



The Parables: The Lost Sheep
Luke 15:1-7

LESSON SUPPLY LIST

- Bible w/ Marked Scripture
- Pencils
- Crayons
- Copies of Maze
- Copies of Coloring Page
- Copy of Sheep Puzzle with pieces cut apart
- Copies of lesson overview for children to take home

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³And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

⁴What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

⁵And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

⁶And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

⁷I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Objective of Lesson:

This parable of the Lost Sheep is recorded to illustrate one thing. It shows us the deep, self-sacrificing love of the Lord Jesus Christ for perishing sinners. It opens the very heart of the eternal God to us, and shows us how pleasurable it is to Him to save sinners, because "He delighteth in mercy."

Lesson Instructions:

1. The following story is called a Parable. A Parable is a story that our Lord Jesus Christ told to illustrate and teach us how He has mercy on sinners.
2. First, I want you to get a picture in your mind of where the Lord was when He told this story. Finding out who the Lord was talking to is the key to understanding what this story is teaching us.
3. A group of people had gathered together to hear the Lord Jesus Christ speak. In this group there were many types of people. Some of these people were called Pharisees, and others were called publicans and sinners.
4. To be called a publican and a sinner was considered a bad thing. In the scriptures a publican and a sinner was considered the lowest and worst people in the society. You were a filthy person, accused of doing and being all sorts of bad things: liars, cheaters, people who steal, people who committed all sorts of sins.
5. To be called a Pharisee was considered a good thing. A Pharisee was a person considered to be a very good, moral and religious person. If you were a Pharisee you

- were looked upon as a person that should be imitated. The Pharisees were people who considered themselves to be the best you could be. They claimed they followed all the holy laws and rules, and they read and memorized what the scriptures said.
6. In the beginning of this parable, when the people were gathering, the Pharisees noticed that publicans and sinners were also gathering to hear the Lord speak. This offended them greatly. These Pharisees would have nothing to do with such filthy trash. They pointed their fingers at Christ and said, "This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them!" I am so happy to tell you that it was a truthful charge. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Friend of sinners.
 7. When the Pharisees accused the Lord of being a friend to sinners, He told them a story.
 8. Once there lived a man who was a shepherd and he had one hundred sheep. Do you know how many is one hundred? Can you count to ten with me? (Have the children count to 10). Hold up the illustration of a group of sheep. Point out that one hundred is a large number.
 9. If you were a shepherd in charge of taking care of all these sheep and one became lost, would you go look for it? Yes, you would. The other ninety-nine sheep did not need a savior, but the one lost sheep does. A good shepherd goes to the one sheep in need and saves it. The lost sheep is very important to the shepherd.
 10. A shepherd is a man who tends and serves sheep. He knows his sheep. He knows how to lead them, where to feed them, how to protect them, and how to nurse them. He leads them out in the morning, tends them all through the day, and folds them when the day is done. Throughout the Scriptures, our Lord Jesus Christ is spoken of as The Shepherd of His sheep.
 11. Our Lord Jesus Christ, our shepherd does all these same things for His people too, because they are His sheep. Our Lord knows who His people are, where they have been, what they need, how to protect them and how to bring them home. The scriptures say of our Lord Jesus, "*The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*" (Matt. 18:11) The object of this parable is to assure us that Christ has come to save sinners, to seek and to save that which was lost.
 12. The One Lost Sheep in this parable represents all of God's sheep, His elect. God's people NEED a savior. The Bible calls us sheep. Silly sheep by nature have no sense of direction. They roam and wander, straying further and further from home, until the Shepherd finds them. The other ninety-nine sheep in this parable represents the Pharisees, people who don't need a savior.
 13. The Shepherd leaves the ninety and nine in the wilderness and goes out to search for his one lost sheep. His search will continue until he finds that one lost sheep. He knows the sheep that is missing. He has a picture of it in his mind. He thinks nothing of the ninety and nine who need no Shepherd. His heart is all wrapped up in that one lost sheep. This one thought seems to possess his entire Being: "One of my sheep is lost." Immediately the search begins.
 14. The shepherd who had lost his sheep is filled with joy in finding it. (vs. 6: "And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost".) You can see in this verse the sheep is the sole source of his joy! His soul, his heart, his mind, his body had all been absorbed in finding the sheep that was lost. Now he finds great joy and satisfaction in that sheep which he has found. (Luke 15:7) "I say unto you, that

likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." The Lord delights in mercy! There is a holiday in heaven over one sinner who repents!

