

# LESSON 12

## THE LOST SHEEP AND THE LOST COIN

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### Sheep and Coins

Jesus is the Shepherd and His followers are His sheep. Like the shepherd in the parable, He cares for each individual and wants to save everyone. The shepherd and sheep theme runs throughout the Scripture (Ps 23; Isa 40:11; Ezek 34:11-16).

At the time, each coin was worth about a day's wage, and Palestinian women would receive ten silver coins as a wedding gift. Therefore, the money also held sentimental value. Losing even one coin could cause a lot of grief.

Houses in the Middle East usually did not have windows and the floors were not hard, but earthen. Both of these factors would make searching for a lost coin rather difficult.

#### God's Limitless Love

The Pharisees and the scribes were well known for their cautious observance of the law and for staying "clean." They were very careful to keep away from "sinners."

In many instances, they even went out of their way to avoid the very people Jesus was associating with. They were annoyed by Jesus' actions because He touched lepers and the demon-possessed and talked with every class of people.

Jesus' behavior demonstrated His limitless love for those in need, which was in stark contrast to the ways of the Pharisees.

### BIBLE TEXT

Luke 15:1-10

### BIBLE TRUTH

God loves and wants everyone to be saved.

### LESSON OBJECTIVE

To understand that everyone is important to God.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Let not mercy and truth forsake you."

(Proverbs 3:3a)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, You are so wonderful. Thank You for always taking care of us. You love each and every one of us. In today's lesson, we will learn even more about how important we are to You. We come here to praise Your holy name. Hallelujah! Amen.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

It may have seemed foolish for the shepherd to leave his ninety-nine sheep and go after one lost animal. However, the shepherd knew that the ninety-nine were safe and it was the lost sheep that needed his attention. It may have seemed insignificant, but his love for each sheep in his flock was very deep.

Jesus is that shepherd to us, except He loves everyone more than the shepherd loved his sheep or the woman treasured her coins. His love knows no bounds. He visited the sinners because they were the very people He had come to earth to save. Perhaps they might have thought that they were insignificant or unworthy, but Jesus loved them all regardless of the situation. Sometimes, your

students may see themselves as only a very small part of this large universe. They may think that God is busy tending to other matters and that He really has no time for them. Remind them that God loves each and every one of them. There is not a moment when God does not see what they are doing. He is always with them in Spirit.

Just like in these two parables, Jesus wants everyone to know that they are important to Him. While God wants to save sinners, He also cares for your students. They may be baptized but they still need Him very much in their lives. Encourage them to continue to build their personal and special relationship with God by praying often and learning more about Him from Bible stories.

### VOCABULARY

**Pharisees:** a privileged group of religious Jews who were well known for their careful observance of the law

### REVIEW

Last week, we learned a parable about two sons, a story that Jesus told while He was teaching in the temple.

A man owned a vineyard and wanted his sons to help him pick the grapes. His first son refused to help. His second son promised to go out and help. When the man went out later in the day, he realized that his second son was not there as he had promised to be. Instead, his first son who had initially refused to help was hard at work picking the grapes.

The man was very happy that his first son had changed his mind and came out to help. But he was sad that his second son had also changed his mind and decided not to keep his promise.

Jesus told this parable to teach the people that it is better to obey than to promise to obey and not do it. Jesus wants us to obey God all the time.

### BIBLE STORY

#### Jesus Speaks to Sinners

One day, Jesus was speaking to a crowd. Among the people were tax collectors and sinners. There were also Pharisees and scribes.

The Pharisees did not understand why Jesus would even want to be near the sinners. Jesus knew what they were thinking and decided to tell two parables to make them realize why He came to earth.

#### The Lost Sheep

The first parable was about a shepherd who owned a hundred sheep. He loved them very much and did his best to take care of them. Every day, he counted them to make sure that each one was there. He did not want to lose any of them.

One day, he was counting his sheep. To keep track, he said to himself, "Ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine..." Then, he stopped. He looked around but he could

not see the one hundredth sheep anywhere.

