



The **LOVE** of God!

4-WEEK SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Nothing in this world compares to God's Love. This 4-week study will help kids understand and appreciate that powerful truth. Built around the acronym L-O-V-E, each lesson aims to strengthen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

This curriculum is flexible enough to handle a wide range of age groups in even the smallest Sunday school. We have included "more than enough" with each lesson to help you adapt to every teaching situation. Use what you can to teach the main idea, even if your class time does not allow for all activities.

You are viewing lesson #2 God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND. We provide this free sample to help you decide if this material is right for your ministry. Use the link below to purchase the complete 4-Week series.

<https://sundayschool.store/products/the-love-of-god-4-week-childrens-ministry-curriculum>

All lessons were written by Jessa McClure. This material is © 2021 by *The Sunday School Store*. You have full permission to copy, print, and share within your local church or ministry group.

Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

We are praying for you and your ministry. Please reach out if you have any concerns or advice to improve our curriculum. May God continue to bless your service to His kids.

Tony Kummer, Editor
The Sunday School Store
support@sundayschool.store

Curriculum Overview and Introduction

4-Week Series Overview

Lesson #1: God's Love is (L) LONG-SUFFERING

- Big Idea: God is patient with us, even when we do things wrong. He lets us suffer the consequences of our sins, but also gives us the salvation we need to have forgiveness of those sins.
- Key Passage: Genesis 3 – The Fall: The story of Adam and Eve. When Adam and Eve disobey, God does not disown them. He lets them live outside of the garden and finds a way to bring salvation to humanity.
- Memory Verse: Genesis 3:23 “So, the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had taken.”

Lesson #2: God's Love is (O) ONE-OF-A-KIND

- Big Idea: God's love is so amazing. He does extraordinary things for those who love Him, and He shows it in big ways throughout the Bible.
- Key Passage: Matthew 18:10-14. The Parable of the Lost Sheep. God will seek those who are lost. He will find the “one” that has wandered and be as happy to find him as the man in the story.
- Memory Verse: Matthew 18:13 “And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.”

Lesson #3: Title: God's Love is (V) VICTORIOUS

- Big Idea: God loved His people and wanted them to spend eternity with Him. So, he gave his only son so they could be with Him in Heaven.
- Key Passage: John 3:1-21 – Jesus talks to Nicodemus
- Memory Verse: John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

Lesson #4: Title: God's Love is (E) ETERNAL

- Big Idea: God has always loved me. He knew me even before I was born. His love for me is never ending.
- Key Passages: Psalm 139:13-18 – David speaking about how God has always known him. He was knit together in his mother's womb and God ordained the days of his life. Luke 1:39-45 – Mary visits Elizabeth and her unborn child leaps when in the presence of Mary's baby.
- Memory Verse: Psalm 139:13 – “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.”



The background is a vibrant teal color with various geometric patterns. There are white circles, triangles, and lines scattered throughout. A grid of small white dots is visible in the top right and bottom left corners. The overall design is modern and abstract.

The **LOVE** of God!

**"And if he finds it,
truly I tell you, he is
happier about that one
sheep than about the
ninety-nine that did
not wander off."**

- Matthew 18:13

Lesson 2: God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND

Lesson Summary

Title: God's Love is (O) ONE-OF-A-KIND

- **Big Idea:** God's love is so amazing. He does extraordinary things for those who love Him, and He shows it in big ways throughout the Bible.
- **Key Passage:** Matthew 18:10-14. The parable of the lost sheep. God will seek those who are lost. He will find the "one" that has wandered and be as happy to find him as the man in the story.
- **Memory Verse:** Matthew 18:13 "And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off."

As you go through this lesson, focus on the fact that we are God's children, and we are all precious to him. Even though there are many of us, He wants you specifically to come to Him, even if you've lost your way. God is ONE-OF-A-KIND and searches for the "one" who wanders. He never gives up on His children.

Gospel Connection: You will read through Matthew 18: 10-14 and talk about the joy God has when His children come to Him or return to Him.

