





The Lost Lamb

Matt. 18:12–14; Luke 15:4–6

Introduction

When Jesus lived here on earth He often told stories. He told these stories to help the people understand a lesson He was trying to teach them. Here is a story He told a long time ago to mothers and fathers and boys and girls just like you.

The Good Shepherd Takes Care of His Sheep

Once there was a shepherd who took care of one hundred sheep. Each sheep had a name, and when the shepherd talked to them, he would call them by their name. Every morning, the good shepherd took his sheep to the pasture to find fresh, green grass to eat and cool, still water to drink. As the shepherd led his sheep to the fields, he would look around to make sure there weren't any holes in the path that the sheep would step into and hurt their legs. He would make sure the path was wide enough for the sheep to walk on, so they wouldn't fall down a mountainside.

Sheep cannot see very far ahead of them, and so the good shepherd would show them just where to go. He made sure that no lions, bears, or other wild animals were hiding in the bushes or behind trees, waiting for a little lamb who might be lost. He used his rod and staff

to protect his sheep against wild animals. He always kept his eyes and ears open for any sign of danger. He loved his sheep very much.

Sometimes a lamb would not obey the good shepherd. The lamb would go off wherever it wanted to go. Each time the shepherd would call him back; if the lamb did not come back, the shepherd would go and look for him.

A Lamb Disobeys

One day a little lamb did not want to obey the good shepherd. He wanted to go off by himself. So little by little, he moved away from his mother, and little by little, he moved away from the good shepherd. Pretty soon he was running around having the best time when, all of a sudden, he could not see his mother and he could not see the shepherd. He looked here; he looked there! He could not find the shepherd. What would he do? He was scared! HE WAS LOST!

The other sheep were tired; they had been out in the fields all day. The shepherd gathered them together to go back to the sheepfold. As they went into the fold, the shepherd always counted the sheep. "One, two, three,

four, five, six, seven, . . ." until he got to one hundred. "One hundred sheep; yes, that's how many I have," the shepherd would say to himself. But when he counted his sheep this time, do you know what? There were only ninety-nine. Ninety-nine sheep! What happened? Something is wrong! One little lamb is gone. One little lamb is lost. "Oh," said the shepherd, "I MUST find my little lost lamb."

Up the path he went, back to the fields, calling the little lost lamb. "Little lamb! Little lamb!" But the lamb was not there. The shepherd's feet slipped and slid over the rocks along the path. Sharp thorns stuck him as he brushed against the bushes. "Little lamb! Little lamb!" Suddenly the shepherd heard something. "Baaa-a-a."

"Little lamb!" he called out again.

"BAAA-A-A! Here I am, good shepherd. Here I am!"

"Oh! Little lamb, I have found you," said the good shepherd. "Don't cry," he said as he bent over a huge rock and saw his lost sheep on a rocky ledge. "I am here. You are safe now." How happy the little lamb was. He had been lost but now he was found.





The Lost Lamb (cont.)

The Good Shepherd Finds His Lamb

The little lamb was shivering as the good shepherd picked him up and held him close. How safe and warm the little lamb felt. How happy he was that he had a shepherd who loved him so very much.

“Home we go,” said the good shepherd, as he patted the little lamb.

When they got home, the good shepherd checked the little lamb that had been lost. The little lamb had scratches all over him. The good shepherd put oil on the little lamb’s sores; he cleaned the thorns and sticks out of his wool. He gave him a drink of water and held him close until he went to sleep. As the little lamb lay in the shepherd’s arms, he said to himself, “I will obey my good shepherd from now on.”





The Lost Lamb (cont.)

Jesus Is Our Good Shepherd

Have you guessed who the Good Shepherd is in Jesus' story? Yes, it is Jesus! He was talking about Himself. Jesus told the boys and girls, "I am the Good Shepherd." He wants boys and girls to be His little lambs. He wants you to follow and obey Him, so one day you can work for Him and tell others about His love and how they too can go to heaven. ■

Ask these questions:

1. Who took care of the sheep and kept them from danger? *the shepherd*
2. What happened to the little lamb that did not obey the shepherd? *He got lost and was hurt.*