



START THE PARTY | WEEK 1 | JUNE 2, 2024

Preschool Lesson

Story of the Lost Sheep

Bible Story: *Story of the Lost Sheep* • I can have joy because God loves me • *Luke 15:1-7*

Memory Verse: “A joyful heart is good medicine.” Proverbs 17:22, ESV

Key Question: Who can have joy all the time?

Bottom Line: I can have joy all the time.

Basic Truth: I am made by God the reflect His image (act like Him).

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Everyone loves a party because parties mean we have something to celebrate. Birthdays, Christmas, a winning season—each party brings so much joy! This month, we are going to start a party that celebrates the Good News about God! And when God is at the center of our celebration, I can have joy all the time! It doesn't sound possible, at first, but then when we think about God . . . who God is . . . what God has done . . . how much God loves us . . . well, that is worth celebrating! God is worth celebrating! All day, every day! So let's Start The Party! It's time to celebrate the Good News about God.

Story Focus: I can have joy because God loves me.

Jesus tells the story of the lost sheep to help us understand just how much God loves us. A shepherd leaves 99 sheep to search for one lost sheep, and when he finds it, he rejoices! God's love for us is big. We want our preschoolers to know that God will always love them, and when we remember how much God loves us, I can have joy all the time.

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow



KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

OPENING ACTIVITY

(No Supplies)

Kid Connect time is spent building relationships with the kids. Gather your small group together for some intentional connecting time before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or building with blocks) or just sit and listen to each other. Ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

Transition to Large Group...

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

(CG: EXPECTATION SLIDE, BASIC TRUTHS SLIDE, MEMORY VERSE VIDEO; BIBLE)

LGL: "Hello my friends! How are you today? Come and sit with me. I am so glad you are here! My name is [your name]. I'm excited to spend time with you today! We are getting ready to sing and dance and hear a true story from the Bible. Before we do let's go over our rules and truths.

"Here in KidCity we have three rules. How many rules do we have? (*Kids respond.*) That's right! Three rules. Let's go over our rules now. (*List rules while counting on fingers*)

1. **Be kind.** We can be kind by using our indoor speaking voices, by staying on our blankets (or whatever space you have), and by obeying our leaders.
2. **Be safe.** We can be safe by walking around the classroom and keeping our hands to ourselves.
3. **Have fun!** We are going to have SO much fun, and that's because you are here!

“Can everybody follow those rules today? *(Kids respond.)* Great! KidCity is a place where we learn about God and Jesus! And there are three big truths that we want you to know. Let’s say them all together! Are you ready?”

1. I am made by God. What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
2. I am loved by God no matter what. What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
3. I am made for a purpose! What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*

“It’s time for our memory verse. Let’s watch our memory verse motions and do it along with them!”

Show memory verse motion video and then practice without it.

‘A joyful (brush flat hands upward twice)
heart (tap chest twice with fingertip)
is good medicine (move flat hand from chin to palm),’
Proverbs 17:22. (Open hands like a book.)

“Ok, Now let’s sing and worship God!”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: START THE PARTY, JESUS NO MATTER WHAT)

Sing the worship songs together.

INTRO SKETCH

(Party Hat, Gift Box/Bag with Prop (W1 Toy Sheep, W2 Toy Carrot/Cabbage, W3 Building Block, W4 Empty, W5 “Gospel Cube” on Cardstock), Story Box)

*LGL brings the story box with the prop and Bible to the center of the room.
You should have a party hat and gift box/bag with current week prop.*

“I have my story box ready. I’m SO excited to see what we are learning about God today. Let’s see what I have in here…”

Pull out and put on the party hat.

What is this? *(Pause for responses)*. Yes, a party hat! Who has been to a party before? *(Pause for responses)*. Parties are fun because you get to celebrate something and someone special.

Pull out gift box/bag.

What else do I have? *(Pause for responses)*. Yes, a gift! Have you ever given a gift to someone or received a gift? Let’s see what’s inside. **It’s a sheep!** Hmm! I wonder if there is a sheep in our story today. This month we are celebrating the Good News about God! God is worth celebrating!

Let’s watch our Bible story to see what we are celebrating this week.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

“Wow! That was a great story! God loves us like the shepherd loved his sheep. Every (hold up one finger) ONE is important to God. That’s you and you and you (point to each child) and me (point to yourself). That’s good news worth celebrating! God loves us all the time and when we remember how much HE loves us, we can have joy all the time.