Supplies Needed:

- Sheep cutout (enough for 10 sheep)
- Bibles or Matthew 18:10-14 printout for each student
- LOST SHEEP poster (one for each child)
- Pens, pencils or crayons to draw with
- Timer to give each artist equal time (optional)
- White yarn
- Black felt
- Printout of sheep head template (pictured right)
- Fabric glue
- Googly eyes
- Scissors
- Dixie cups (3 for each child)



Lesson 2: God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND

Memory Verse Activity: Hand Motions

And if he finds it

Look around like you're searching for something and then point to it

Truly I tell you

Wag your pointer finger like you are making a point

He is happier

Point to Heaven and then make a smile with your pointer fingers across your face

About that one sheep

Make a sign for the number one and then say "baa" after the word sheep

Than about the ninety-nine

Hold up nine fingers and present them twice to make 99

That did not wander off

Put two fingers from your right hand in the palm of your left hand and move them back and forth as if they are walking.



Lesson 2: God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND

Introductory Activity: Ten Missing Sheep

Note: Use this introductory activity to show the children what it's like to go searching for something. They will feel the anticipation of finding their "sheep" and the joy of finding the one that "wandered away."

Supplies:

- 10 sheep cutouts (see below)
- A large room
- Tape to attach sheep to objects around the room (optional)

Good morning, everyone. For a few minutes this morning you are all going to be shepherds. And what do shepherds take care of? (Allow for answers.) That's right, sheep! So, in order to take care of our sheep for the day, we need to find them. In just a minute I'm going to say "go" and you will look around the room for the 10 hidden sheep. Make sure we are being kind to our friends when we are searching. Okay, ready, GO!

After a few minutes they will realize that they can't find all 10 sheep because you have hidden one sheep in your pocket.

