



E-Kids: At home with your family 18th April 2021

The Lost Sheep Luke 15:1-7 (NIV)

Intro (read together): For the next three weeks of E-kids we're going to be looking at three parables about how God welcomes sinners. Jesus told all these parables in response to the pharisees. They were questioning Jesus who was spending time with people they looked down on – "the tax collectors and sinners" (v2)!

A parable is a story with a meaning. When we read these parables we should look out for the meaning to see what Jesus wants to teach us.

The Passage (read together)

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

Key lesson: God rejoices when one sinner is saved – we should repent and be happy with him!

Thinking caps on... (for younger children)

- Why did the man celebrate? [*He had found his lost sheep (15:5-6)*]
- Who else celebrated with him? [*His friends and neighbours(15:6)*]
- What makes God very happy/celebrate? [*One sinner who repents (15:7)*]

Our story shows us that like the lost sheep, which was very precious to the shepherd, we are very precious to God. God is seeking for us because he loves us, he does not leave us lost and helpless.

When we repent and God saves us, and he rejoices! And he doesn't just rejoice on his own, like the friends and neighbours, he invites others to rejoice with him. When people put their trust in Jesus, there is a party going on in heaven! We should repent, join in the party and rejoice too!

Take it further – (for older children)

Imagine for a minute that the story was called "the lost dog"! What would have happened when the dog heard the man shouting to find it?

The dog would have run towards the man!

Once the dog was with the man would the dog need help to get back home? *Maybe a little help. But the dog would most likely be able to follow where his master was going.*

V5-6a says: “⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home.”

Why did the shepherd have to put his sheep on his shoulders?

Well, sheep are not like dogs, they’re very very silly animals! So the only way for the shepherd to get the sheep back home was to grab it, put it on his shoulders, and carry it all the way home!

The story is not the lost dog but the lost sheep. God is like the shepherd and we are like the sheep.

What does that mean about what we contribute to our rescue?

Nothing, absolutely nothing! We are like a silly sheep that would remain totally lost without God picking us up and carrying us home!

Have you ever thought of yourself as a totally helpless sheep? Every Christian is one!

How does knowing this help you love God more for his rescue?

Prayer (for everyone):

- Thank God that he searches for his lost people!
- Praise God that he rejoices when he finds his lost people!
- Ask God to help you share his joy in people trusting in him.

Activities:

There is a printable maze for anyone to use below!

For younger children (pebbles & rocks) activity B is attached to the email. It is a box and sleeve (like a matchbox!) where you can hide a sheep!

Instructions:

Cut out the templates and cut along all the bold lines.

Colour in the sleeve.

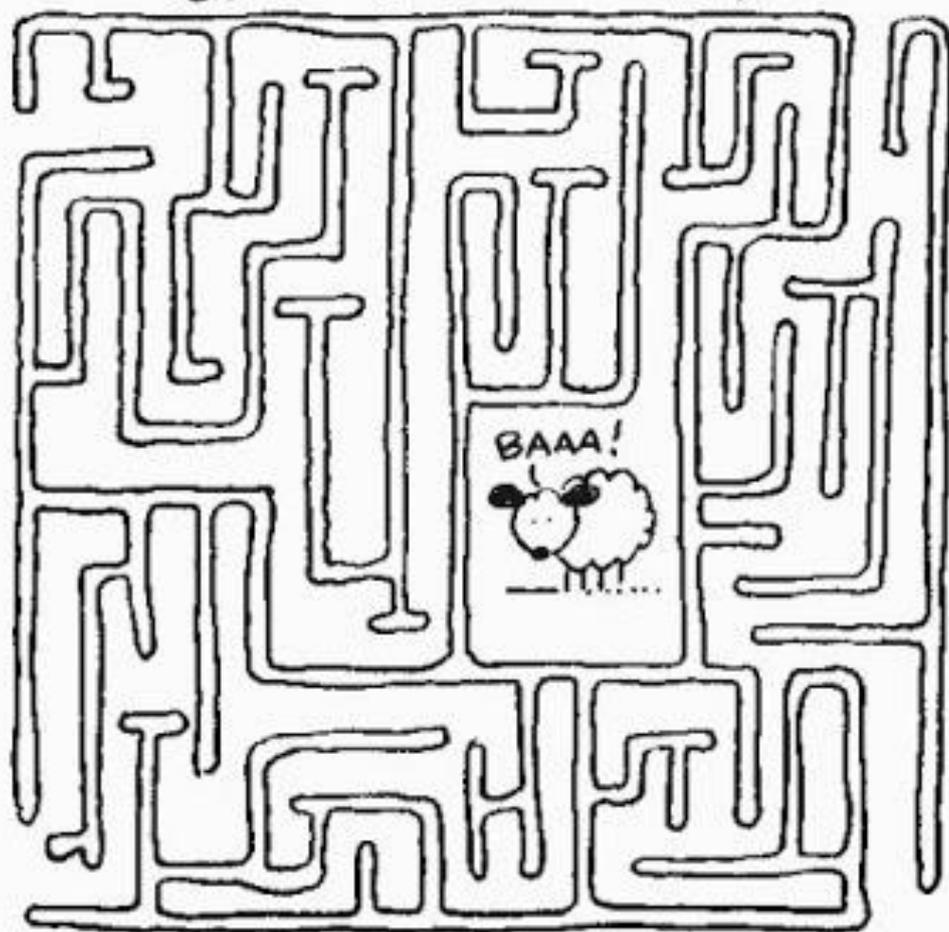
Fold and glue together the sleeve and box.

Stick your sheep face to some cotton wool and put it into your box!

For older children (boulders and riprap) there are relevant worksheets attached to the email.

If you have not received the email with activities please contact helen.hawley@bramcote.church.

BAAA!



HELP THE
SHEPHERD
FIND HIS
LOST SHEEP

?



Read
Matthew 18:10-14
or *Luke 15:3-7*