“When I ask you, ‘Who can have joy all the time?’ I want you to say, [Bottom Line] ‘I can have joy all the time!’ Let’s try it! ‘Who can have joy all the time?’ [Bottom Line] ‘I can have joy all the time!’ Now say it with a big smile! ‘Who can have joy all the time?’ [Bottom Line] ‘I can have joy all the time!’”

SAY THE BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE)

Let’s look at our Basic Truth for today. It says, ‘I am made by God to reflect His image that means to act like Him. We act like Him when we have joy because God love us.

PRAY

“Let’s pray together. *(Have kids “put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap.”)*

“Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to teach us about how much you love us. Help us remember that we can have joy all the time because you love us all the time. You are amazing, God! In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Story: *Story of the Lost Sheep* • I can have joy because God loves me • *Luke 15:1-7*

Memory Verse: “A joyful heart is good medicine.” Proverbs 17:22, ESV

Key Question: Who can have joy all the time?

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SHEEP PUPPET

(“Sheep Puppet” Activity Page Copied on Light Green Cardstock – (1) ¼ sheet puppet per child, 1” White Dot Stickers - 8 per child)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Sheep Puppet” Activity Page on light green card cardstock and cut. Write each child’s name on their sheep.

During the Activity: Encourage children to place white dot stickers onto their sheep’s body.

After the Activity: Review the Bible Story using the sheep puppets.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends! Come over and join me at the table! Let’s make a cute little sheep puppet to help us remember how much God loves us.”

During the Activity: “Let’s take these white circle stickers and place them on your sheep’s body so it looks like wool. (Pause.) Great! The words at the top say ‘I can have joy because God loves me.’ It also tells you where to find today’s story in the Bible. It’s in Luke 15:1-7. Now let’s hold your sheep by the legs and walk it around! Keep your sheep close and we’ll use them to review our Bible Story.”

After the Activity: “In our Bible Story today, we learned about a shepherd who had A LOT of sheep. Move your little sheep all around. (Pause.) But one of his sheep went missing! (Hide your sheep in your lap.) This made the shepherd sad. Can you make a sad face? (Pause.) He left all the other sheep and went to find his missing sheep. (Put your sheep back in front of you.) The shepherd loved each and every one of his sheep. He loved his sheep just like God loves US. We can have joy all the time because we are important to God and He loves us all the time! **Who can have joy all the time? [Bottom Line] I can have joy all the time.**”

WHERE’S THE SHEEP?

(“Where’s the Sheep” Activity Pages, Cut – 1 set per group)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the animals face down like a memory match game.

During the Activity: Encourage the children, one at a time, to turn over a card to find the sheep. As

the children turn over each animal, name the animal and make the animal sound. When a child finds the sheep, celebrate with cheers! Put the sheep back in with the other animals and repeat.

After the Activity: Review the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Come sit with me! Look at all these animal pictures! This is a sheep. (Hold up the sheep picture.) What does a sheep say? (Pause.) Yes! Sheep say: ‘Baa!’”

During the Activity: “Close your eyes while I hide this sheep in with the other animal pictures and place them face down. Open your eyes! Let’s take turns, one at a time, and turn over an animal card until we find the sheep. [Child’s name] turn over one card. That’s a [animal]! A [animal] says: [sound]! (Repeat with the other animals.) You found the sheep like the shepherd in our Bible Story found his sheep! (Clap.) Yay! Hooray! Let’s play again.” (Repeat as desired.)

After the Activity: “Jesus told the story about the shepherd and his sheep to teach us that God loves us. God loves you and God loves me! We can have joy all the time because God loves you and God loves me! That’s why when I ask you, ‘Who can have joy all the time?’ I want you to say, [Bottom Line] ‘I can have joy all the time!’ Ready? Who can have joy all the time? [Bottom Line] I can have joy all the time! Yay! [Bottom Line] I can have joy all the time!”

MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

(Memory Verse Motions Poster – 1 per group)

Say the memory verse using motions from the Memory Verse Motions poster. Repeat several times and encourage children for their efforts.

“I (point up)
will always (draw circles with finger pointing up)
love you,’ (cross arms over chest)
Jeremiah 31:3.” (Open hands like a book).

PRAY

“Let’s pray together. (Have kids “put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap.”)

“Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to teach us how much you love us. Thank you that we can have joy all the time because you love us. You love us when we get up, you love us when we go to sleep, you love us when we play, you love us all the time. You’re the best, God! In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(First Look Placemats – 1 per child)

Hand out placemats to parents as they arrive. Encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool lesson with their child this week.