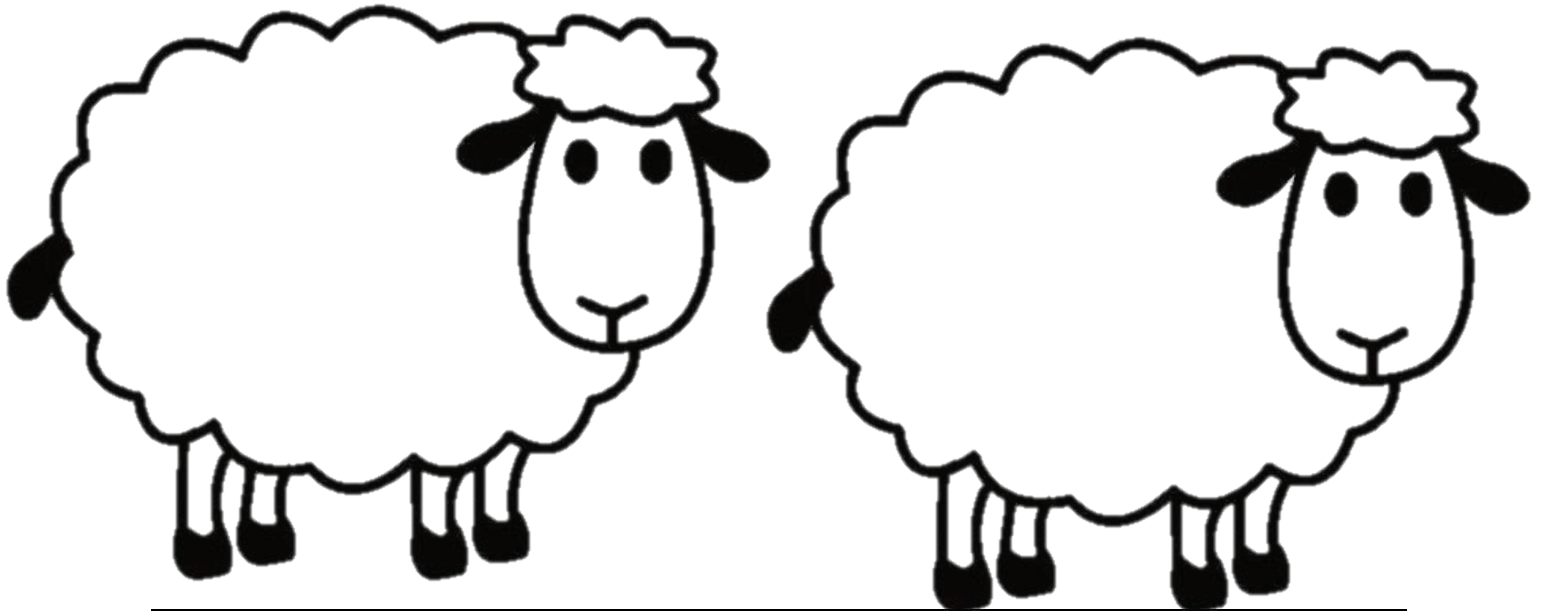
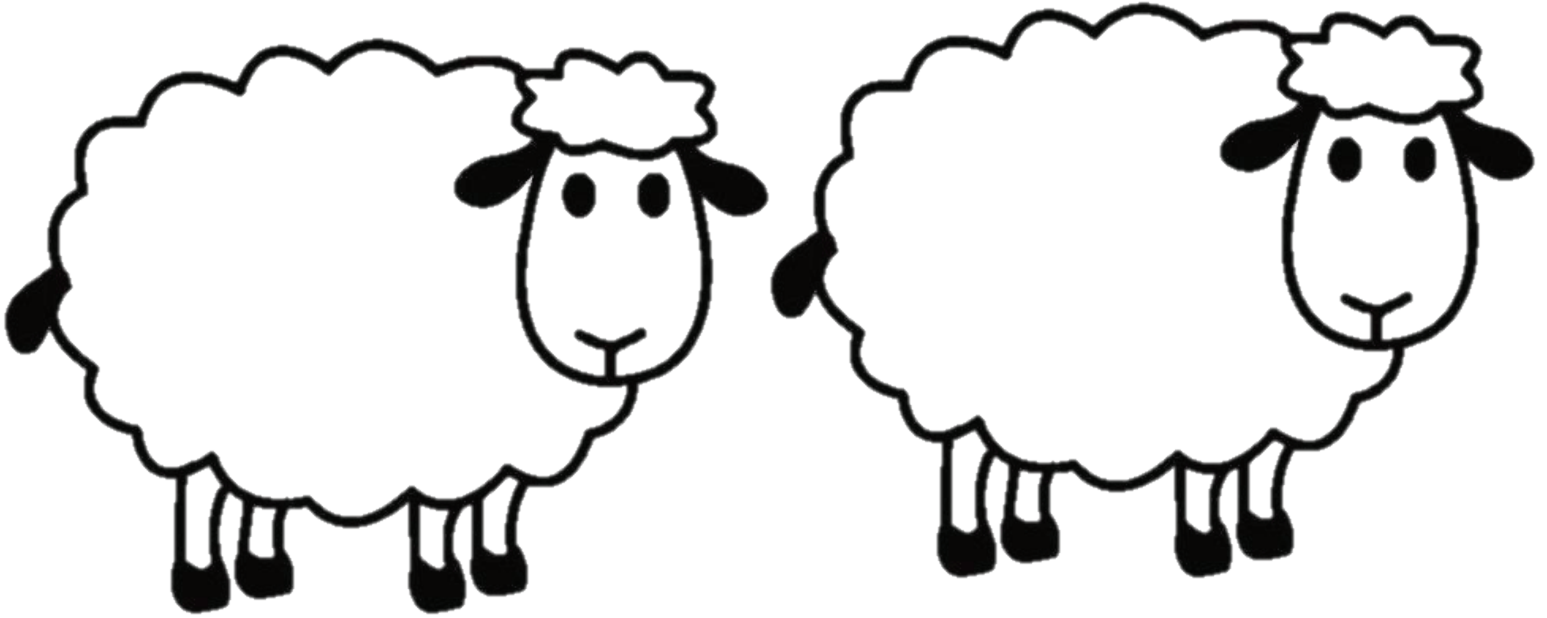
So, right now we have nine sheep, and one is missing, right? Let's come back to our seats for a second and regroup. How does it feel to have one sheep that you can't find? How do you think a shepherd would feel if he lost one of his sheep? (Allow children to answer.)

Well, the good news is that I found the tenth sheep and he's right here in my pocket! Now we've found them all! How do you feel now that we have all of the sheep? (Joy, relief, happiness, etc.) That is how God feels when we come back to Him after being drawn away by sin. He loves us so much that He isn't happy until we are all with Him and following Him.