He had never lost one of his sheep before and was at a loss about what to do. As he sat down to consider what had happened, he thought to himself, "I have only lost one sheep. I still have ninety-nine left. Maybe I should stay here and make sure that these ninety-nine are okay." But the man loved all of his sheep. Even though it was just one lost sheep, he was unable to rest until he found it. He got up and frantically looked everywhere for the lost sheep. It was difficult because the sheep could have gone anywhere and it may have also wandered very far.

The shepherd grew tired after having searched high and low for the lost sheep, but he did not give up. He would not stop until he found the missing one. Then suddenly, he heard a rustling sound nearby. He listened carefully and walked slowly towards the sound. Looking around, he saw his sheep. He was very happy to see that it was okay. Gently, he picked up the tired and frightened

sheep and carried it home.

When he got home, he put the lost sheep back with the rest of them. He was relieved that he had found it. He was so happy that he went to his friends and said, "Come and celebrate with me today. I have found the sheep that was lost!" So everyone gathered together and celebrated with the shepherd.

### The Lost Coin

After this parable, Jesus continued with another similar story. This one was about a woman who had ten coins. These coins were very special to her because they were a wedding gift from her husband, and she treasured the coins very much. She kept them in a very safe place.

One day, the woman discovered that one of her coins was missing, and she had no idea where it had been misplaced. "Oh, no!" the woman thought, "Where could it be?" She quickly looked around her house but after searching very carefully, she still could not find it. She was upset but she did not give up. She was determined to find the coin.

She thought that maybe the house was too dark, so she lit her oil lamp to have more light in the room. She also took out her broom. She swept the floor and looked in

every corner of the house. There was not one inch of the house that she did not sweep. Then she felt the broom brush against something. She bent down and picked up the object. It was her lost coin!

Holding it tightly, she went to the table and put the coin back with the rest of them. The woman was very happy that she had found her lost coin. She did not care that finding it was hard work and that it took a long time to find it. She was so happy that she went to knock on her neighbors' and friends' doors to tell them about it. She also invited them to come to her house and celebrate with her.

### Jesus Explains the Parables

When Jesus finished telling these parables, He explained the parables to the people. He told these stories to teach an important lesson.

He wanted everyone to know that every person is important to God. God loves every one of us. Like the shepherd and the woman, Jesus does not just care about the ones who have been saved. Even if it is only one sheep or coin that is lost, God will still not give up and be content with the ninety-nine sheep or the nine coins. He will go out to find and save the one who is lost.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

### Fill In the Blank/True or False/Questions to Think About

1. The shepherd had a total of \_\_\_\_\_ (100) sheep before he lost one.
2. After the woman lost one of her coins, she only had \_\_\_\_\_ (9) left.
3. The shepherd gave up looking for the lost sheep after a while. False; he didn't stop searching until he found it.
4. The woman wanted everyone to celebrate with her after she found the coin. True.
5. Jesus only loves those people who love Him. False; He loves everyone, even those who are lost.
6. Why did the shepherd look everywhere for the one lost sheep when he still had ninety-nine? All of his sheep were equally important to him, and he couldn't sleep until he had found his one lost sheep.
7. Why did the woman care so much about the one lost coin? The coin was part of the wedding gift from her husband, and she treasured it very much.
8. Have you ever lost something that is important to you? How did you feel when that happened? Answers may vary.

## MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**"Let not mercy and truth forsake you." (Proverbs 3:3a)**

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## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

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[Before class begins, write each word of the following sentence on a different piece of paper: "IT TAKES TIME AND EFFORT TO FIND SOMEONE WHO IS LOST." Fold the pieces and hide them around the classroom. Prepare one example piece of paper to show the students.]

### Activity

Before we go deeper into the spiritual teaching of these two parables, let's play a quick warm-up game. In this classroom, I have hidden eleven pieces of paper, folded like this [show your example], that you are going to find as a class. When you have found all of the pieces, gather at a table and put together a sentence using the words you have found. We will take five minutes for this activity. Does anyone have any questions? [Answer any questions your students may have] If not, the time starts... now!