Activities:

- *Coloring Page*
- *Lost Sheep Maze*
- *Sheep Puzzle*

The Parables: The Lost Sheep
Take Home Overview Sheet



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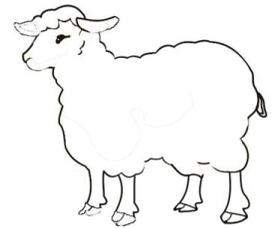
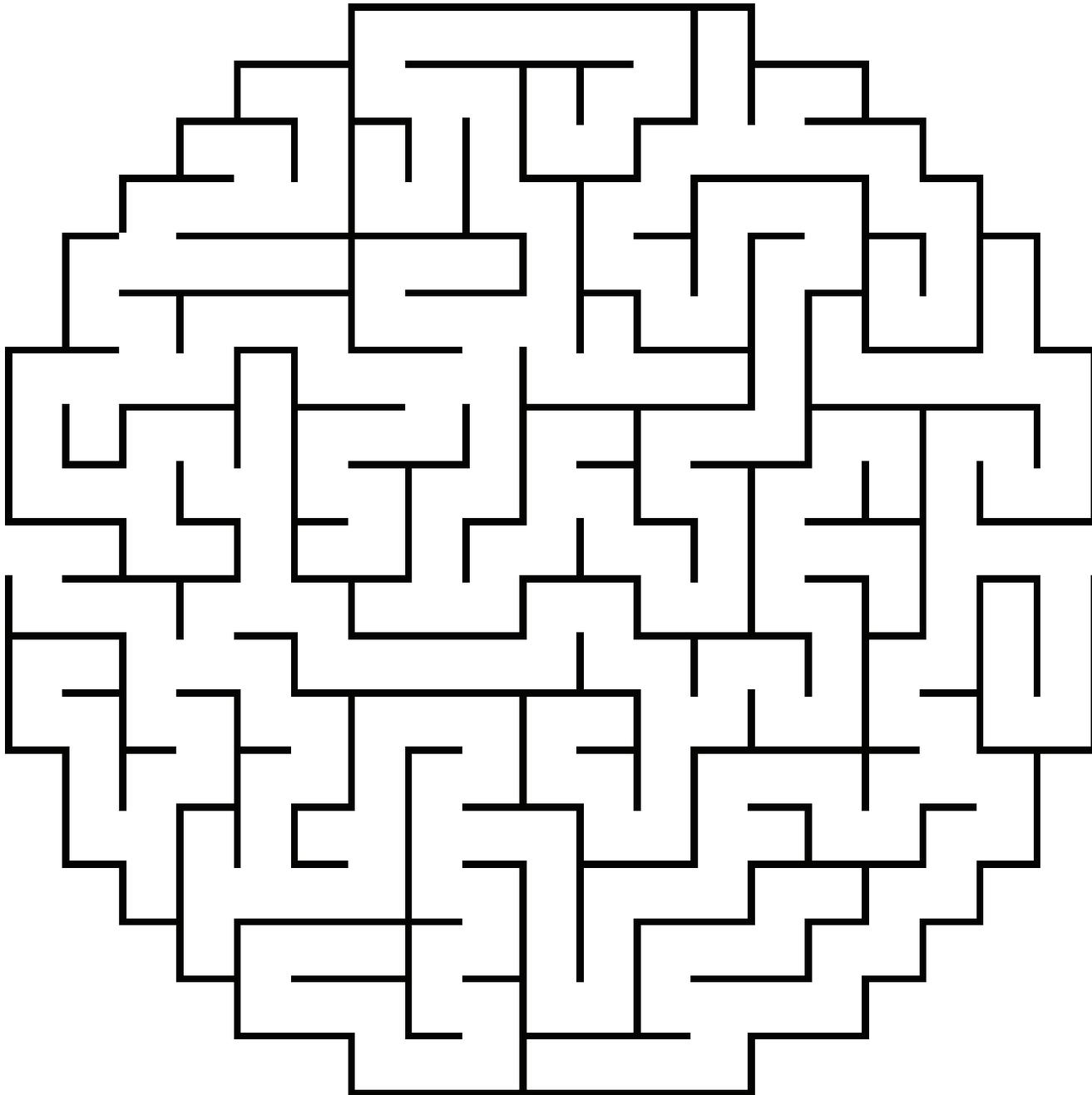
Overview of Lesson:

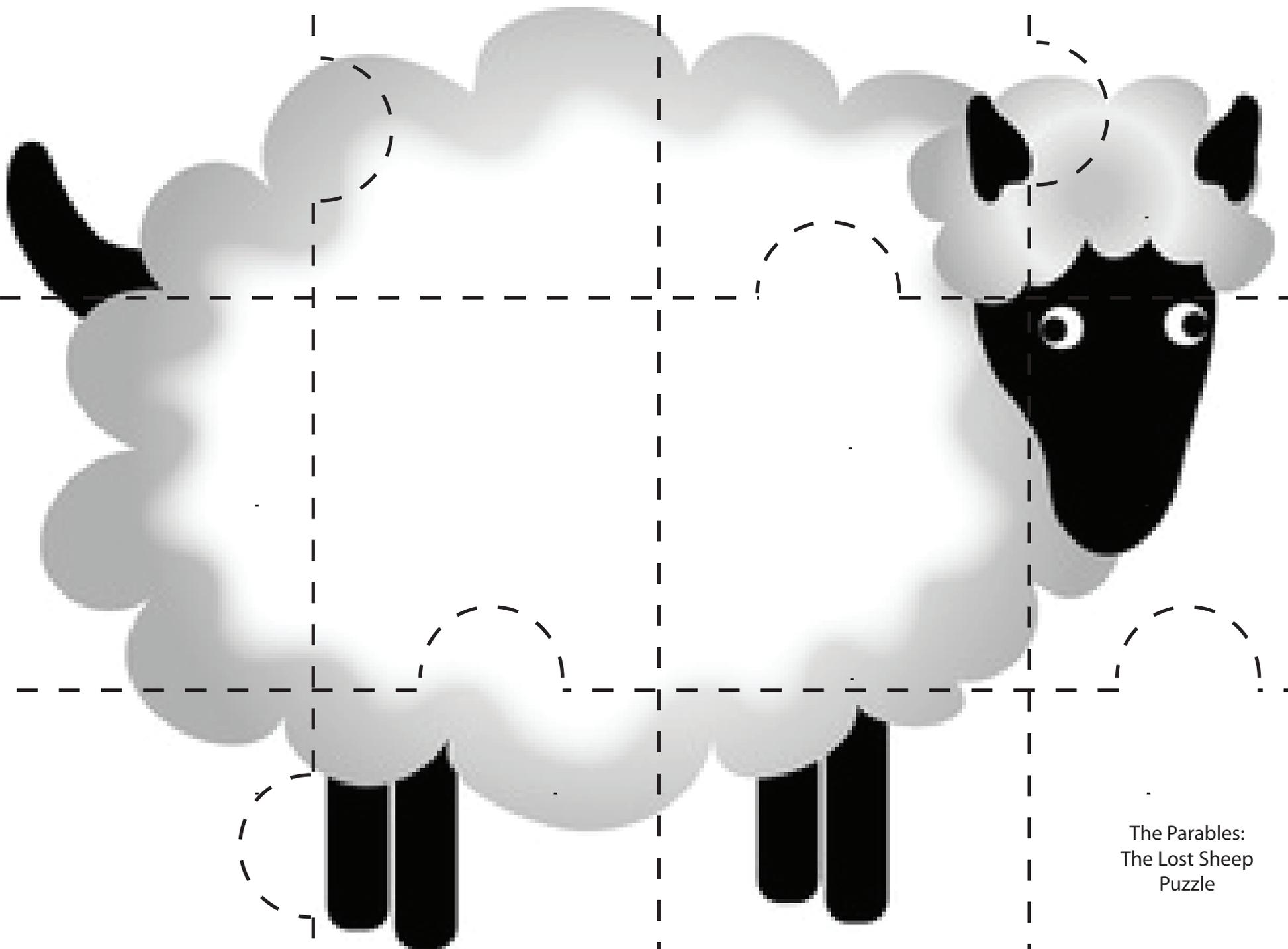
Just like this lost sheep in this parable, all of God's people need a shepherd. The Bible calls us sheep. Silly sheep have no sense of direction. They roam and wander, straying further and further from home, until the Shepherd finds them. The other ninety-nine sheep in this parable represents the Pharisees, or people who don't need a savior. The Shepherd leaves the ninety and nine in the wilderness and goes out to search for his one lost sheep. His search will continue until he finds that one lost sheep. Now he finds great joy and satisfaction in that sheep which he has found. (Luke 15:7) "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." The Lord delights in mercy! There is a holiday in heaven over one sinner who repents!



This Shepherd has lost some of his sheep.
Can you find at least seven that are hiding in the hills?

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The Parables:
The Lost Sheep
Puzzle