Lesson 2: God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND

Sheep Cutouts



Lesson 2: God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND

Large Group Lesson

Now that we have all of our sheep, we are ready to dive into our lesson. If you were here last week, you'll remember that we are learning about God's love through the acronym L-O-V-E. Does anyone remember what the L stands for? God's love is ...? (Allow children to answer,) LONG-SUFFERING, that's right! And what does that mean? (Allow for answers.) It means that God is patient with us even when we fail Him. He is a kind and merciful God.

Well, today we're going to focus on the "O" in LOVE. God's love is ONE-OF-A-KIND! What does it mean if something is one-of-a-kind? (Unique, not like anything else.) So that means that God's love is not like anything else. He does extraordinary things and loves us in big ways.

There are lots of examples of God's one-of-a-kind love in the Bible, but today we're going to focus on a story in Matthew called the Parable of the Lost Sheep. Who has heard this story before? It is a short story in the book of Matthew, but it is an important one because it shows us how much God loves us.

Let's open our Bibles (or pass out handouts) and read through Matthew 18:10-14. (READ THROUGH BIBLE PASSAGE.)

Jesus is talking to his disciples and telling them this story. Why do you think Jesus thought it was important to tell them the story of the Parable of the Lost Sheep? (Allow children to answer.) Do you think maybe He wanted them to know that God doesn't have favorites? He loves each "one" of us and wants us all to be with Him. The disciples could get jealous of each other sometimes and often wanted to know who the best disciple was. I think Jesus was letting them know that God loves all His children the same. But just because He loves us all the same, it doesn't mean that His love isn't BIG.

Just like the shepherd searched for the one sheep even though he had 99 others, God will call to you to follow Him when you have sinned or turned your back on Him. He is filled with joy when you return to Him because He loves you.

Let's go over a memory verse for this lesson so that we remember what happened in the Parable of the Lost Sheep and how much God loves us.

Memory Verse: "And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off." Matthew 18:13



Lesson 2: God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND

(K-2nd) Small Group Discussion & Prayer

Let's open our Bibles (or refer to printout) and look at Matthew 18:10-14.

1. Who is telling the Parable of the Lost Sheep?
A. Jesus
2. Who is he telling this story to?
A. His disciples
3. How many sheep has the shepherd found?
A. 99.
4. How many sheep does the shepherd go looking for?
A. one
5. How is God like the shepherd who searched for the "one" sheep?
A. God will go searching for any of His children who have wandered away from Him because He loves them.
6. How do you think God feels when one of his children comes back to Him after they have sinned or wandered away from Him?
A. He is filled with joy. He is so happy to have His child close to Him again.
7. What are some ways we can stay close to God and not "wander away" from Him?
A. Read the Bible (know His word), pray, spend time worshipping Him (church, singing songs about Him)

Let's say a prayer to help us remember God's love is one-of-a-kind.

Prayer: Dear God, please help us to remember how much You love us, even when we wander from You. Thank You, Lord, for Your one-of-a-kind love. We pray that we will stay close to You as we go about our daily lives. In Jesus' name, amen.



Lesson 2: God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND

(3rd-5th) Small Group Discussion & Prayer

1. Why do you think Jesus wanted the disciples to hear the Parable of the Lost Sheep?

Do you think maybe He wanted them to know that they are all special to God and no one is above the other? Jesus wanted the disciples to know the greatness and unconditional love of God because they would be the ones sharing Jesus' story after he ascended into Heaven.

2. What can we learn from the Parable of the Lost Sheep?

Maybe He wants us to know that we are special to God. Even when we do something wrong and feel far away from Him, he never stops pursuing us. He loves us and wants us to be with Him forever in Heaven.

3. How do you think the shepherd felt when he finally found his missing sheep?

He was filled with joy that his precious sheep was found.

4. How do you think God feels when we choose to follow Him or come back to Him after we've strayed from Him?

He feels even more joy than the shepherd because God has extraordinary, one-of-a-kind love for us.

