

Three Parables

IDC Kids Preschool

Bible Passage: Luke 15

Key Passage: Mark 6:34

Main Point: Jesus is the One who seeks and saves the lost.

Christ Connection: Jesus told stories about people who were looking for things that were lost. Jesus told these stories to teach about Himself. Jesus looks for people who are lost, people who do not know Him. Jesus gave His life to save people from sin.

Watch this week's [**IDC Kids Online Video**](#)

Talk about the Bible story

Say • **Jesus taught about God's love.** God loves us so much He comes looking for us even when we do not love Him like the shepherd looked for his sheep and the woman looked for her coin. And like the father, God does not love us any more when we do good things, and God does not love us any less when we do bad things. God loves us because of who He is.

Ask the following review questions:

Who came to hear Jesus teach that the religious leaders did not like? (*sinners*)

What did the younger son do with his money in the story? (*spent it all and made wrong choices*)

What did the son plan to ask his father when he got home? (*if he could be his father's servant*)

What did his father do when he saw his son? (*ran to him, gave him a big hug and a kiss, said to bring the best clothes for him, and celebrated with a big meal*)

Was the older son happy his brother was back? (*No, he was angry.*)

Learn the big picture question

Say • The religious leaders did not understand that God loves people no matter what they do, so Jesus told them three stories to teach them about God's love. ***Why did Jesus tell stories? Jesus told stories to teach people about God.***

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Mark 6:34. Read the key passage aloud several times.

Say • Jesus came not only to save people from sin but to teach them about God. Jesus loves people and wants them to know that His Father loves them too!

Activities

Gather sheep

Spread cotton balls out around the room. Tell preschoolers that they are shepherds and the cotton balls are their sheep. When you say “go,” preschoolers should gather up all the sheep they can. When all the sheep are gathered, preschoolers may count how many sheep they have. Scatter the sheep and play again as time allows.

Say • In today’s Bible story, Jesus told three stories. One story was about a shepherd and his sheep. Listen to find out what the shepherd would do if he lost one of his sheep. Here’s a hint: It is like what God does to find one of His children.

An Activity for the Dads

Have the child’s father speak a blessing out loud over your child by telling the child what good qualities you see in him or her and what you hope for the child’s future. If you are uncomfortable forming your own blessing, recite Numbers 6:24-26. For a child whose father is not present, ask a male leader to speak the blessing over the child.

Say • Fathers are a good gift from God, but God Himself is the best Father of all. In today’s Bible story, Jesus told a story about a father and his two sons. One of the sons made very bad choices. The other son made very good choices. But the father loved his sons no matter what kind of choices they made because he was a good father who loved his children. Listen to the Bible story to hear how this father is like God.

Lost and found

Set several items on the table. Tell the children to close their eyes. Remove one item. When they open their eyes, ask, “What is missing?” Replace the item and play again as time allows.

Say • Through the parables about lost things, **Jesus taught about God’s love**. God loves us more than the shepherd who left all his sheep to find the lost one. God loves us more than the woman who searched her whole house for her coin. He loves us more than the father who threw a party for his son. God loves us so much, He sent us Jesus.

Make cotton ball sheep

Trace a child’s hand on a black sheet of construction paper and cut it out. Guide preschoolers to glue googly eyes on the thumb and cotton balls on the palm to create a sheep.

Say • **Jesus taught about God’s love** through the parable of the lost sheep. God seeks after lost people by offering forgiveness in Jesus. When we turn from our sins and come back to Him, God is so happy!

Count by 10s

Provide 10 sets of 10 items such as blocks, bandages, coins, small cups, craft sticks, spoons, paintbrushes, crayons, cars, and counting bears. Encourage the preschoolers to sort the items. Help them count the number in each set. Ask, “How many coins did the woman have? How many did she lose?” Explain to older preschoolers that 10 sets of 10 items amounts to 100 total.

Say • **Why did Jesus tell stories? Jesus told stories to teach people about God**. Jesus told stories about people doing everything they could to find their lost things. God did what He needed to do to bring us back to Him. He gave us Jesus!

Make coin imprints

Provide modeling clay and plastic coins for children to make imprints. Talk about the Bible story as they work.

Say • **Jesus taught about God's love.** What did the woman do when she could not find her coin? What did she do when she found it? When God saw us lost in our sin, what did He do? What does God do when we come back to Him?

Activity page

Download and print [this week's activity page](#)

Guide preschoolers to complete the maze to get the father to his lost son.

Say • Whoa! At first, this looked like a hard maze, but it was actually very easy. The father went straight to his son. He was so happy to see his son who had been lost, he did not waste any time getting to him. Listen to our Bible story to find out who this father is like.

Pray

Say • **Jesus taught about God's love.** Jesus told stories about things that were lost to teach about Himself and us. Jesus looks for people who are lost, people who do not know Him. Jesus gave His life to save people from sin.

Say • Thank You, God, for teaching us about Your love through these stories. We are lost in our sins, but You sent Jesus to earth to find us.