



OUTLINE FOR ALL-AGE WORSHIP

Call to Worship

Jesus welcomes us: the lost and the lonely, the nervous and the confident, the bored and the enthusiastic. Come worship our God.

Song

Come all you vagabonds, or Let us build a house where love can dwell, or Welcome Everybody, it's good to see you here.

Welcome

Welcome to this Education Sunday act of worship. We are God's family together and he knows each of us by name. If we listen for his voice, we'll hear him calling us. Let's greet each other and greet God by shouting out our names. When I say, "Let's greet God and each other," I want you to shout, "Hi God, it's...." and your first name.

Let's pray together

"God, we're so glad we're able to meet with you and with each other, this Education Sunday. We thank you that we all have the capacity to learn, to learn from our surroundings, from each other and from you. It says in the Bible, we are fearfully and wonderfully made, with different senses to experience the world around us and brains that can process and store information more brilliantly than any computer. Today we gather to sing your praises and to learn more about you and the way you love and care for us. Open our eyes, our ears, our minds, and our hearts to hear your word for us today. Amen."

Get active

Hidden around the room are words from our Bible reading this morning. The challenge is – can we find them all? While the Mission Impossible music is playing, I would like everyone to help find them. Children can run around the room but for safety I think adults need to stay in their seats. please point and encourage. I need a couple of volunteers to try to sort the sentences into order on the board. When all the sentences have been sorted, a volunteer could read them.

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Luke 15: 8-10

*Suppose a woman has ten silver coins,
but she loses one of them.
She will light a lamp and clean the house.
She will look carefully for the coin
until she finds it.
And when she finds it,
she will call her friends and neighbours and say,
'Be happy with me
because I have found the coin that I lost!'
In the same way, there is joy before the angels of God
when one sinner changes his heart.*

Introduction to the theme

Do you know any other stories that Jesus told about things being lost? Lost son, lost sheep....

Can we retell the story of the lost sheep? Use a flipchart or a laptop and whiteboard, and get someone to illustrate as the story is told by the congregation contributing parts of the story. Draw out that this is a story that Jesus told in response to the church leaders and teachers complaining at him eating with sinners.

Song

Baa Baa, he's the good shepherd

Lyrics and score: [http://www.siblingharmony.com/uploads/5/4/4/9/5449481/the_baa_baa_song - kevin_buelmann.pdf](http://www.siblingharmony.com/uploads/5/4/4/9/5449481/the_baa_baa_song_-_kevin_buelmann.pdf)

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Let's pray together

"Lord, you often talk to us through stories and parables. Some are hard to understand, others easy, but all are important for us to hear. Let your Holy Spirit help us to listen. Let the words and pictures sink deep and help us hear what you want to say to each one of us today. Amen."

Reading

Luke 15: 1-10 from International Children's Bible

A Lost Sheep and a Lost Coin

15 Many tax collectors and "sinners" came to listen to Jesus. The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to complain: "Look! This man welcomes sinners and even eats with them!"

Then Jesus told them this story: "Suppose one of you has 100 sheep, but he loses one of them. Then he will leave the other 99 sheep alone and go out and look for the lost sheep. The man will keep on searching for the lost sheep until he finds it. And when he finds it, the man is very happy. He puts it on his shoulders and goes home. He calls to his friends and neighbours and says, 'Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep!' In the same way, I tell you there is much joy in heaven when one sinner changes his heart. There is more joy for that 1 sinner than there is for 99 good people who don't need to change.

"Suppose a woman has ten silver coins, but she loses one of them. She will light a lamp and clean the house. She will look carefully for the coin until she finds it. And when she finds it, she will call her friends and neighbours and say, 'Be happy with me because I have found the coin that I lost!' In the same way, there is joy before the angels of God when one sinner changes his heart."

Song

Amazing Grace

Activity tables

1. Make a sheep – using a sheep template on recycled cardboard, decorate it in any way you choose. Suggestions – wrap coloured wool around it to make it woolly and 3D and colourful; stick cotton wool over it to make it white and woolly; collage it with different coloured fabrics or paper; colour it with sharpies or textured pens – use your imagination. Have a chat-mat on the table asking:

- » *I wonder what it feels like to be lost?*
- » *I wonder if there are people who feel lost in schools or universities right now and why they might feel that way?*

CONTINUED...





- » *I wonder how you feel when you find something special you've lost?*
- » *I wonder what things lead us away from God?*

2. Make a sensory bag – You need a ziplock bag, some hair gel, some duct tape, sharpies, and a button or pebble or coin.

Draw on the ziplock bag with the sharpies. Either draw a room with different places you might lose a coin and then draw a woman in one corner with a broom – or – draw some different places outside where a sheep might get lost and draw a shepherd in one corner with a crook. Draw a sheep on the pebble/button if you're doing the lost sheep bag, then pop the pebble inside the ziplock bag or pop a coin inside the lost coin bag if you're doing that one. Put a bit of hair gel in the bag and close the zip, reinforcing the closure with duct tape to prevent leakage. Now you can play with the bag, moving the coin or the sheep around to different places as you retell the story. If you wish, you could add some glitter in the bags.

3. Write a psalm – David was a shepherd and he used his experiences to help him when he wrote many of the Psalms. The most famous is Psalm 23. You might choose to write this out, or you might choose to write a more modern version of your own. What might you use instead of a shepherd as the image of God? Try looking at some different versions of the psalm from different Bibles.

4. Remind someone that they are not lost – Think of the people you know or know about who may be feeling lost or forgotten at this time. For example, people in hospital or in a care home, people starting a new class or a new school or a new job, people who are homeless.... Write them a letter or make them a card to remind them of God's love and your love for them. Don't forget to send it or give it to them after the service!

Song

The Lord's my shepherd – Stuart Townend

Prayers of confession

Jesus, we're sorry when we wander away. **Bring us safely home to you.** We're sorry when we want to go our own way instead of your way. **Bring us safely home to you.** We're sorry when we ignore others and don't recognise that they're feeling like they don't belong. **Bring us safely home to you. Amen**

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Prayers of intercession

While the music plays for *Amazing Grace*, bring forward your sheep (or a sheep template if you did not make one), thinking about the people you want to bring close to God – use names if you can, but don't forget the people who often get overlooked. Place your sheep around the foot of the cross.

God, we bring you our prayers for other people. You know our every need and will not let us wander far from your love. This Education Sunday, we pray especially for all those involved in education in any way, especially those who are feeling a bit lost or uncertain for whatever reason. Bless the children and young people and adults here today who are starting out on their next phase of learning, and inspire all those who help them on their journey. Amen.

Amen: Let's remember that God rejoices when the lost is found. Use environmentally friendly party-poppers or just wave your hands in the air and cheer an Amen to our prayers.

Song

Every move I make I make in you – Hillsong Kids' Worship <https://youtu.be/MPvnZILn6EY>

At this point, you may like to bring the map of your area to the front and invite leaders and members of the congregation to pray for your local schools, colleges and universities, and the individuals named on the post-it notes.

Closing words

Some words from the shepherd's psalm:

Surely God's goodness and love will be with us all our life. And we will live in the house of the Lord forever. Thanks be to God.