5. What are some ways we can stay close to God and not "wander away" from Him?

Read the Bible (know His word), pray, spend time worshipping Him (church, singing songs about Him).

Let's say a prayer to help us remember God's love is one-of-a-kind.

Prayer: Dear God, please help us to remember how much You love us, even when we wander from You. Thank You, Lord, for your one-of-a-kind love. We pray that we will stay close to You as we go about our daily lives. In Jesus' name, amen.



Lesson 2: God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND

Hands-on Game – “Hot Sheep”

Supplies:

- Stuffed sheep or sheep cutout from the introductory activity above
- Room for children to spread out
- Device to play music (Bonus points if you play “Reckless Love”)

Directions: This game is played like a game of “Hot Potato.”

1. Have children spread out and form a circle.
2. Play music and have the children pass the “lost sheep” around the circle.
3. When the music stops, the child holding the sheep is out.
4. Continue this until the last child is left.

At the end of the game, the leader will pretend to be the “shepherd” and pat each child on the head saying, “You are found in Christ.”



Lesson 2: God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND

Hands-on Lesson Review

Review Game – “Lost Sheep”

Oh, no! Your sheep is lost! Now you have to describe your lost sheep to the police department's sketch artist. Don't leave out any details! Did she have purple fleece? Did he have polka dot horns? Did she have rainbow wings? The more detailed your description, the easier your sheep will be to find!

Supplies:

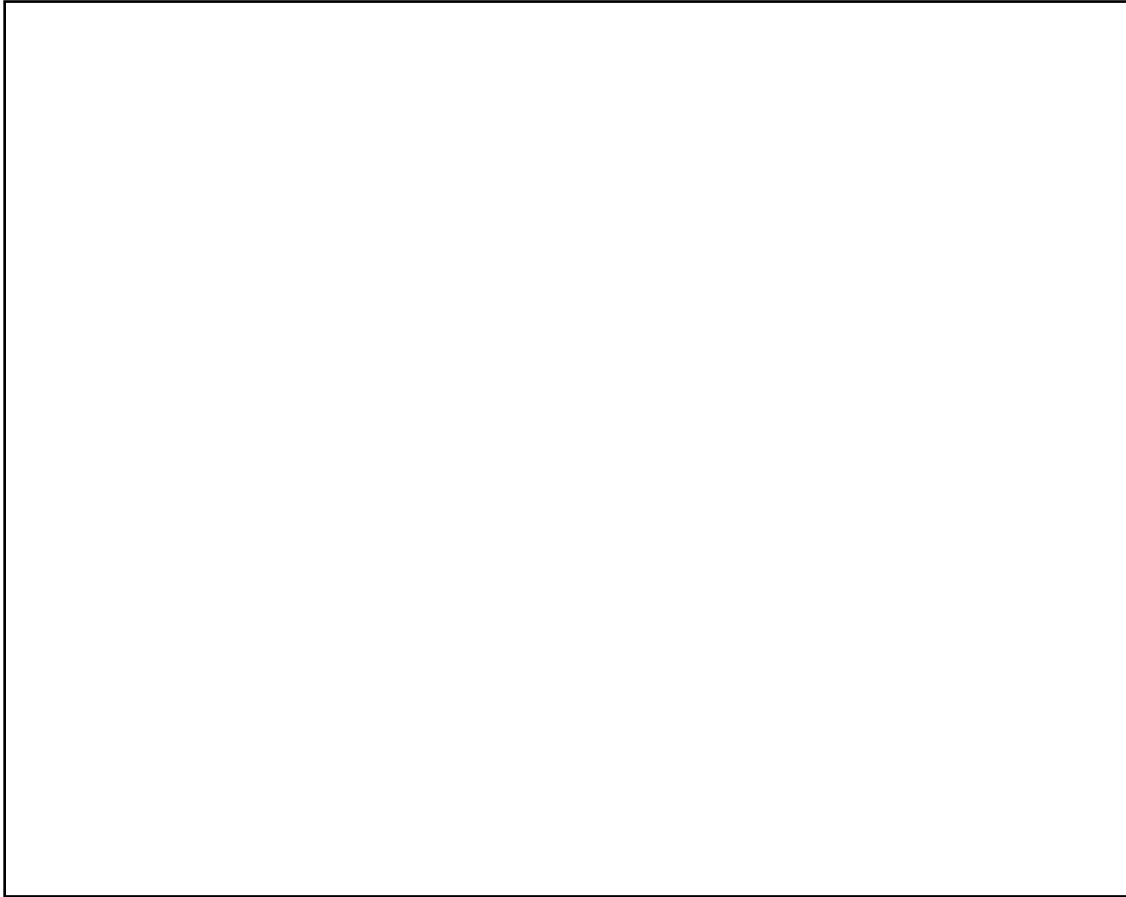
- LOST SHEEP poster (one for each child)
- Pens, pencils or crayons to draw with
- Timer to give each artist equal time (optional)

