

LESSON



Lost and Found

GRACE

God brings His love to us.

References

Luke 15:8-10; *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 192-197.

Memory Verse

"[God] said, 'I love you . . . with a love that will last forever'" (Jeremiah 31:3, ICB).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that they are important and precious to God.

Feel happy that God thinks so much of them.

Respond by telling God that they want to belong to Him.

The Message



We are important and precious to God.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

A woman loses one of her 10 silver coins. She looks and looks and sweeps the floor until she finds it. She is so happy that she tells all her friends and neighbors about finding it and asks them to come and celebrate with her.

This is a lesson about grace.

God loves us all so much that He is

constantly seeking to find us and save us so we can celebrate and live with Him forever. His love is a gift of grace to us, one that will never be taken away, that we can never lose.

Teacher Enrichment

"This parable, like the preceding [the lost sheep], sets forth the loss of something which with proper search

SEVEN

| Program Outline | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--|---|
| LESSON SECTION | MINUTES | ACTIVITIES | MATERIALS NEEDED |
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>Seed Sprouting</i> B. <i>Hide and Seek</i> C. <i>Happy or Sad Face</i> | jars and seeds from last week (optional: masking tape, ribbon, or electrical tape; poster board; marker) real or play coins large circles or paper plates: one with a happy face drawn on it, one with a sad face |
| * Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | See page 75. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | coins or circles of paper, candles, child-sized brooms (optional) |
| | | Bible Study | Bible, <i>Little Voices Praise Him</i> |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Coin Search</i> | 10 coins of equal value |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Make a Coin</i> | crayons or colored pencils or markers; scissors; copies of coin pattern (see p. 154) |

may be recovered, and that with great joy. But the two parables represent different classes. The lost sheep knows that it is lost. It has left the shepherd and the flock, and it cannot recover itself. . . .The lost coin represents those who are lost in trespasses and sins, but who have no sense of their condition. They are estranged from God, but they know it not. . . . In this parable Christ teaches that even those who are indif-

ferent to the claims of God are the objects of His pitying love. They are to be sought for that they may be brought back to God" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 193, 194).

Room Decorations

Continue adding week by week to the bulletin board and the floor area items such as more sheep, additional trees or shrubs, etc.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask them how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Seed Sprouting

Say: **Last week we planted our seeds and watered them. Let's look at them this week and see how much they have grown.** Children find their jar and look at their seeds. They should have sprouted, and green shoots should be growing. If you want, you can measure the sprouts this week and compare with measurements in future weeks. To do this, measure using masking tape or ribbon. Put the end of the tape close to the seed, make a mark on the tape to indicate how tall the plant is. Place the tape vertically on the poster board. Start from the bottom of the chart. Write the date underneath. Each week the children can measure how their plant is growing and add another piece of tape to the chart. This activity can be continued at home after the story of the mustard seed (Lesson 9).

You Need:

- jars and seeds from last week
- optional: masking tape, ribbon, poster board, marker

Debriefing

Say: **Just as these seeds grow with sunlight and water, you are growing too with the good food and care you get from adults who love you. Let's water our plants and put them back in the sun. We'll check them again next week.**

B. Hide and Seek

In advance, the teacher hides coins (be careful of small coins with small children) around the room. Place some in plain sight and others behind or underneath furniture.

Say: **Today we are going to be learning about a woman who lost a coin. I have lost some coins too. I would like you to help me look for my coins. When you find one, please come show it to me.** Children look for and find the coins. Try to make sure that each child finds one coin.

Say: **You have done a good job in looking for my coins. Let's count them and make sure we found them all.** Teacher and children count out the coins. If all have been found, say so. If some are still lost, have the children keep looking until all are found.

You Need:

- coins (play or real)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How did you feel when you found a coin?** (happy, excited) **What do you do when you have lost something? How do you feel if you find it? Today we will learn about a woman who lost a coin. Just as the lost coins were important and precious to us,**



We are important and precious to God.

Say that with me.

C. Happy or Sad Face

Ahead of time, make two large drawings on paper plates or large circles of paper, one a happy face and one a sad face. Place these on the wall where children can see them easily.

Say: **I am going to say something. As you hear what I say, decide if it makes you happy or sad. If it makes you feel happy, stand in front of the happy face. If it makes you feel unhappy, then stand in front of the sad face.**

Let's try it. The first word is "cookies." Go stand by the happy or sad face. (Most, if not all, children will stand by the happy face.)

I see that you all like cookies. Come back and stand by me. Think about this: "Being sick." Go stand by the happy or sad face. (Most, if not all, children will stand by the sad face.)

Very good. I see that you don't like to be sick. Let's try some others. Remember that you should decide for yourself if you will stand by the happy face or sad face. Different people like different things.

Say: **"Swimming."** (Children stand by the happy or sad face.)

I see that some of you like to swim and some don't. That's all right. How about "fluffy lambs"? (Children stand by the happy or sad face.)

