

Lost and Found

Does your school have a "Lost and Found?" I'm sure it does, kids are always losing things. Early in the school year, there probably isn't very much in it, but it usually doesn't take long until the "Lost and Found" is running over with stuff.

Have you ever lost something that was really important to you? What did you do? Did you just say, "Oh well, no problem, I can always get another one?" I hope not, I imagine that you probably searched until you found what you had lost. In our Bible lesson today, Jesus tells two stories about people who have lost something very important to them.

Here's the first: Some of Jesus' followers thought that God loved some people more than others. They thought that some people were important and some people were not important. They asked Jesus a question, "Teacher, who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Jesus asked a little child to come stand by him. He told his followers that even a little child is important to God. Everyone is important to God.

Jesus wanted his followers to understand this better so he decided to tell them a story to help them understand. This kind of story is called a parable. This is the parable of the Lost Sheep.

Once a shepherd had a flock of 100 sheep. The shepherd loved every one of his sheep. He even had names for his sheep. Every night he would count his sheep to make sure that all 100 were there.

He helped the sheep find the best green grass. He looked for nice clean water so his sheep could have a nice drink when they were thirsty. Sometimes dangerous animals like bears and lions would come and try to hurt his sheep. The shepherd protected the sheep and chased all of the dangerous animals away from them.

Sometimes the sheep would wander away from the rest of the sheep and the shepherd had to call out the sheep's name. When the sheep heard the shepherd's voice he would run back to the shepherd.

One day the shepherd was counting his sheep. He only counted 99! He had lost one of his sheep. The shepherd left the 99 sheep in a safe place and went to look for the lost sheep. He looked behind bushes and in the deep valleys. He kept looking everywhere until he found the sheep.

When he finally found the sheep he was so happy! He lifted the sheep up onto his shoulders and carried him back to the other 99 sheep. At last, the shepherd could be

happy because all of the sheep were safe and well. He was so happy that he called all of his friends together and said, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep."

After Jesus told this parable he explained what it meant. God does not look at one person and say, "This person is important. She's the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." And he doesn't look at another person and say, "This person is not important. He is the least in the kingdom of heaven."

Every single person – even the littlest child – is important to God. He does not want even one single person to be lost.

Next, Jesus told a story about a woman who had ten silver coins. Each of the coins was worth a day's wages. The woman counted her coins, "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine. Oh no! I have lost one of my coins," she cried. Do you know what she did? She turned on every light in the house, swept the floor, and searched until she found the one lost coin. When she found the lost coin, she called all of her friends and neighbors together and said, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin."

Jesus told these two stories to demonstrate God's love for us. We are God's children, but sometimes we get lost. When that happens, God doesn't give up on us. He searches for us and he won't stop until we are found. Think about it, there are millions of people all over the world, more than we can even understand. Yet God cares about YOU as an individual and He knows how many hairs are on your head. He made you! Because He made you, He thinks you are important and special and valuable, and He loves you.

Jesus wanted us to know that God cares for us as people, and He will not let us wander and stray away. Sometimes we might do things that go against God's laws. Sometimes we make mistakes, or even turn our backs on God and His love. But He will never leave us.

Nothing we can do will ever separate us from God's love, and He's always waiting with open arms to welcome us back into His family, if we should walk away. In fact, God loves us so much that, even though we do sinful things, He sent Jesus to pay the ultimate price and give His life for us! He didn't just come for good people, but for all people. That is something to be thankful for.