Directions: Put children in pairs. They will take turns being the “shepherd” and the “sketch artist.” The shepherd will tell his/her partner what the “lost sheep” looked like and the sketch artist will have to draw it (it can be silly). The sketch artist will draw the sheep on a LOST poster (provided).



Lesson 2: God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND

LOST SHEEP

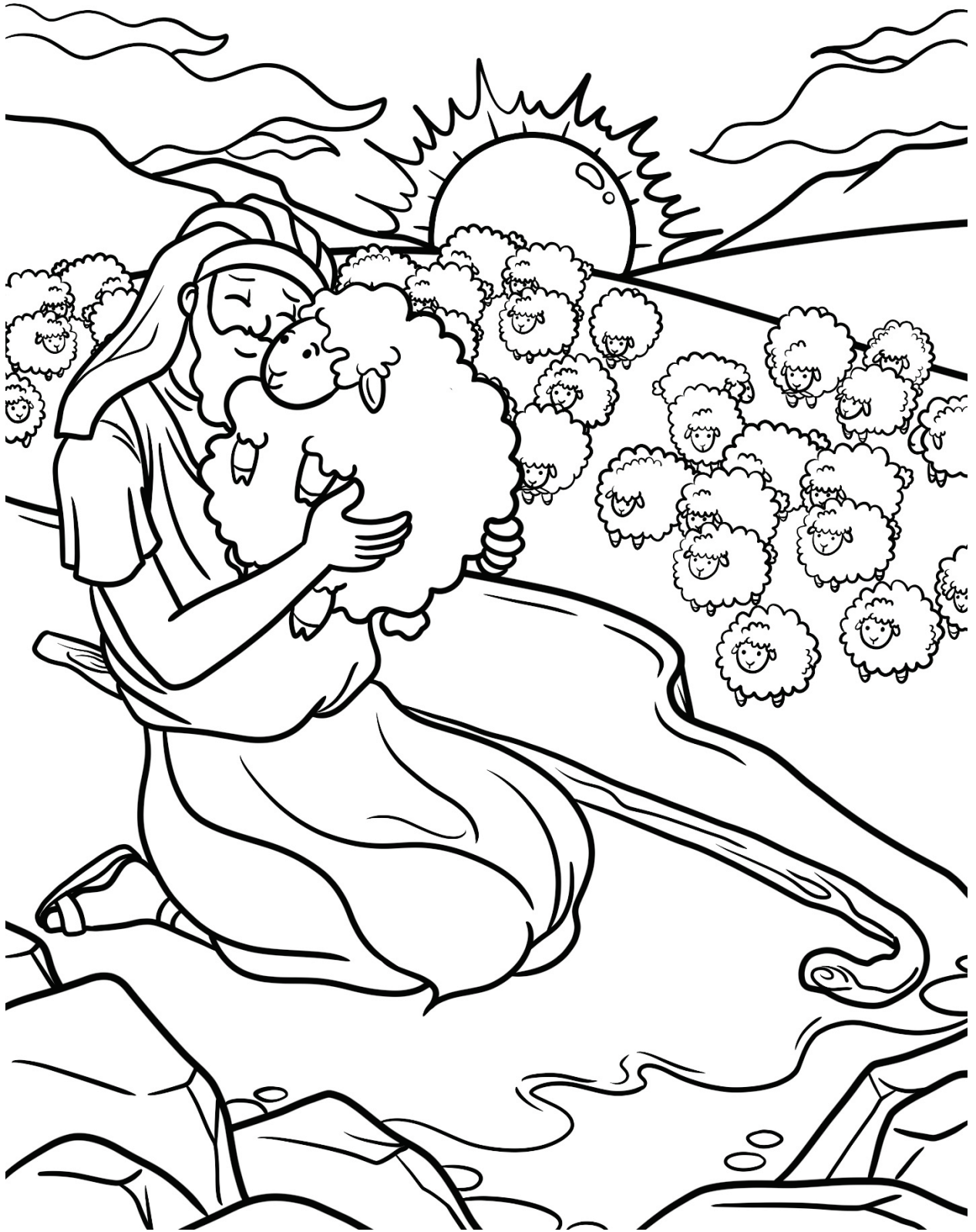


PLEASE CONTACT _____ IF YOU HAVE SEEN THIS SHEEP!

“And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.” Matthew 18:13



Lesson 2: God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND



Lesson 2: God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND

Bonus Activity: Hidden Sheep

Supplies:

- White yarn
- Black felt
- Printout of sheep head template
- Fabric glue
- Googly eyes
- Scissors
- Dixie cups (3 for each child)



Directions:

Before gathering, cut out one sheep's head from black felt for each child.

1. Give each child a 6' piece of yarn.
2. Have each child loosely wrap their yarn around two fingers about 50 times. (Monitor children so that they don't wrap the yarn too tightly.)
3. When they have finished wrapping the yarn around their two fingers, come by and tie each bundle with a short piece of yarn.
4. Have the child cut the loops in the yarn to make a pompom.
5. Have the child trim the long pieces so the yarn resembles a circle or sphere.
6. When the children are finished trimming, pass out the black felt sheep heads that you have prepared ahead of time.
7. Have the children glue sheep head to the middle of the pompom with fabric glue.
8. When everyone is finished constructing their sheep, give each child three Dixie cups.
9. Have the child hide their newly created sheep under one of the cups and see if the person next to them can see which cup the sheep is hiding in. You can make this into a structured game or just an activity to keep the children busy while others are finishing up.

Note: Challenge the children to take their sheep and cups home with them and see if a parent or sibling can guess where the sheep is hiding. Encourage them to share the Parable of the Lost Sheep and what they learned in class.

