

PRIMARY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

PREPARATION

Draw some sheep and coins on paper or card, and put them around the room/hall in places where they are not too obvious.

INTRODUCTION

Education Sunday is a special day when the churches think about and pray for everyone in schools, colleges and universities. Each year there is a special theme to help us think about something that is important in education. This year the theme is “You are not lost”.

Can you think of a time when you lost something?

What did you lose? Why was it important to you?

Now think of a time when you found something you thought was lost?

How did that feel?

Ask some volunteers to share their memories.

The leader may wish to share a memory of their own.

We all lose things from time to time. Sometimes it's annoying but doesn't matter too much.

Sometimes what we lose is really important. Perhaps it's even something that can't be replaced.

I've lost some things already today. Perhaps you can help me find them.

Ask for volunteers to help you find all the sheep and coins you have hidden. The other children can help point them out.

CONTINUED...





A STORY FROM THE BIBLE

Jesus told a story about two people who had lost things that were important to them.

Let's listen to the stories:

Read Luke 15.1-10

The International Children's Bible is a simpler translation that is appropriate for primary school-aged children.

You might like to encourage the children to listen for specific words and to make noises or do some actions when they hear them.

For example, everytime you hear the word **sheep**, I want you to say "baaa" (and to stop as soon as I raise my hand).

When you hear the word **sinner**, I want you to wag your finger and shake your head.

For **friends and neighbours**, point to everyone around you.

When the word happy or joy comes up, say "hurray!", and when you hear the word **coin**, pretend you are holding a coin in your hand.

Let's practice the actions before we hear the story...

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STORY

The man still had 99 sheep. Why was he so bothered about the one that was missing?

The woman went to such a lot of trouble to find just one coin, and she still had 9 left.

Why was it worth cleaning the whole house just to find that one?

What do the stories mean?

Why did Jesus tell these stories? Are they really just about a sheep and a coin?

At the beginning of the stories, we learn that the religious leaders were grumbling about the way that Jesus spent his time with people they didn't think were good enough: the people they called sinners.

CONTINUED...





Jesus tells the stories to show to give a message that God loves everyone, even the people that others didn't think were good enough, and that it makes God happy when someone chooses to follow God's way.

Sometimes in our school, we can feel that we are lost because there are so many other people who might seem to be cleverer, more popular, better at some things than we are. Perhaps when we feel that way, we can remember Jesus' stories, and know that everyone is important, especially those who feel lost.

<https://youtu.be/iTEhrNeI6Rg>

If you have facilities for showing videos, you may like to include this animated song, which tells the story of the lost sheep with catchy music.

[Permission has been granted by the originators for use of the video in collective worship or lessons in schools: Two By 2 Operations PtyLtd. www.twoby2.com]

TO THINK ABOUT

How can we all help other people in our school to know that they are not lost, and that each person is important?

A PRAYER

I'm going to say a prayer. If you'd like to join in, you're welcome to say Amen at the end.

Dear God,

Thank you for all the people in our school who help us to learn, and who look after us. Thank you that we all matter, and no-one is lost.

Help us to care for everyone, and not just for our friends. Help us to be like the man who found his sheep, and the woman who found her coin, and be happy when we find someone who seems lost and alone.

Help us especially to make sure that anyone new soon feels part of our school and is not lost or forgotten.

Amen