Most of you like fluffy lambs. Here is the next word, "rainbow." (Children choose.) **Most of you like to see rainbows. What about "getting lost"?** (Children choose.) **Today we will learn about a woman who lost a coin.**

You Need:

- paper plates or large circles of paper

Debriefing

Say: **No one likes to be lost. But we know our parents will look for us until they find us, no matter how long it takes. That is because you are important and precious to your mommy and daddy. Someone else doesn't want us to be lost.**



We are important and precious to God.

Say that with me.



*** NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 75.**

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Give each child 10 coins and tell them to hide one near where they are.

Say: **You can be the woman in the story today. As I read the story, you do what she did.**

You Need:

- coins or circles of paper
- unlit candles
- child-sized brooms (optional)

Once a woman owned 10 silver pieces of money. They were very precious to her, and she took good care of them. One day she thought she noticed that one was missing. Just to be certain, she looked again.

She counted them. *[Children count their coins.]* 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 . . . Sure enough—there were only nine!

This woman lived in a house with a dirt floor. The house may have had just one small window, so it was dark inside. When she realized her coin was missing, the woman knew it must have fallen to the floor. It was lost! Since there wasn't much light in her house, it would be a big job to find it!

So first she lit a lamp to give her more light, and then she went to work. *[Give each child an unlit candle.]* Carefully, carefully, she looked for the coin, watching for a sparkle and listening for a sound in case the coin fell out and hit the hard ground. She swept the whole house carefully, looking closely for her coin. *[Give the children a broom or have them pretend to sweep.]* First this part of the house, then that part of the house, taking the lamp with her as she moved. Slowly and carefully, ever so carefully, she swept the floor clean as she looked for her coin.

And then—did she see something sparkle just a little? She bent down to look, pushed aside the dirt, and yes! There was her coin!

She had found it! She was so happy! She ran and told her friends and neigh-

bors. "My coin! I found my lost coin!" And they were happy for her.

"Come," she said. "Come and celebrate with me."

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Have you ever lost your favorite toy? (Let the children talk about this.)
Did you look every place you could think of? How did you feel when you finally found it? (happy, relieved)
God is like that woman, and we are like the lost coin. We are so precious to God. He does not want us to be lost. Remember . . .



We are important and precious to God.

Say that with me.

Bible Study

You Need:

- Bible
- Little Voices Praise Him*

Sing "The Bible" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 53).

Open your Bible to Luke 15:8-10. Point to the passage and say:

Here is where our story is found in God's Word, the Bible. Point to each verse as you read the passage aloud.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did the woman lose? What did she do to find it? What did she do when she found it? People who do not know God are lost. They are lost because they do not know that God loves them. They are lost because they do not know and love God. But God loves everyone so much that He keeps looking for those who are**

lost—those who do not know and love Him. He wants them to be His so that they can enjoy His presence and live with Him forever. Remember . . .



We are important and precious to God.

Say that with me.

Memory Verse

You Need:

- Bible

Open your Bible to Jeremiah 31:3 and say: **Here is where**

today’s memory verse is found in God’s Word, the Bible. Point to the text and read the verse aloud. Use the following motions to teach the verse.

“[God] said,

Point upward.



‘I love you . . .

Hug self.



with a love that will last forever.’”

Spread arms wide.



Jeremiah 31:3

Palms together; then open.



PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week’s lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

“I Know That Jesus Loves Me” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 95)

Change words to:

**I know that Jesus loves me;
The Bible tells me so.
He always watches o’er me,
To keep me safe, I know.**

“I Love the Lord” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 207)

“I Know That Jesus Loves Me” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 95)

“Jesus Loves Me” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 102)

Mission

Use *Children’s Mission*.

Offering

Say: **We are important and precious to God. Because He loves us we give Him our offerings.**

Prayer

Say (and have children repeat after you): **Thank You, Jesus, that we are important and precious to You. We love You. Amen.**

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

3

Applying the Lesson

Coin Search

You Need:

- 10 coins of equal value

Divide the children into groups of 10. Each adult group leader needs 10 coins.

Say: **We are going to play a coin game. I have 10 coins. See them? Let's count them**

to be sure there are 10. Now, please close your eyes. Children close their eyes. An adult removes one of the coins and hides it close by.

Say: **Now open your eyes. Look at the coins and tell me what you see.** (One coin is missing.)

Say: **You are right, one of the coins is gone. Oh, well, it doesn't matter. After all, one coin isn't important. We still have nine left.** Allow time for children to protest.

Say: **All right, if you want to, we can look for it. Where do you think it is?** Allow children to look for the lost coin and find it.

Say: **You did a good job of finding the lost coin. Now we are going to play the game with children instead of coins.** Have the children get back into groups of 10.

Say: **Now close your eyes.** While the children have their eyes closed, a helper taps one child on the shoulder, and they go away to hide.

Say: **Open your eyes now. What is different about our group?** (One child is missing.)

That's all right. Oh, well, I'm sure he/she is fine. We don't need to worry about one child. After all, we still have nine others. Allow time for the children to protest. Say: **All right, let's go look.** Everyone looks for the "missing" child.

Say: **Oh, look, we have found him/her! Isn't that wonderful? We can celebrate that he/she has been found!**

Debriefing

Ask: **Does it matter if a coin is lost? Does it matter more or less if a child is lost? Who cares if someone is lost?** (Jesus cares.) **The story Jesus told about the lost coin really is telling us that every person is important and precious to God. The coins represent people, just like you and me. Just as the lost coin in our story was important to the woman,**



We are important and precious to God.

