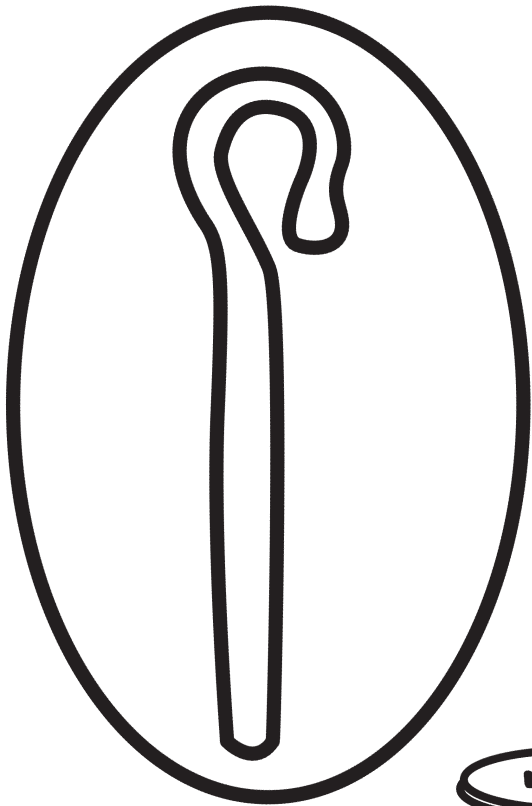
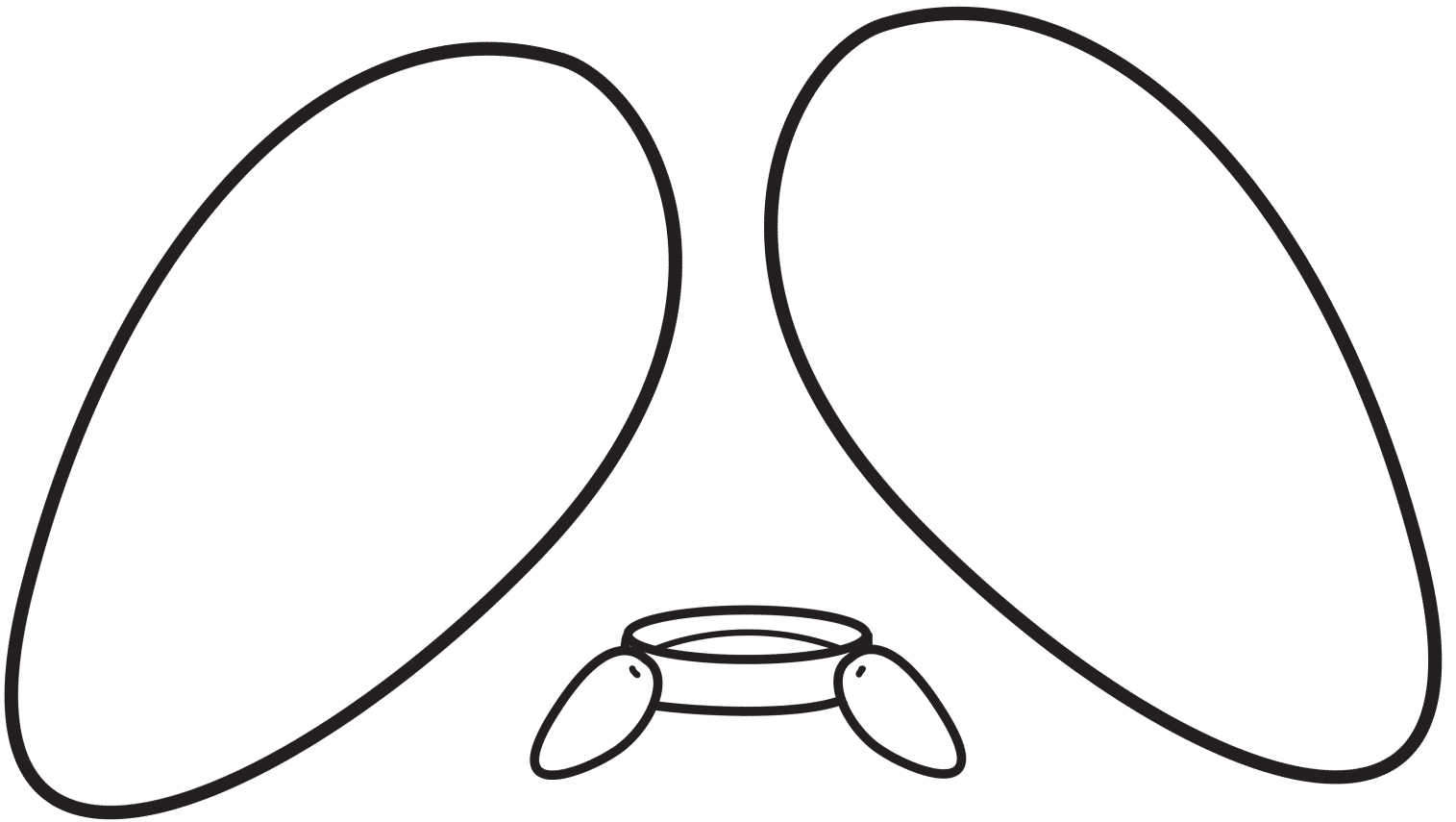
Erin:

Oh . . . so the point of the story is that even though there may be lots and lots of people who follow Jesus and believe, God won't rest until the one who is lost is found.

