

# SABBATH SCHOOL

## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 2 • Unit 7 • Week 1

### LOST SHEEP

**OBJECTIVE:**

To show that God cares about those who are "lost," because He is love.

**ATTENTION GETTER:**

Do: Show the children a picture of a crying child under a "Lost and Found" sign.

Say: The child is "lost" in some way. The child has become separated from his/her parents. He/she looks very unhappy and worried.

Ask: What do you think happened here?

Do: Show a picture of a mother and father showing love to a child.

Ask: What about in this picture? Are the mother and father happy? Is the child happy?

Answer: Yes, they are happy because the child that was lost has been found.

**BIBLE LESSON:**

Say: Today we will read a story that Jesus told.

Do: Read Matthew 18:11-14 from your Bible or read the story, "The Lost Sheep," from *The Beginner's Bible* or another Bible storybook.

Say: This story is true to life, but it is also a lesson to show us how God the Father, and Jesus Christ love all their children.

Ask: Do you remember the lesson where we talked about Jesus being our shepherd?

Say: No matter how careful a shepherd is, sometimes a sheep lags behind, or is curious and wanders off, or just wants to do its own thing. Then that sheep can be in great danger.

The shepherd knows his sheep, and he soon notices that one is not following the path and is lost. He leaves the 99 obedient sheep in a safe place and goes out to find the one lost sheep.

Sometimes this takes a long time. Sometimes he has to get some help. But when the one sheep is found, everyone is happy.

Jesus said in Matthew 18:10, "I say to you that in heaven their [the little ones'] angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven." So your loving Father has angels to especially watch over you. If you are lost from His path, God will help you.

To God, we are all "little ones." Even grown-ups are little ones in God's eyes. They also can lose their way and not follow the path that Jesus wants them on. So, when you have grown up, you know that God the Father and Jesus, our Good Shepherd, will still help. The Good Shepherd loves and cares for the lambs (the children) and the sheep (the grown-ups).

There is nothing bad in God or Jesus. They are full of love.

Do: Read 1 John 4:16.

Say: God is fair, and makes all things work for good because of that love.

Do: Read Romans 8:28.

Ask: Remember the story of Joseph? Although some very bad things happened to him, God, through His loving-kindness, helped him find his brothers and all were happy at the end.

Say: It is good that we return God's love and follow His ways, so we will not get lost. We should try to be like the 99 sheep and enjoy the gifts God gives us.

The lesson that God cares about those that are lost is so important, that Jesus told other stories about the "lost."

Do: Read "The Lost Coin" and "The Lost Son" from *The Beginner's Bible* or from Luke 15:8-24.

## LESSON APPLICATION

Supplies: Scissors  
Cotton balls  
Foil-wrapped chocolate coins  
Crayons

Glue and/or double-stick tape  
Photocopies of "God Cares About the Lost" book (see end of lesson).

- Do:
1. Have children cut out out pages along lines.
  2. Have children glue cotton balls on sheep outline on page 2.
  3. Have children glue or tape foil-wrapped chocolate coin on page 3.
  4. Have children draw a child on the last page.

**Music:**

Sing the following words to the tune of "Three Blind Mice."

Three lost sheep,  
Three lost sheep,  
See how they run,  
See how they run,  
God will help when the children are lost.  
He cares so much when the children are lost.  
He shows His love when the children are lost.  
Three lost sheep,  
Three lost sheep

**MEMORY VERSE:**

1 John 3:1 "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!"

# *family activity*

## **THE POINT:**

To show that God cares about those who are "lost," because He is love.

## **ASK ME...**

- Who is our Shepherd?
- Does He want us to follow His path?
- Will He help us when we go off the path and become lost?

## **FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

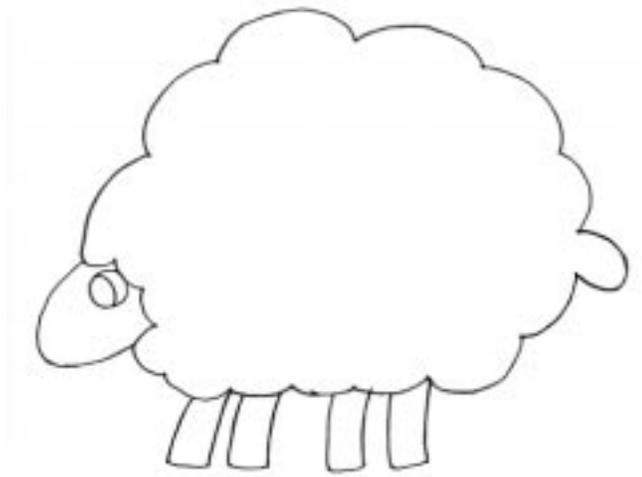
Make a container located in the house, and label it "Lost & Found." When the children have something lying around that should be put away in its place, put it in the container. When they find it, ask if they are happy. Remind them that God has a way to put lost people in the right place so they can be happy.

We read the parable of the lost (or prodigal) son from Luke 15 from verses 11 to 24. Read the parable together, but finish reading it through verse 32. Discuss why the older brother was unhappy and why it's important for us not to get jealous when someone that's been "lost" is found.

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

1 John 3:1 "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!"

*God Cares About the Lost*



*God is like a shepherd who has found his lost sheep.*

1

2

*God is like the woman who found the lost coin.*

*God is like the father who found his lost son.  
God cares about the lost.*

3

4