### After the activity...

[Ask students to read the completed sentence together as a class.] "IT TAKES TIME AND EFFORT TO FIND SOMEONE WHO IS LOST." This is indeed very true. As easy as you think this activity was, each of you had to put in time and effort to find all the pieces. Not one of you was able to know where the pieces were without taking the time to search for them. In the two parables we learned about today, both the shepherd, who lost one of his sheep, and the woman, who lost one of her coins, put in time and effort to find what they had lost. But, neither of them regretted spending all that time and effort. When they finally found what they had been looking for, they both rejoiced, showing that they knew that their time and effort were well spent. Now, with this in mind, let's look further into the spiritual teaching of our lesson today.

### 1. We must work hard to rescue those who are spiritually lost.

In these parables, both the lost sheep and the lost coin represent a person who is spiritually lost. A person who is spiritually lost belongs to Christ but has temporarily left God's sheepfold. Like the lost sheep, they are tired and frightened. They may encounter many difficulties in this world, such as bullies, the loss of a friend or a family member, or a family financial crisis. They feel lost because they don't know to whom they can or should turn. These sheep are not near their Master. In addition, like the lost coin, these people may be hiding in a corner, somewhere dark and without hope. They cannot find a way out by their own strength. They need their Master!

Today, there are many people who are spiritually lost. Jesus wants them all to go back to His sheepfold. He cares about them so much. Let me ask you a question: If you lose something that you really care about, what would you do? [Let students think and share.] You would frantically search for it. You would spend as much time and effort as you need to search for it until you find it. Now, let's apply this idea to another scenario. When a father loses his son, whom he loves dearly, what do you think he would do? Let me share a story with you.

Once, a ten-year-old boy went with his father and some other people to look around a deserted mine. When they were exploring the mine, the boy became separated from the group, even though he had been very careful. Lost and without food or water, the young boy didn't know what to do. The others discovered that he was gone and began to look for him right when they found out. They didn't have any time to waste. As time went on, more and more people came to search for the boy. At first, it was a small group, but then it turned into hundreds. On top of that, thousands of people not at the mine knelt down to fast and pray for his safe return. After five days, they still had not found the boy. However, an expert familiar with the mine heard about the rescue operation and volunteered to help find the boy. He was so familiar with the mine that it didn't take long for him to find the boy in a place that no one else knew was even there. Upon finding the boy, he was at a loss for words to describe how happy he was. Those at the mine, and those who had been praying and fasting, wept with relief and gladness when they heard that the boy had been found alive and safe.

When you lose something you really care about, you will do everything it takes to find it. When this 10-year-old boy was lost, his father and others looked everywhere for him. It became a mission for them, one that didn't end until they had found him. Likewise, we need to search for people who are spiritually lost in the same way. Even though we may not know these people, we know that Jesus cares about them so much and so should we. Like the shepherd in the first

parable, we need to work hard to rescue these people who are still lost and haven't returned to Jesus, their Master and Savior.

## **2. We need to be determined to find those who are spiritually lost.**

When Jesus left this world, He gave His disciples a great commission. Let's turn to Matthew 28:19-20. [Ask students to read aloud with you.] "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Students, these words were given to all of us to follow! Jesus wants us to introduce Him to everyone who is spiritually lost, including those around us. He wants us to bring them to church so that they can find their Master and believe in Him, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit. And this is not an easy task. After Jesus left, His disciples did exactly what He asked of them—to preach the good news of His saving grace. Even though many people believed because of them and received the Holy Spirit, their journey was not that easy. For example, both Peter and Paul were imprisoned because of what they preached to people. Nonetheless, we must not give up. Jesus said, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." He is with us everywhere we go to tell of His stories.

With that in mind, now we just need to be determined to find those who are spiritually lost! In the two parables we learned about today, both the shepherd and the woman had to keep searching for a very long time. When did they stop searching? [Let students answer.] They stopped only when they finally found what they had been looking for. Students, unless everyone in this world has already come to believe in Jesus Christ our Lord, our mission is not over. No matter how many people you have already brought to Christ, your mission continues. Many church members are still working hard to preach and bring people to church in their old age. Finding those who are spiritually lost is a lifelong mission, and therefore, it is very important for us to have determination. Let me share a testimony with you:

Ashley has been married for almost 15 years. She has two children who are both baptized and who both attend church with her. However, her husband has not yet become a follower of God. Even though he has never stopped Ashley and their kids from going to church, Ashley is determined to bring her husband to Christ's fold. All these years, whenever there is an evangelical service, gospel tea, or fellowship, Ashley will bring her husband to church. Whenever there is a visiting minister, Ashley will invite him to her house so that her husband can sit with the minister and talk.

