

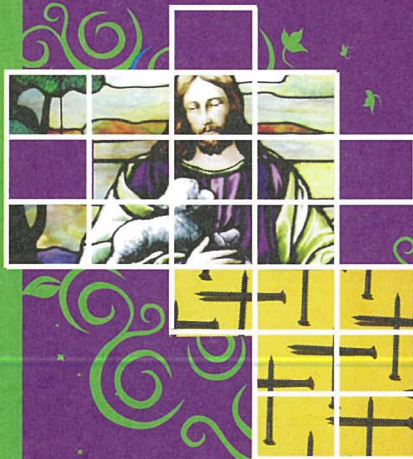
# CHOICES

## The Lost Sheep

So Jesus told them this parable:

Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

See Luke 15:3-7



## 6. Stories of being 'lost' and 'found'

To get our hearts ready to listen to God's Word, let's begin with our "silence-prayer" (see session 1).

*After reading the Gospel passage at left, use open-ended "I wonder" questions that encourage the children to think about the story.*

### The Lost Sheep

I wonder how the sheep got lost. Do you think it might have been injured or chased by a wild animal? Maybe it just got distracted.

Do you think the lost sheep was afraid when it found itself all alone away from the flock?

One hundred sheep is a lot of sheep. I wonder:

- how the shepherd knew that one was missing;
- what it was like for the shepherd when he was looking for the lost sheep;
- how the lost sheep felt when it saw the shepherd, and was guided home safely to be with the flock.

In this story the shepherd is happy to have found the lost sheep. He wants to share his joy with his friends and neighbours! What do you think his neighbours said to the shepherd?

- I wonder what it is like for the sheep having the good shepherd looking after them. Do you think they feel safe? Protected?
- Did you know that in the Bible we read that Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd" (John 10:14).
- I wonder why Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd. I wonder who are his sheep... Who is his flock? We who follow Jesus are part of his flock.
- Jesus is saying that he knows each person in God's family. He loves and cares for each one of us; he goes searching for even one person who is lost.

*The Lost Coin parable follows over the page. This can be read at home. Note the "Message of these parables" section over the page.*

## The Lost Sheep

The image of God as shepherd was a powerful one for the Jewish people in the time of Jesus. The shepherd knew each sheep. When the sheep needed to be moved, he would lead them in front and they would follow. The shepherd would even sleep alongside them at night time, to protect them from wild animals and thieves.

Help the good shepherd to find the path to the lost sheep.

