



LEADER GUIDE 1-3 YEAR OLDS



BIG MESSAGE 'LIVE' OUTLINE

BIG POINT

I Am Found

Scripture References: Luke 15:1-7,
Luke 19:10

TEACHING POINTS

- God says we are found
- Jesus shared the story of the lost sheep

TRANSITION

If you can hear me, spin around
If you can see me, sit right down
Hands in laps, you're doing great
It's Big Message time so sit up straight.

INTRODUCTION

Supplies needed:

- Sheep sound effect from supplied files
- A soft toy sheep (or make a sheep from cardboard and cotton balls)

(Play sheep sound effect)

Woolly...Woolly where are you? (Look around for your lost sheep). I've lost my sheep, his name is Woolly. He's fluffy and white and says, "Baa".

(Play sheep sound effect)

That's exactly the sound Woolley makes! Did anyone hear him? I had all my sheep together in a field, there were 100 sheep. (Act out counting your sheep) I was counting them all and got to 95, 96, 97, 98, 99... and sheep 100 was lost! I thought I had counted wrong so I started again and got to 95, 96, 97, 98, 99... I was still missing one. Woolly was lost. I've got to find him! I can't give up!

(Play sheep sound effect.) I'm sure I can hear him! (Play sheep sound effect.) There it is again!

Woolley, Woolley, where are you? Can you all help me find my lost sheep and call out his name? Encourage the children to say, "Woolley, Woolley".

(Play sheep sound effect, look around for your lost sheep and find him.)

There you are, Woolley! You were lost and now you are found. We searched everywhere to find you and now you're found, we are SO HAPPY! Everyone cheer together, YAY! We found Woolly!

Today we're learning about how God searches for the lost so they can be found. I am what God says I am and He says I AM FOUND.



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STORYTELLING

The Lost Sheep

Supplies needed:

- Story picture from the supplied files

Jesus shared lots of stories to teach people about God.

One day a group of tax collectors and people who were known to do the wrong thing gathered around Jesus to hear Him teach. They all jostled to get in close so they didn't miss a word.

The religious leaders stood nearby and whispered to one another, "What is Jesus doing hanging around with people like that?". "Doesn't he know what kind of people they are? He welcomes them in and even eats with them!"

Jesus began to share a story about sheep. He said, "If one of you has 100 sheep but one was lost, what would you do? Wouldn't you leave the 99 in the field and go looking for the one that was missing? Wouldn't you go after the lost sheep, looking everywhere until you found it?"

The crowd nodded in agreement as they hung on every word Jesus spoke.

"And when that one sheep is found you would scoop it up and lift it on your shoulders and carry it home with great joy! A man that finds his lost sheep would call his neighbours and friends together to celebrate saying, "Be joyful with me I have found my sheep!""

Everyone agreed and Jesus said, "I tell you, it is the same in heaven. There is a great outburst of joy and celebration when even just one sinner turns from sin, when one lost person is found. There will be more joy in heaven for that one than the 99 so called 'Godly' people who think they don't need to turn away from their sin."

Jesus went on and told more stories about lost things. A lost coin that a woman searches high and low to find and a lost son who returned home to his father's embrace. In each story there was such joy and celebration when lost things and lost people were found. God searches for lost people who are far off from knowing His love and when they are found all of heaven rejoices.

I am who God says I am and He says I AM FOUND.



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WRAP UP

If you lost something what would you do? You would search everywhere until you found it! People are precious to God, we belong to Him and when we were lost He searched for us. God searches for those who are lost. He searches for lost people because He loves people. God sent His one and only Son Jesus to find the lost. It's through Jesus that we are found. Luke 19:10 (NIV) "The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them." Jesus came so the lost could be found.

When you find something you've lost, how do you feel? Can you show me how you would feel? (Encourage children to show a smiling face) That's right, we feel happy when something that was lost is found. Did you know that when someone is found by God there is a HUGE celebration in Heaven! I am who God says I am and He says I am found.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank You that You search after the lost and leave the 99 to find the one. Thank You that you found me and You love me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.