One day, Ashley's husband said to her, "If you want me to be baptized, I will do it for you. I know that will make you happy and take a load off your back." But Ashley responded, "No. I don't want you to get baptized because of me. This is not true belief. It's OK; we will give it more time. I will continue to pray for you. I know that one day you will experience God yourself." Ashley never gave up. She prayed for her husband every day. Every time her husband had a question about God, Ashley would study the Bible very hard, get help from other church members, pray about it, and answer her husband in the best way she knew how: using words from the Bible and with God's help.

Time passed by and Ashley's husband began to feel more and more convinced about God's existence. One day, he decided to go to church with Ashley. That day, a church member shared a testimony during afternoon service. Ashley's husband was astonished by the testimony and decided that he would keep coming to church. He also learned how to pray so that he could ask God Himself to let him experience His grace.

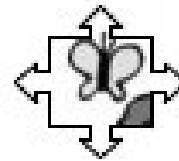
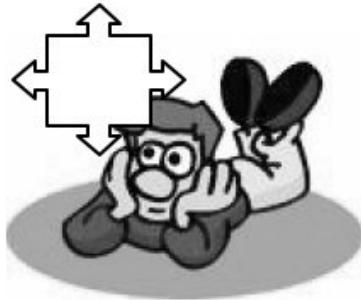
After a year of coming to church as a truth-seeker, Ashley's husband finally came to believe in Christ. He said to Ashley, "Thank you for everything you have done for me all these years. I am sorry that I never truly understood what you believed in—a God that is so wonderful and amazing. I have considered this very seriously and I want to be baptized. I believe in Jesus and I cannot wait to go to church with you and the kids every Saturday!" Thank God, after 15 years, Ashley could finally see her husband get baptized and go to church with her whole family every week. If Ashley didn't have the determination, this would have remained a dream for her for many years.

### 3. Our heavenly Father loves all of His children.

Losing something is like losing the final piece of a jigsaw puzzle. The puzzle does not look complete until the last piece is put in place. Each one of us is a piece of the jigsaw puzzle that is God's plan of salvation, and even though we are only one small piece among the hundreds of thousands of pieces, we need to remember that we are all equally important and precious to the Lord.

#### Missing Pieces in a Picture

Can you tell what the boy was looking at without the missing piece?



Would the autumn leaf picture look complete without the missing piece?



In the eyes of our heavenly Father, we are all equally precious. He loves His children and we are all important to Him. It doesn't matter how we look, what our background is like, or how well we do in school. God loves us all and cares about us equally. The Bible clearly tells us that God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34). He doesn't show favoritism. In fact, every one of us is His favorite. Let me share some stories with you.

1. Vivian is not the skinniest girl, but she looks pretty and healthy. However, she keeps thinking that she is "fat" because she always sees celebrities on TV who are very skinny. It is rare for her to see a famous person who is not skinny. In fact, her favorite actress is also very skinny. Every time Vivian goes to stores with her mother, she sees supermodels on the front covers of magazines, and they are all very skinny. Gradually, Vivian begins to feel embarrassed by her body shape. She thinks that her friends don't like her as much as they like their other friends who are skinnier than she is. She thinks to herself, "If I lose some weight and become as skinny as them, my friends will be more willing and happy to play with me." Vivian is determined to lose weight. She starts dieting, eating just one meal a day. She also exercises for an hour every day. Her mom begins to notice that Vivian is not looking as healthy as before.

2. Jack is not the most academically advanced student. Compared to his older siblings, he doesn't do as well in school. He doesn't enjoy reading and studying is his absolute least favorite thing to do. However, Jack does work very hard and try his best in everything he does in school. Unfortunately, Jack has very low self-esteem and always thinks that he is not good enough or important because of his poor academic results. He thinks that his parents associate him with failure and that his other siblings are more successful than he is. Because of all these negative thoughts, Jack begins to experiment with drugs.

