

Mothers are SPECIAL

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Josh and Anna were excited because it was Mother's Day. Daddy had taken the three children to the mall to get a present for Mother. Anna helped Abby, and they picked a pretty blue sweater. Josh chose a necklace. Then they each picked out a card for her. Josh saw a card with a cute dog on the front. "Daddy, can we get this card for Taffy to give to Mother?"

Daddy laughed, "Mother would think it was very funny if we did that." Daddy paid for the cards and some wrapping paper and bows.

When they got home, Daddy helped the children wrap the presents and sign their cards. Then they all went out into the garage and called Taffy to come.

Daddy found a stamp pad. "Now," said Daddy to Josh, "you hold the stamp pad and I will put Taffy's paw on it." Daddy picked up Taffy and put her paw on the stamp pad. He gently pushed her paw to make sure it was covered with ink. Then he put her paw on the card. Anna put Taffy's card in the envelope.

On Sunday morning, Daddy got the children up early. Everyone got dressed; then they fixed Mother breakfast in bed. Daddy put it on a tray with a beautiful red rose he had gotten for her. They all tip-toed quietly into Mother's room. "Happy Mother's Day!" the children said.

Mother opened her eyes and she smiled and said, "What a surprise!" When Mother finished her breakfast, Daddy took the tray to the kitchen and the children got the presents.

Mother opened her presents. She thanked Anna and Abby for the sweater and Josh for the necklace. "Oh, I forgot something," said Daddy.

He called, "Taffy, Taffy, here girl." Taffy ran over to Daddy and he put the card in Taffy's mouth. "Give it to Mother, Taffy." Mother reached down and took the card.

She opened it and started to laugh, "Thank you, Taffy, for the nice card!"

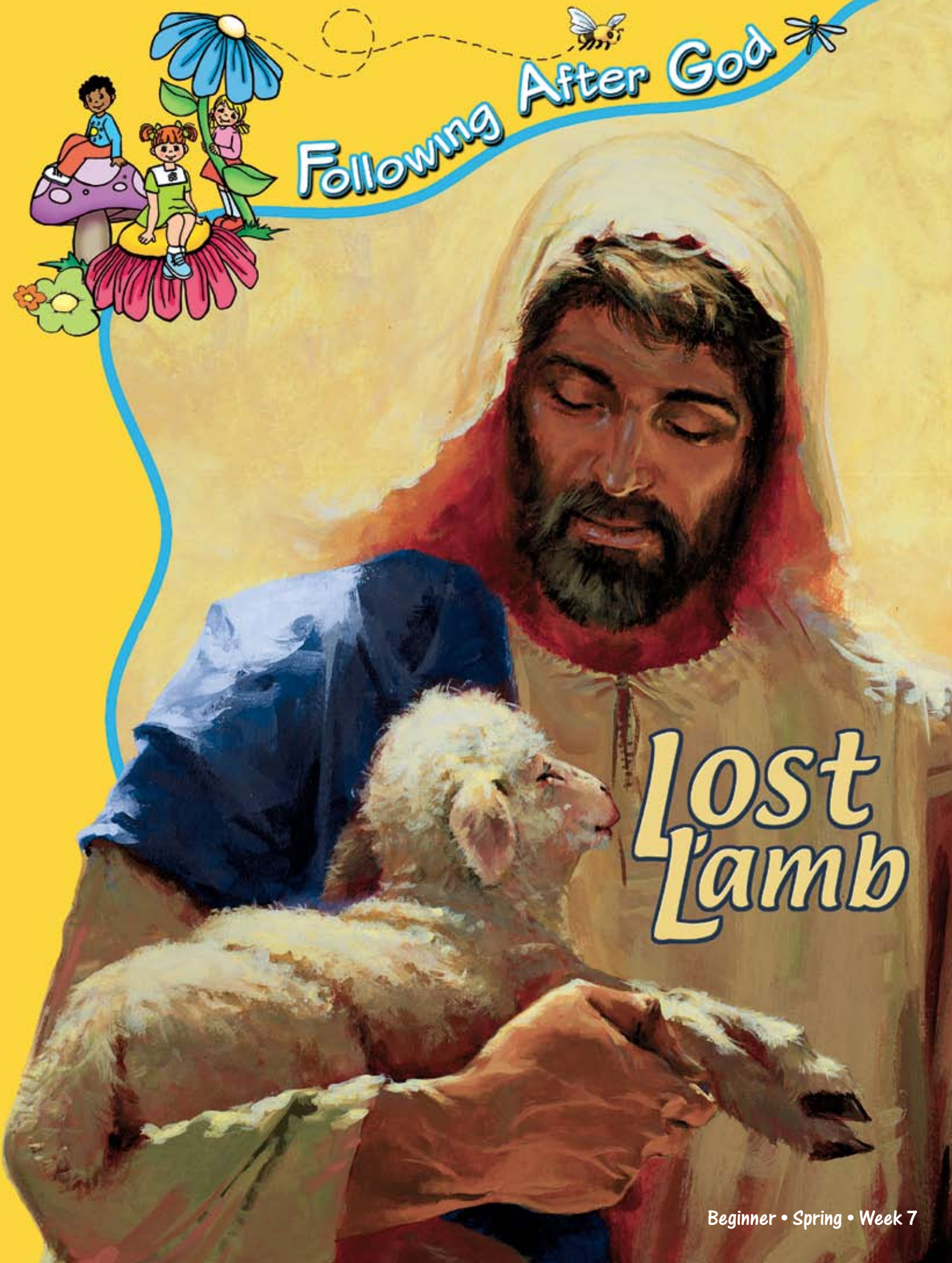
Daddy and the children laughed, too.



Everyone hurried to get ready for church, and soon it was time to go. When Mother walked into the living room she had on the blue sweater and her necklace. Josh said, "Mother, you sure are pretty!"

In Sunday school that day Mrs. Thomas said, "Tell me why your mother is special." Several children said special things about their mother, and then it was Anna's turn.

Anna said, "My mother is special because she tells me about God, she makes me pretty dresses, she takes care of me when I'm sick, and she loves me even when I do wrong."





Matthew 18:12-14;
Luke 15:4-6



Something we can do

Does your child know these things—your names, where he lives, your telephone number? Does he know what to do if you should get separated from him in a crowded place? Now would be the perfect time to teach him. Together you could draw a picture of a house and telephone. Put the above information on the drawing, and practice each day until you are confident he knows it. Now that summer is coming, with its many activities away from home, it is important that he learns these things.

When Jesus talked to people, He often told them stories. One day He told them about a shepherd who had 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 shepherd took his sheep to the pasture to find fresh, green grass to eat and cool, still water to drink. He would use his rod and staff to keep the sheep together. 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 wherever it wanted. Each time the shepherd would call him back; if the lamb did not come back, the shepherd would go and look for him.

One day a little lamb did not want to obey the 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 shepherd. Soon the little lamb 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, he counted them. "One, two, three, four, . . ." until he got to ninety-nine. "Ninety-nine," said the shepherd, and looked around for the last sheep, but he was not there. "Oh," said the shepherd. "One little lamb is missing. I MUST find him."

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 struck 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! I'm stuck on the ledge."

"Oh! Little lamb, I have found you," said the shepherd. "Don't cry; I am here. You are safe now."

The shepherd picked him up and held him close. How safe and warm the little lamb felt.

When Jesus told this story, He was trying to tell the people that He loved and cared for them just as a shepherd cares for his sheep.



Let's Talk about It

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

The good shepherd cares for his sheep.

Color the picture of the shepherd



"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." JOHN 14:6