



BIG STORIES OF THE BIBLE 43

JESUS' PARABLES

Scripture: Luke 15

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Balloons, brooms (or paper fans), tape, printed coins and sheep.

Ask:

- Does anyone remember what repentance means? (turning around, going back to God)
- Who was it that baptized Jesus?
- Today, we're going to talk about some of the stories that Jesus told. These were called parables. A parable is a story that points to a truth. He told many parables, today we're going to talk about 3. All of these came in response to people grumbling that he ate with sinners. Jesus was always willing to associate with people that others didn't think were good enough.

Read: Luke 15:1-7

Ask:

- What do you notice about Jesus in this story?
- If you had 99 toys, would you wonder where a lost one went? I don't think I would notice. But Jesus notices the one lost. And he isn't content to leave it lost, he goes to find it.

Play a Game:

Do a sheep hunt. You can get ambitious and print out 100 sheep (that will require 20 pages of the sheep print out), or you can just use one and hide it. This is something I can't instruct for others because it depends on the space. But you can hide the sheep under chairs or up high. You can give clues or simply allow them to search.

Explain:

Jesus rejoices when he brings the lost sheep back, and he tells his listeners that there is a lot of rejoicing in heaven when one sinner repents. Then Jesus tells another story

Read: Luke 15:8-10

Play a Game:

Tape coins to the ground. You can do several so many kids can find them, or you can stick to the story and just do one. Over the coins, place balloons or crumbled up paper. Have the kids sweep the house (either with a broom or a paper fan) until they find the coins.

Read: Luke 15:11-32

Explain:

Did you notice how the father ran to the son? He wasn't worthy, but the father rejoiced. We aren't worthy to come to God. But he made a way for us through Jesus. He made a way of forgiveness by his death and resurrection. Then, we can repent, by his power at work within us, we can change and allow him to change us to be more like him. When we do that, there is much rejoicing in heaven.

Comic Book Bibles:

Have the kids color one or all of these parables of Jesus in their comic book Bibles.

Memorize: Luke 15:7

Close in Prayer