Students, do you think that Jack and Vivian really weren't loved? For Vivian, do you think that it mattered to her friends how she looked? If you have a "friend" that doesn't like to play with you because of how you look, would you still consider him or her a true friend? [Let students answer.] No, true friendship is not built upon what we like about someone's appearance. Likewise, our relationship with God is genuine. He loves us not because of the way we look. 1 Samuel 16:7 tells us, "For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." God does not judge us by our outer appearance, but rather searches our hearts. He loves us as long as our heart is willing to obey Him. There is nothing about our outward appearance that matters to Him. In Jack's case, is it truly possible that his parents don't love him because he doesn't do as well as his siblings in school? No, parents love their children unconditionally. Sometimes, they might get angry, as we all do at some point, but that is only because they love us and care about us. Likewise, God is our heavenly Father. He loves us because we are His children! The Bible says, "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God" (1 Jn 3:1). Little did Jack and Vivian know that God loves them and that He values them far more than they could imagine. Boys and girls, do you know that God loves you? Do you know that when you pray and call upon Him, He hears you as a Father who hears His little child say, "Daddy, Daddy," sweetly, and He will at once turn around and love you?

### HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Pharisees, scribes
2. sheep, coin
3. True
4. True
5. False; it was very hard to look for the lost things.
6. He could not rest until all the sheep were safe. He loved all his sheep equally
7. He was very happy and put the sheep back with the other ninety-nine, and gathered people around him to celebrate.
8. She lit an oil lamp and swept every corner of her house.
9. Answers may vary.

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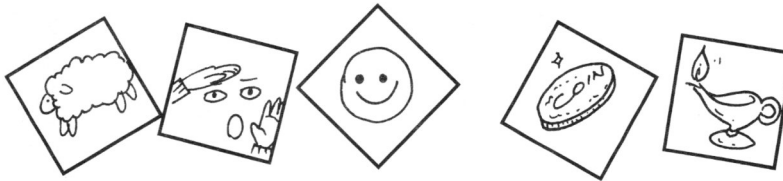
 ACTIVITIES
 

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1

**What a Relief!****Objective:** To help the students recall the parables.**Instructions**

The shepherd and the woman were both relieved when they found what they had lost. Read the paragraph carefully. Complete the sentences by drawing the missing item in each blank.



1. Hi! I am the shepherd. I lost my \_\_\_\_\_. Even though I had ninety-nine sheep left, I

wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ for that lost \_\_\_\_\_. I left my other \_\_\_\_\_ to go and find

it. When I found it, I was filled with relief and felt very \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Hi! I am the woman who lost the \_\_\_\_\_. I \_\_\_\_\_ everywhere in my house. I lit my

\_\_\_\_\_ to look for it. When I found the coin, I was filled with relief and felt very

