

## Lost Coin, Lost Sheep

**Date Expected:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Welcome:** Begin by welcoming students by name. Talk and take a little time to get to know the kids and ask about their week. You can do a gathering activity if conversation is slow. There are some ideas in your binder. This is when you'll probably take attendance.

**The Main Idea:** Jesus finds and saves sinners. He never gives up on us.

**The Story:** Read the story below or read it directly from your Bible in Luke 15. There are also a variety of children's Bibles available as well. I encourage you to invite students to read aloud but please don't go around the circle or ask everyone to read as some kids don't enjoy that experience.

The Pharisees and religious leaders were upset because Jesus was welcoming people who everyone knew sinned to come and listen and learn from him. Jesus told them more stories to help them understand how God's love can get to people, even if they have sinned. They just didn't understand how God loves us so much that He will seek and save the lost every time. He knew that the people understood sheep, and many had experience with shepherds. He reminded them that if a shepherd loses a single sheep, he will leave all the other sheep in the field while he goes on a big search for the one sheep. He'll find it, pick it up, and carry it home safe. Then the shepherd celebrates with his friends. There is more joy in Heaven when one sinner is rescued than there is for 99 people who are good and don't need saving. They still didn't understand so Jesus talked about something they liked even more than sheep- money! If a woman had 10 coins and lost 1 coin, she would look and look! She would shine a light and clean up her house and search until it is found. Then she would celebrate with her friends. All of Heaven celebrates when one sinner repents and turns to God.



**Activity Option 1 (Kit purchased from Oriental Trading):**

Show the kids the magic coin trick. (You'll want to try it a few times before the kids arrive.) To use it, open the slide out and place the coin inside the circle. When you put the slide back in, you'll put it in the other way (casually so it looks natural.) when you slide it back out, the coin should be "lost." Slide it back in again (flipping it again) but don't pull it out yet. Let the kids think about the coin being "lost" while you talk.

- Spend some time talking with the kids about why you would look for the missing coin.
- Ask the kids if they've ever lost something. What did they do? Did they find it? How did it feel when it was lost? How did it feel when it was found?
- Why do you think Jesus told this story?
- Which coin had more value, the one that was lost or the one that wasn't lost? How about the lost sheep or all of the sheep who were still with the shepherd? (They were both valued. Otherwise, she wouldn't have searched so hard.)
- Do you think God wants people who make good choices more than people who make mistakes a lot? How about people who are nice? Does God want them more than he wants mean people? (NO! God wants every one of us, even though we sin and make mistakes sometimes. God loves all people, whether they are believers or not and God is actively searching for everyone who doesn't know god yet to help them to not be lost anymore.)

Now finish the trick by sliding the plastic slider back out to reveal the coin.

Give each child their own magic trick and demonstrate how to do the illusion so that they can share the message with others. If you have time, practice what they might say when they tell someone about the parables that Jesus told.

### Activity Option 2:

- Give each child three little paper cups and one coin.
- They'll place the coin under one of the three cups and then move the cups around.
- They can ask a friend to guess which cup the coin is under.
- Spend some time talking with the kids about why you would look for the missing coin.
- Ask the kids if they've ever lost something. What did they do? Did they find it? How did it feel when it was lost? How did it feel when it was found?
- Why do you think Jesus told this story?
- Which coin had more value, the one that was lost or the one that wasn't lost? How about the lost sheep or all of the sheep who were still with the shepherd? (They were both valued. Otherwise, she wouldn't have searched so hard.)
- Do you think God wants people who make good choices more than people who make mistakes a lot? How about people who are nice? Does God want them more than he wants mean people? (NO! God wants every one of us, even though we sin and make mistakes sometimes. God loves all people, whether they are believers or not and God is actively searching for everyone who doesn't know god yet to help them to not be lost anymore.)

If you have time, practice what they might say when they tell someone about the parables that Jesus told.



**Discussion:** Why would God celebrate when a lost one is found?

**Prayer:** Please be sure to spend time in prayer with your class. Ask if they have praise or prayer concerns. Talk to God about what is going on in their lives. Thank God for never giving up, for always loving each of us and for seeking and seeking when one of us gets lost. Ask God to help them to remember and apply what they are learning and to help them remember that He is with them, always.

**Other Resources:**

Saddleback Kids Lost Coin: <https://youtu.be/yvHxUxjaboE>

Saddleback Kids Lost Sheep: <https://youtu.be/Ry2MaMyvGo>

The Lost are Found- Hillsong Worship Song: <https://youtu.be/ywdaLbljGaQ>

Britt Nicole The Lost Get Found song: <https://youtu.be/GO2prEoATH8>