



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

REVEALED

BIG IDEA

God will never stop loving me.

THE BIBLE

The Lost Sheep, Coin, and Son: Luke 15:4-32;
(Psalm 23)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

Champions meet in the Youth Room for worship.

MUSIC | "Reckless Love"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sing [the song Reckless Love \[short for kids\] - lyrics](#) together.
- Did you notice these lyrics: "Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine"? Today we are going to hear a Bible story that explains exactly what that means!

ACTIVITY | Rabbits From Hats

- So, we are in the middle of a series called, "Revealed." The word "reveal" makes me think of magicians! **What are some magic tricks you know of?** Well, the most famous one I can think of is pulling a rabbit out of a hat!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video clip Do you love magic](#)? Watch [Johnny Ace Palmer pull a rabbit out of a hat](#) of a magician pulling a rabbit out of a hat. After the clip, encourage the kids to try it out! Take a few minutes with some stuffed animals and hats, and let the kids get silly trying to figure out how to pull an animal out of a hat.
- Well, I don't know how the magician in the video did it, but it was so cool to see him make a bunny appear out of nowhere! Usually, things aren't found unless we go looking for it!



STORY | The Runaway Bunny

- Speaking of bunnies, **have you heard of this book, The Runaway Bunny, before?** Well, whether you have or not, let's read it together so everyone can know the story!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the book or show this [read-aloud video The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown](#)
- Which of the things the bunny said he would turn into would you want to turn into?
- Do you think the bunny really wanted to get away from his mom? Or was he maybe just wondering how far his mom would go to be with him?
- Did the mom ever say she would give up on the little bunny?

OBJECT LESSON | I Wool Always Love You

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get a ball or skein of yarn, and have two volunteers try to stretch out the yarn as wide as they think God's love is for them. Then, show [this video Guinness World Records Day 2013 - Longest Knitted Scarf](#) of the Guinness World Record for longest knitted scarf.
- Did you know the longest knitted scarf in the world was almost 15,000 feet long? Can you imagine how much yarn they used to make that? But you know what? We could buy all the yarn in the world and we still wouldn't have enough yarn to show how much God loves us!

THE BIG IDEA | God will never stop loving me.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sometime before the kids arrive, tape a piece of paper or an index card that says, "God will never stop loving me," under one of the chairs. Then play a round of musical chairs (and make sure that the last chair is the one you taped the card under). Have the last kid remaining in the game retrieve the card and read it for the whole group.
- That's the Big Idea for today! I know there was only one card to be found, but this Big Idea is true for everyone in this room! Not only does God love us a lot, but **God will never stop loving us.**

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

VIDEO | Revealed, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

BIBLE STORY | Luke 15:4-32

- The hidden message in Jesus' story today is so important, Jesus uses three different parables to help us understand it. **Who remembers what a parable is?** (Pause for answers.) That's right (or "Remember,") it's a short story that tells us a deeper message about God.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Luke 15:4-10. Then, assign the following roles: Narrator (needs to be able to read), Father, Lost Son, Older Brother, Citizens of Foreign Land and Pigs (optional, but fun, especially for very littles). The narrator reads Luke 15:11-32 while the

rest of the characters act it out without speaking. Encourage the kids to be dramatic! Use props if you'd like (such as play food, play money, etc.).

- Okay, so let's think back to all three of the stories we read. They all had something in common. **What was it?** (If you need to prompt, "Remember, the first one was about a sheep that got...? And the second was about a coin that got ...?") Right! They're all about something or someone that got lost! Jesus told these stories about something or someone very valuable and precious who is lost. And the lost thing or person was found by someone who loves them very much!
- The hidden meaning in this story is not just that God loves us. It's that God will never stop loving us! Each one of us is so valuable and so precious to God, and God wants to make sure we are never lost.
- Now, you probably don't think you're lost, right? We all know where we are! We are at [name of church] in [name of town]. But the hidden meaning of these stories means that some people are lost because they haven't yet discovered how big God's love is. But no matter who we are or where we are or what we are doing, **God never stops loving us.**