Lesson 2: God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND



Lesson 2: God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND

Song Suggestion (K – 2nd Grade):

“When I Look”

Link: <https://youtu.be/4iW9MN7vMpQ>

Lyrics:

God made me, He made everything
God loves me, He can do anything
If I run over here, if I run over there
God is everywhere, and He loves me

When I look up, up, up
I know He's real
When I look down, down, down
I believe what I've found
When I look in God's Word
And I search for Him
He rewards me, because He loves me

Song Suggestion (3rd – 5th Grade):

“Reckless Love”

Link: <https://youtu.be/Sc6SSHuZvQE>



Lesson 2: God's Love is ONE-OF-A-KIND

Parent Page

Title: God's Love is (O) ONE-OF-A-KIND

- **Big Idea:** God's love is so amazing. He does extraordinary things for those who love Him, and He shows it in big ways throughout the Bible.
- **Key Passage:** Matthew 18:10-14. The parable of the lost sheep. God will seek those who are lost. He will find the "one" that has wandered and be as happy to find him as the man in the story.
- **Memory Verse:** Matthew 18:13 "And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off."

Today, we talked about how God loves us so much that He will leave everything to come searching for us like the shepherd in the Parable of the Lost Sheep.

1. Who is telling the Parable of the Lost Sheep? (Jesus)
2. Who is He telling this story to? (His disciples)
3. How many sheep has the shepherd found? (99)
4. How many sheep does the shepherd go looking for? (one)
5. How is God like the shepherd who searched for the "one" sheep?
6. How do you think God feels when we choose to follow Him or come back to Him after we've strayed from Him?
7. What are some ways we can stay close to God and not "wander away" from Him?

Memory Verse: "And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off." Matthew 18:13

Family Activity: "Hidden Sheep" – Your child brought home a sheep and three Dixie cups to play a guessing game with you. Let them explain to you how the game works and how it connects to the Parable of the Lost Sheep.