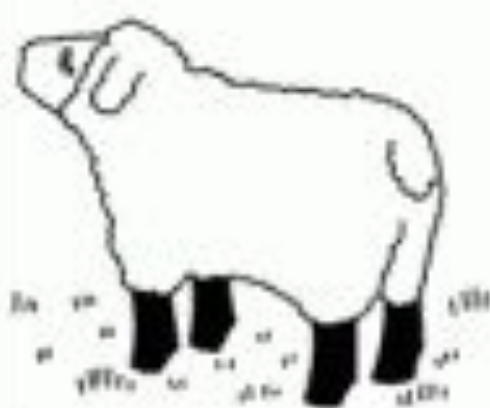
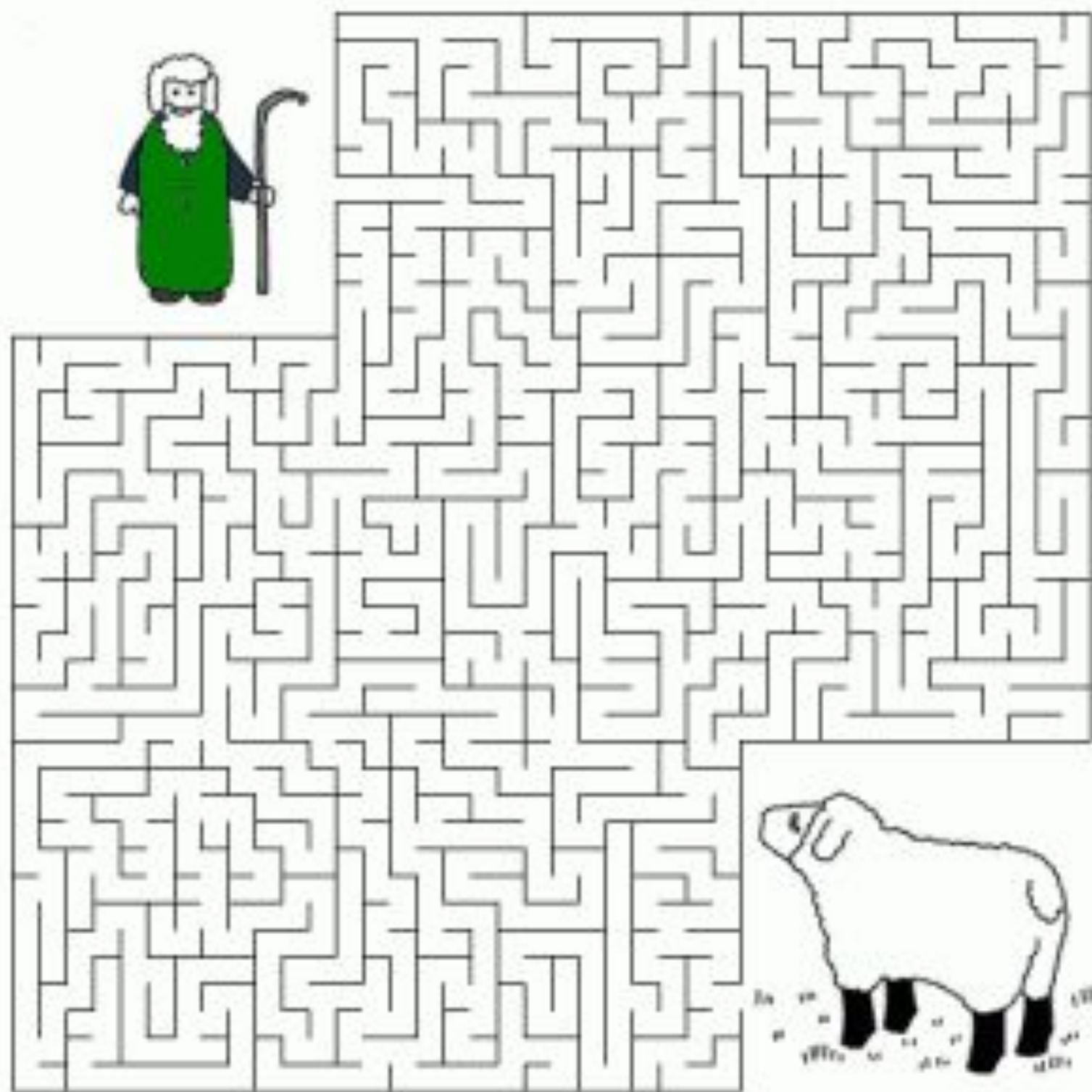
You know what else? Since we know God made us all special and loves each one of us, it is important to love and care for one another, too. If people are valuable to God, we should value them, too, and treat them that way. Sometimes it isn't easy, but we know God will help us if we ask.

I'm glad that God loves us so much that he doesn't give up on us when we get lost, aren't you?

The Lost



Sheep





Bible Pathway Adventures

WORKSHEET

Parable of the Lost Sheep

Yeshua said to them, "Which of you men, if you had 100 sheep, and lost one of them, would not leave 99 in the wilderness and go after the one that was lost, until he found it. When he has found it, he carries it on his shoulders, rejoicing."

(Luke 15:4-5)

Learn to draw a sheep:

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



ta-da!



The Lost Coin



Word Bank

Woman
 Ten
 Coins
 Lamp
 House
 Friends
 Neighbors
 Joy
 Search
 Find
 Light
 Coin
 Parable
 Sinner



Find the Hidden Word