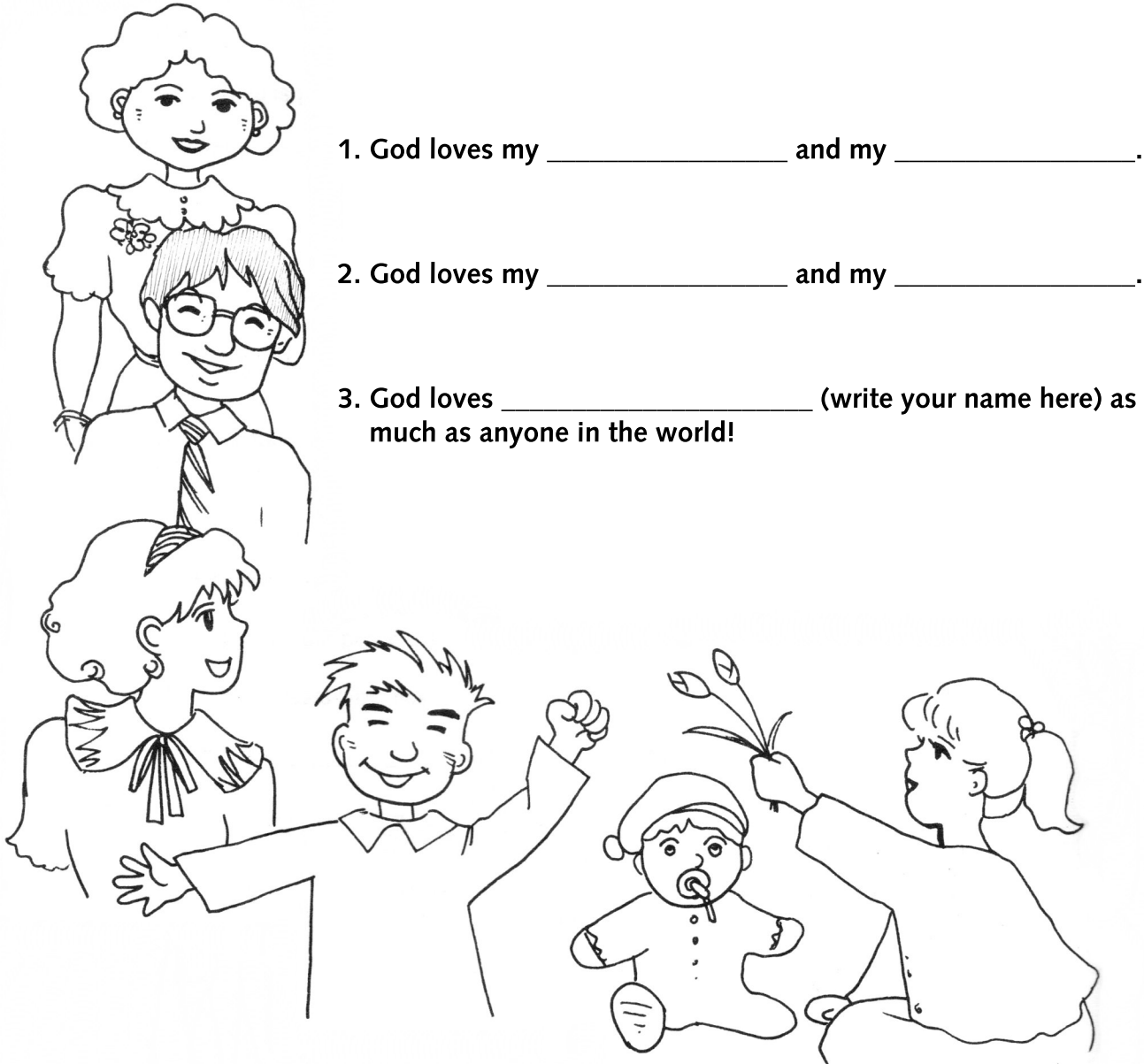
\_\_\_\_\_.



2

**God Loves Everyone****Objective:** To remind the students that God loves everyone.**Instructions**

Fill in the missing words by completing the sentences. You may want to fill in the blanks with any of the following words: mother, father, sister, brother, friends, dog, etc.



1. God loves my \_\_\_\_\_ and my \_\_\_\_\_.

2. God loves my \_\_\_\_\_ and my \_\_\_\_\_.

3. God loves \_\_\_\_\_ (write your name here) as much as anyone in the world!

3

**God Loves...***Optional Activity***Instructions**

God loves all the students in your class. Have the students work together to create a poster that will remind them of His love. Prepare a large poster with "God Loves..." written in the center. Then, have the students write or decorate their names on the poster to show that God loves them all very much!

## E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 12—The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin

**Homework Assignment**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** God loves and wants everyone to be saved.**Lesson Objective:** To understand that everyone is important to God.**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

**Memory Verse**

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Proverbs 3:3a)

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**What I Learned from the Bible This Week**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

**Fill In the Blank**

1. When Jesus was preaching, the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ often wanted to find fault with Jesus.
2. The two parables that Jesus told were about the lost \_\_\_\_\_ and the lost \_\_\_\_\_.

**True or False**

3. Jesus wanted to talk to the sinners because He saw that they were needy and lost. \_\_\_\_\_
4. During Jesus' time, tax collectors were considered to be sinners. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Looking for the lost sheep and the lost coin were easy tasks. \_\_\_\_\_

**Short Answer**

6. What made the shepherd want to leave the ninety-nine sheep to search for the lost one?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What was the shepherd's reaction when he found the lost sheep?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What did the woman do to look for her lost coin?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Life Application**

9. Think of an example of how the Lord has shown love and compassion to you. How does this let you know that you are important in the eyes of God?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_