**The Story of the Lost Sheep**

**Bible Story:** The Story of the Lost Sheep • *Luke 15:1-7; John 15:12*

**Bible Story Focus:** I can love others because Jesus loves me.

**Memory Verse:** “Love each other as I have loved you.” John 15:12, NIV

**Key Question:** Who loves you?

**Bottom Line:** Jesus loves me.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**Check In: 5:45-6**

**Worship: 6-6:30** Worship with K-5 in the fellowship hall

**Make It Fun Centers 6:30-7**

**Verse Parade**

*Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler’s natural desire to move to help them learn*

**What You Need:** kazoos or jingle bells and chenille stems, Play/Pause paddle

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:*

* If not using kazoos, thread a jingle bell or two through each chenille stem.
* Children can wear these as bracelets.

*During the Activity:*

* Give a kazoo or jingle bracelet to each child and lead them in a parade around the room.
* Hold the “Play” side of the paddle as they play.
* Then hold up the “Pause” side to indicate it’s time to stop playing and say the Memory Verse together.
* Repeat as desired.

*After the Activity:*

* Gather all kazoos or jingle bracelets for clean-up.
* If using kazoos, place in a pan to disinfect.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:*

“It’s time for a Memory Verse parade! I have an instrument for each of you. Let’s march around the room. When I hold up this Play side *(hold up the sign)*, you will march and play your kazoos! When you see the Pause side *(hold up the “Pause” side)*, stop and let’s say our verse together. Let’s go!”

*(Hold up Play side for a few seconds.)*

*During the Activity:*

*(Hold up Pause side)* “Let’s say our Memory Verse: ‘Love each other as I have loved you.’ John 15:12. Great job! Now let’s march and play.” *(Hold up the Play side.)*

*After the Activity:*

*(Hold up the Pause sign.)* “Great job, friends! That was so fun. We can love others because Jesus loves us! Isn’t that awesome? Remember friends, Jesus wants to be your friend forever. **Who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me.”**

**Story Box**

*Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler’s innate curiosity into a discussion of the week’s crucial concepts*

**What You Need:** shallow box, green crinkle paper or green copy paper strips, several cotton balls, and a “Joseph” or “Shepherd” from a Little People® nativity set

*Note: You may want to make duplicate story boxes for the children to play with after you review the story.*

**What You Do:**

*During the Activity:*

* Add the green paper, cotton balls, and toy shepherd to the box as you retell the story.
* Keep one cotton ball behind your back.
* When you are done, allow the children to take turns using the box and items to retell the story.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:*

“Come sit with me. We are going to make a story box!”

*During the Activity:*

“Look inside this box. What do you see? *(Pause.)* Me too. I see nothing. But if we put this green paper in it, we can pretend it is a field of grass. *(Give each child a hand full of green paper to put in the box.)* There! Now we have green grass. How about we use these cotton balls to make sheep? *(Hold up a cotton ball.)* Baa, baa! Can you say, ‘Baa baa?’ *(Give each child several cotton balls to put in the box.)* Look! We have sheep in our field of green grass! Okay, this little guy can be the shepherd. Everyone say, ‘Hi, Mr. Shepherd!’ *(Pause.)*

“This looks like our Bible story today. There’s a field of green grass, fluffy white sheep, and a shepherd watching over his sheep. The shepherd in our Bible story loved his sheep, and he took very good care of them. One day, he was counting his sheep, and he noticed that one of his sheep was missing. Oh no! What did the shepherd do? Did he say, ‘It’s only one sheep so it doesn’t matter’? Or did he say, ‘I love my sheep so I’m going to go find it’? *(Pause.)* Yes! The shepherd went to go find his lost sheep. *(Walk the toy shepherd around and “find” the sheep behind your back.)* Look! The shepherd found his sheep! The shepherd was SO happy he picked up his sheep and carried it all the way home!”

*(Allow children to play with the box and retell the story.)*

*After the Activity:*

“Jesus loves you like the shepherd loved his sheep. You are very, very important to Jesus. Jesus wants us to love others the way He loves us. That means we should treat people like they are very, very important too, because they are! So, tell me one more time, **who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me!”**

**Make It True 7-7:15**

Use the computer and TV to lead kids in a time of learning. Lead students to find a comfy spot to sit and help them watch our digital friends as they talk about today’s bible story.

**Snack 7:15-7:30**

**Make It Stick 7:30-8**

These activities are designed to help preschoolers understand and remember today’s Bible story and Bottom Line. Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or offer two activities at once and let half the kids participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities

**Sheep Spotting \*\***

*Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts*

*Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the “Allergy Alert Poster” and post it at the door to your room.*

**What You Need:** “Allergy Alert Poster,” “Hidden Sheep” Activity Page, cardstock, contact paper, cookie sheets, craft sticks, shaving cream, plastic tablecloths

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:*

* Copy “Allergy Alert Poster” on cardstock and hang on the door.
* Copy “Hidden Sheep” on cardstock.
* Use the contact paper to adhere the Activity Pages to the center of your cookie sheets.
* Provide one cookie sheet per every three children.
* Cover the tables with the tablecloths.
* Squirt some shaving cream onto the cookie sheets to cover most of the page.
* Place two or three craft sticks next to each cookie sheet.

*During the Activity:*

* Encourage the children to gather around the cookie sheets and use the craft stick like a squeegee to move the shaving cream off of the picture.
* Once they can see the picture, encourage them find the lost sheep among the items on the page.

*After the Activity:*

* Gather all the cookie sheets and craft sticks for clean-up.
* Encourage children to wash their hands or clean them off with hand sanitizer.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:*

“In our Bible story today, what was the shepherd looking for? *(Pause.)* Yes! The lost sheep. The shaving cream on your cookie sheets is covering something important. Let’s use our craft sticks to push the shaving cream off to the side like this *(demonstrate)* to see if we can find the lost sheep!

*After the Activity:*

“You found all the lost sheep! Way to go, friends. Jesus told this story to show us that we are ALL important to Him and that He loves us very much. You are SO important to Jesus. **Who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me.”**

**Recyclable Band**

*Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler’s innate curiosity into a discussion of the week’s crucial concepts*

**What You Need:** several different clean, empty recyclables like: cardboard boxes with hinged lids including shipping boxes, shoeboxes, or pizza boxes; water or Gatorade bottles; plastic tubs like those used for spreadable butter or cool whip; copy or tissue paper; bubble wrap etc.; and unsharpened pencils or blunt chopsticks

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:*

* Gather all the recyclable materials.
* Experiment with each item to see how to best make “sounds” out of those items.

Ideas:

* Squeeze the empty water bottle.
* Run the pencil or chopsticks along the side of the water bottle.
* Open and shut the lid of a hinged shoe box.
* Use the pencil/chopstick to tap on an empty box like a drum.
* Squeeze the bubble wrap or rub it between your hands.
* Wad up the paper or tissue paper to make crunching sounds.
* Tap the top of an empty plastic tub like a drum.

*During the Activity:*

* Pass out the items to the children to create their own “band” by making music with their recyclable materials.
* Encourage the children to march around the room to have a parade as they play their music!

*After the Activity:*

* Gather all the items for clean-up.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:*

“Let’s make some music! Did you know you can make music with all these items? Here, let me show you!”

*During the Activity:*

“It’s time for a parade! Follow me as we march around the room, play our instruments, and celebrate that Jesus loves me!”

*After the Activity:*

“Wasn’t that fun? We can celebrate because ***[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me! Who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me.”**