Mr. Carson:

That's right!

Sheep Ears and Shepherd's-Staff Badge



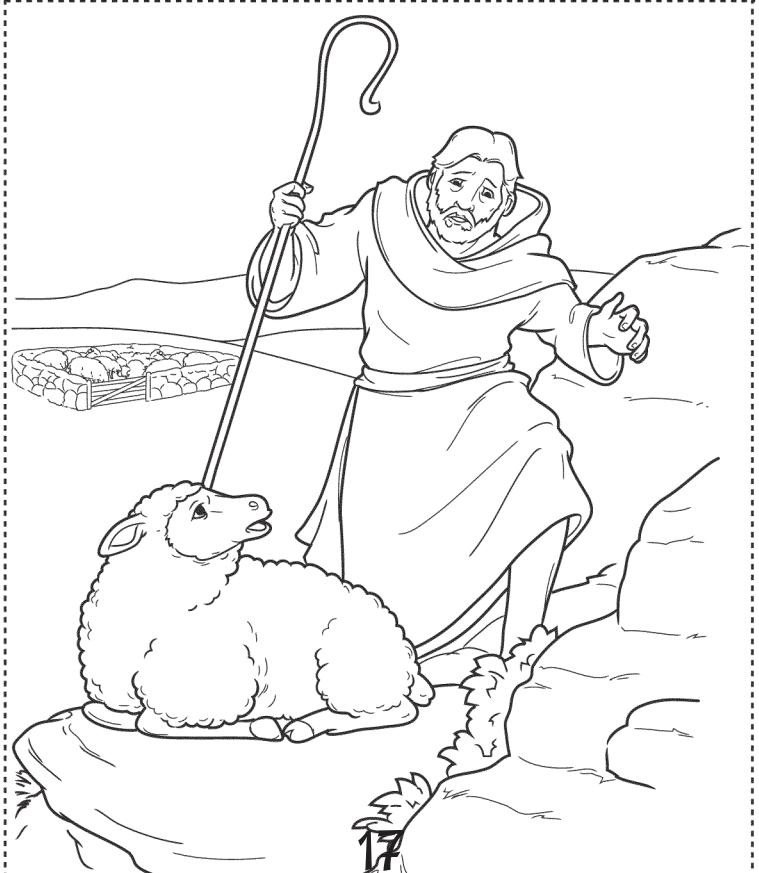
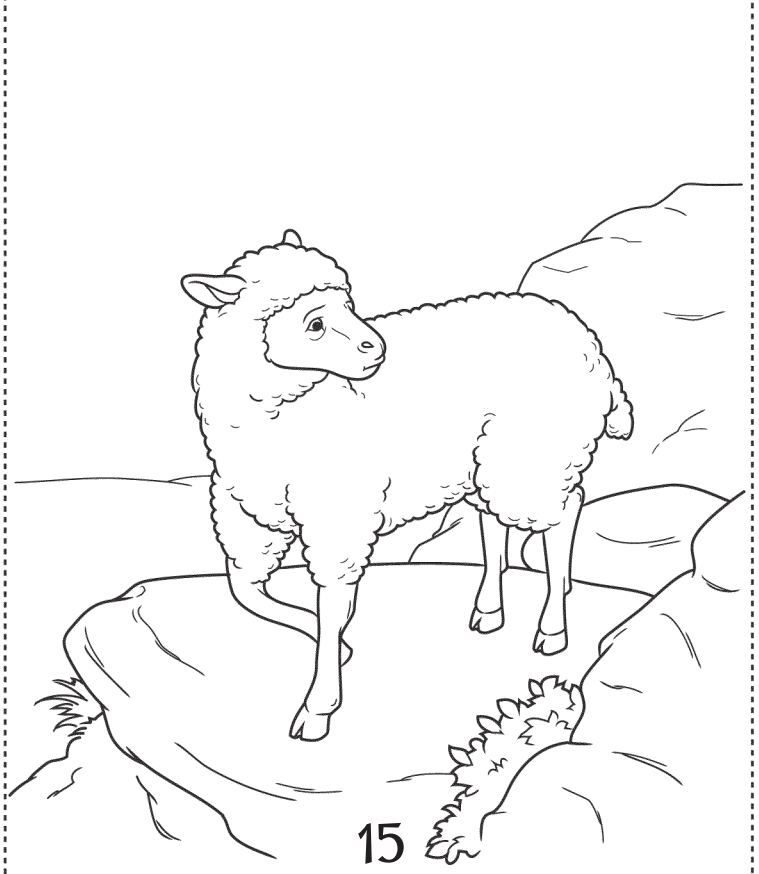
LOST AND FOUND