STORY | What I Lost

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a story of a time when you lost something really valuable to you. Stick with something that kids would recognize as valuable (they might not quite understand the impact of losing a passport or a credit card). Perhaps you can tell a story about losing your favorite blanket or stuffed animal as a child, or maybe even a story (if it isn't too traumatic) of you getting lost when you were a kid, or of losing one of your own kids. Hone in on how you felt like you would do anything to get the item back or find the person you'd been separated from.
- **Has anyone else ever lost something or someone that was very important to them?**
- **What are some of the feelings you would have if you were the one that was lost? How would those feelings change if you had someone with you to help you, especially an adult?**

IMAGE | Sheep and Shepherd

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [these images](#) [FreeBibleimages :: Parable of the Lost Sheep :: A parable about a good shepherd \(Luke 15:1-7\)](#) on a screen or pass around printouts.
- This shepherd had 100 sheep. But one went missing. Now, I want you to imagine what it would be like to be a shepherd. Your whole job is to keep track of these sheep. It is very important to you! Doing this job is how you care for your family and your community. **So, what would you do if that happened to you, if you were in charge of 100 sheep and one wandered off?** (Allow for some answers.) To this shepherd, that one missing sheep was so important that he left all the others – the ones that were safe – to go find it.



SCRIPTURE | Psalm 23

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Psalm 23 as a group. Encourage children who have Bibles to take turns reading a verse out loud, or project the verses on to a screen.
- God loves us all very much. And God will never, ever, no matter what, stop loving us. This Bible verse compares God's love for us like how a shepherd takes care of their sheep, which reminds us of the story of the lost sheep we read earlier. So, just like the shepherd went to find his missing sheep, God wants to help each and every one of us find our way back to the safety and love that God offers us.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | Lost and Found

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Label a cardboard box with the words, "Lost and Found" with odds and ends (such as a sweater, hat, pencil, button, etc.) – you could probably even use items in your actual Lost and Found at church! Take out the items and briefly describe each item and how the owner must be missing said item. Print and prepare this week's printable (or use blank [name labels](#)), and put the name badges inside the box for later in this activity.
- Sometimes, we feel like we are lost just like these items, don't we? We might feel like we aren't doing enough to show we belong to God. Or, no matter how hard we try to be good people, sometimes we slip up. Even though you might feel this way, God loves each of us so much. You are the most precious lost and found item, and unlike some of the items in this box, you are constantly being searched for... by God!
- Now, I don't want any one of you to get lost again, so let's put name labels on ourselves so everyone can know who we belong to (Pass out name badges and have kids write their names and "God" after "I belong to ____." Have kids proudly wear their new name badges!)

PRAYER

- God, thank You for always loving us no matter what. Help us to remember that even if we mess up or find ourselves full of doubt, You still love us. And You will never stop. Thank You for loving us nonstop!

MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 33:3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to say the memory verse together a few times. Then, tell them you have an imaginary volume dial (pretend to hold a circular dial) that when you turn to the right ("turn" counterclockwise, the kids' right), the kids need to say it louder, and when you turn to the left ("turn" clockwise, the kids' left), they need to get quieter. Repeat this as many times as you want, and have fun with when in the verse to turn the volume up or down.

SMALL GROUP TIME



DISCUSSION

- What did the shepherd do when he lost one of his 100 sheep?
- What did the woman who lost one of her ten coins do?
- What did the father who lost one of his two sons do?
- Re-read Psalm 23. What part in this Bible verse shows us God will never ever stop loving us? *(Let the kids explain their answers, but verse 6 is the most obvious choice!)*
- What are some ways you can see God's love for you in your life?
- What kinds of things could you do that might make God stop loving you?
- How does knowing that God will never stop loving you make you feel towards God?

MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 33:3