Say that with me.

4

Sharing the Lesson**Make a Coin****You Need:**

- copies of coin pattern (see p. 154)
- crayons
- scissors

In advance, make copies of the coin (see page 154).

Say: **Because everyone is important and precious to God, He misses us when we aren't at Sabbath School, just as your teachers miss you when you**

are not here. Sometimes we can't come because we are not feeling well. But we can let people know that they are important and precious to us, just as we are to God. Let's make a "coin" for someone

who couldn't be here (or in church) today. We will tell them that we miss them when they are not here. Distribute supplies and allow time.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **You have made very nice coins to take to someone who is not here today. To whom will you give your coin? This afternoon, or sometime this week, take or mail your coin to that person. Remember, all of us are precious and important. Say it with me.**



We are important and precious to God.

Closing

Sing "Good-bye to You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 45). Pray and have children repeat each phrase: **Thank You, Jesus, for teaching us that we are important and precious to You. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

Lost and Found

References

Luke 15:8-10;
*Christ's Object
 Lessons*, pp. 192-
 197

Memory Verse

"[God] said, 'I
 love you . . .
 with a love that
 will last forever'"
 (Jeremiah 31:3,
 ICB).

The Message

We are
 important and
 precious to
 God.

Have you ever lost your favorite toy? Did you look every place you could think of? Your lost toy is like a coin in a story Jesus told.

Once a woman owned 10 silver pieces of money. They were very precious to her, and she took good care of them. One day she thought she noticed that one was missing. Just to be certain, she looked again. Sure enough—there were only nine!

This woman probably lived in a house with a dirt floor. The house may have had just one small window, so it was dark in the house. When she realized her coin was missing, this woman knew it must have fallen to the floor. It was lost! Since there wasn't much light in her house, it would be a big job to find it!

This coin was very precious to the woman. It may have been a gift. Finding the coin was important to her. Everything else she had been doing would have to wait. So she lit a lamp to give her more light, and then she went to work. Carefully, carefully, she looked for the coin, watching for a sparkle and listening for a sound in case the coin fell out and hit the hard ground.

She swept the whole house carefully, looking closely for her coin. First this part of the house, then that part of the house, taking the lamp with her as

she moved. Slowly and carefully, ever so carefully, she swept the floor clean as she looked for her coin.

And then—did she see something sparkle just a little? She bent down to look and pushed aside the dirt. Yes! There was her coin!

She had found it! She was so happy!

She ran and told her friends and neighbors. "My coin! I found my lost coin!" And they were happy for her. "Come," she said. "Come celebrate with me."

God is like that woman, and we are like that lost coin. We are so precious to God that He doesn't want us to be lost. He will search for us because He wants us to belong to Him.

And He wants us to help Him search for other boys and girls or even mothers or fathers who may not know Him. He wants us all to live in heaven with Him forever.

Soon, very soon, Jesus will come for us and take us to live with Him. In heaven we will sit with Jesus and hear wonderful stories that He will tell. Heaven will be a special place for all who choose to belong to Jesus



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week read the lesson and review the memory verse.

"[God] said, Point upward.

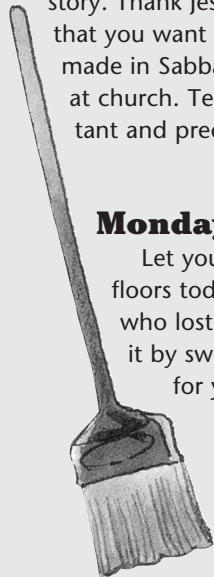
'I love you Hug self.

with a love that . . . Spread both arms wide.
will last forever."

Jeremiah 31:3 Palms together; then open
as if opening a book.

Sunday

Help your child "read" the pictures in the lesson story. Thank Jesus that He loves you, and tell Him that you want to belong to Him. Give the coin made in Sabbath School to someone who was not at church. Tell that person that they are important and precious to you.



Monday

Let your child help you sweep the floors today. Talk about the woman who lost a coin and how she found it by sweeping carefully. Thank Jesus for your home.

Tuesday

Play hide-and-seek with your child. When the child is found, say in a loud voice, "I found you." Then hug your child and tell them how important they are to you. Tell about a time you lost something

(or your child) and how happy you were when you found it. Talk about how important and precious we are to God.

Wednesday

Play the "Lost Coin" game with your child. Count out 10 coins. Have your child close his or her eyes while you hide one coin. Then let your child look for it and find it. Help if necessary. Then change places and you look for the lost coin. Count the coins again to make sure you have all 10.

Thursday

If possible, invite some children to play a hide-and-seek game with your child. Hide small objects, one at a time, for the children to find. After several times, celebrate by singing thank-you songs and/or sharing a special treat.



Friday

Hide 10 coins before worship today. During worship, help your child use the pictures in the lesson to tell the story. Then ask family members to hunt for the lost coins. Count them to be sure all are found. Celebrate by sharing a special treat. When you pray together, thank Jesus for His love.