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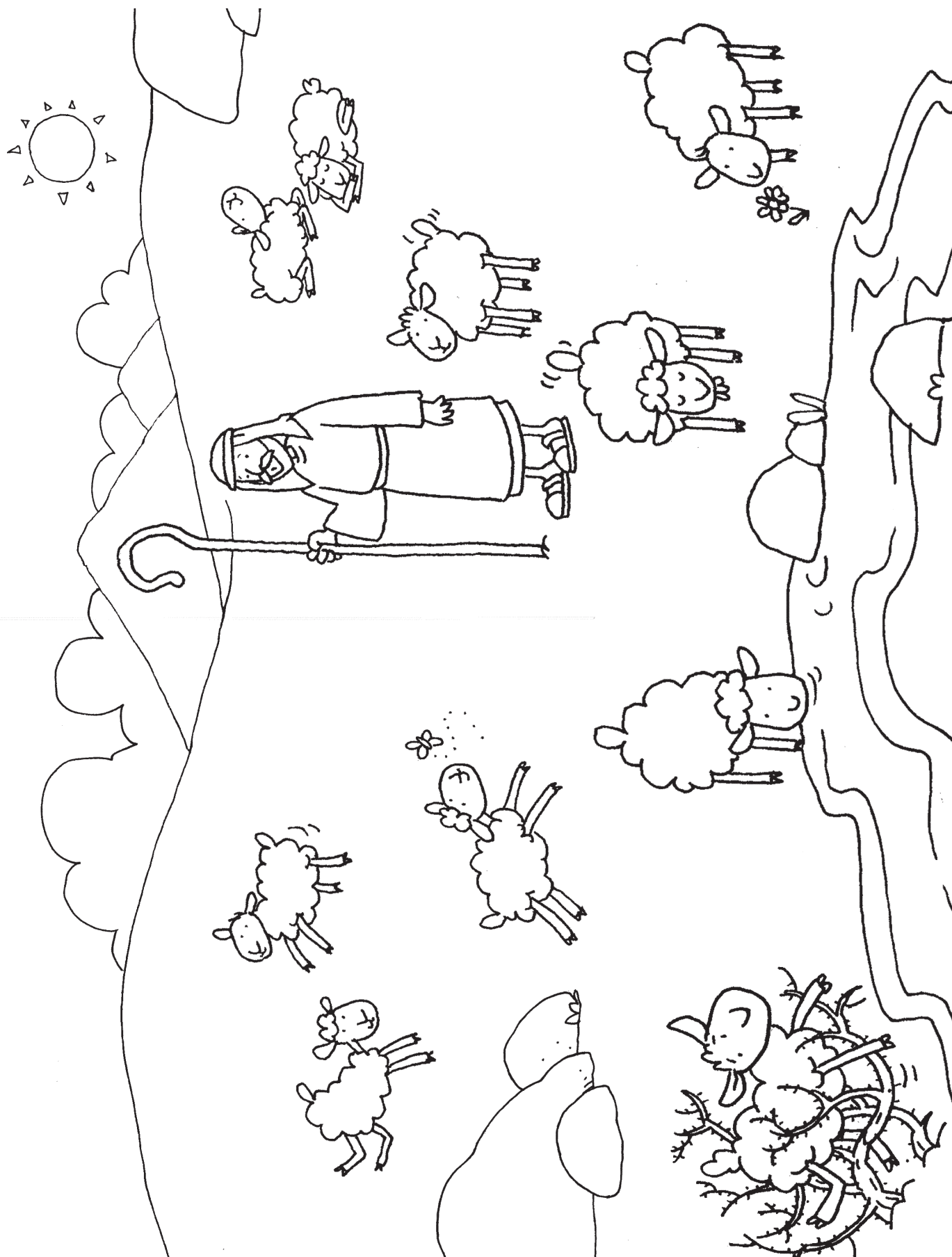


Did you know?

No animal is mentioned in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible more often than sheep (more than 500 times). Some of the stories about sheep describe their dependence on the shepherd to protect them from predators, such as lions and wolves, and to make sure they had all that they needed to survive. Other stories compare people to sheep, reminding us that we also need a shepherd to take care of us. Jesus is that shepherd who watches over us and helps us.



The Good Shepherd



For Nonreaders

Art: Patrick Girouard/Portfolio Solutions
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F**Come-Back-to-God Cards**

cheat on a test

mess up someone's
art project
on purpose

tell a lie about
breaking your
mom's favorite lamp

bully a younger child

sneak cookies
from the cookie jar

take a toy from
a brother
without asking

spread a rumor about
a classmate

say ugly words



Next week is the final collection

for your health kits. What do you have? What else do you need?

Check off below the items you have. In the square before each item, put the number you have.

☐	• hand towels
☐	• washcloths
☐	• sturdy combs
☐	• metal nail file or clippers
☐	• bath-size soap
☐	• toothbrushes
☐	• adhesive bandages
☐	• \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste
☐	• plastic bags

REMINDER: All kits must be exactly alike.
No variations are accepted.

You must love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all your
being, with all your strength, and
with all your mind, and love your
neighbor as yourself.

Luke 10:27, CEB





love



heart



being



strength



mind