

# SABBATH SCHOOL

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## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 1 • Unit 5 • Week 3

### JESUS CHRIST – THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

**OBJECTIVE:**

To teach the children how much Jesus cares for us and wants us to be in His family.

**ATTENTION GETTER:**

Supplies: Blindfolds for each child

Before Class: Use chairs to fence off one corner of the classroom as a “sheepfold.” Make sure the “sheepfold” has an entrance no bigger than the width of one chair.

Say: At night, in Bible times, the shepherd always brought the sheep into the fold where they were protected from wolves, lions and robbers. Today we're going to play a game. You'll be the sheep, and I'll be the shepherd.

Do: Have the children begin in the fold. Then blindfold all of the children. Take the blindfolded “sheep” one by one into the “wilderness” (a place away from the fold). Since the children must then find their way back to the fold, you may make things more confusing by taking twists and turns as you lead them away. (Be sure to have enough helpers so the children do not get hurt.)

Say: I would like all sheep to find their way back to the fold.

Do: As the children try to find their way back, they may get totally disoriented (hopefully some will). Help the lost sheep by taking them by the shoulders and gently guide them in the right direction. As you guide them, say: “This way, [name]. This is the way to go.” When everyone is gathered in the fold, have kids remove their blindfolds.

Ask: How did it feel trying to find your way back in the dark?  
[Possible answers: scary, confusing, fun.]

- Ask: How did you feel when the shepherd helped you find your way?  
[Possible answers: I knew which way to go.]
- Ask: Have you ever been lost in real life? How did you feel?  
[Possible answers: I was scared. I didn't know what to do. I cried. I knew someone would help.]
- Ask: How did you feel when you got help from a trustworthy adult?  
[Possible answers: I felt better, comforted, OK, safe.]
- Ask: Do you know who the Good Shepherd is?
- Ask: How is Jesus like a shepherd to us?  
[Possible answers: He wants us to be safe. He wants to show us the way to go. He knows what's best for us. He wants to help us.]
- Say: Jesus wants us in His family. He wants to show us the right way to go. He loves us and wants to protect us and keep us safe.

#### **BIBLE LESSON:**

- Say: Today we are going to learn about our Good Shepherd and the lost sheep. Can you tell me what you know about sheep? [Allow kids to respond.]
- Ask: Do you know what a shepherd does?
- Say: I would like to tell you a story about a little sheep that was lost (based on Luke 15:4-7; Matthew 18:12-14).

This little sheep was named Woolina and she was very frightened and cold. She wanted her family. She was so lonely that she cried and cried. Poor Woolina was so far up on a rock hill that no one could hear her. She was all alone. Woolina had good reason to be afraid. There were many wolves and mountain lions in the hills searching for food.

Do you think that sheep are very smart animals? They are not very smart! Did you know that they have no sense of direction and can't find their way home? Sheep can't smell water like other animals can and they don't even have enough sense to come in out of a storm!

Do you know what a sheep will do if a wolf or mountain lion comes after them? They just stand still and wait to be eaten! Sheep aren't very smart are they? When a sheep rolls over on his back too far, he gets stuck and has to stay that way until help comes.

You can see why sheep depend on the shepherd for everything...food, water, shelter and

protection. One good thing is that sheep always know their shepherd's voice and he knows and calls them by their name. Let's get back to our story.

Did you know that the shepherd loved his sheep and took very good care of them? Soon, he realized that Woolina was missing and went to look for her. He didn't know where she was. He was very worried. The shepherd called and called to the little lost sheep, but he didn't hear an answer. The shepherd loved little Woolina. It was beginning to get dark. Soon the wolves and mountain lions would go out hunting for food. "I'd better go look for little Woolina right now," the shepherd decided.

Now the shepherd also had 99 other sheep already safely tucked into the fold and ready to go to sleep. Would you leave 99 sheep just to go look for only one that was lost?

Because the shepherd loved Woolina so much he looked and looked and hoped and hoped, and walked and walked. The sky grew darker and darker. He crossed a bubbling stream. He carefully stepped through briars and thorns. "Ouch." He climbed over big rocky hills. He kept calling, "Woolina!" Finally, the shepherd heard a faint little, "baa." He called her name again and again. "Baa." He heard it a little louder. "BAA."

The shepherd found little Woolina. Her woolly white coat was caught in a thorny bush. "Baa," said the scared little sheep! Woolina was so glad to hear the voice of the shepherd. She knew she was safe now. He picked her up in his strong arms and hugged her. Woolina's heart beat fast as the shepherd held her close.

The shepherd carried the sheep gently back to the fold. "Look!" the shepherd called to his friends, "I found my little lost sheep! Come celebrate with me."

Say: Did you know that Jesus is like that shepherd and we're like the little sheep? Jesus loves us very much. He'll always take good care of us, and if we ever wander away from Him, he'll always come find us. Jesus wants us to be in His family.

Ask: How do you think little Woolina felt when the shepherd found her?

Ask: What did you like best about the good shepherd?

Ask: What would it feel like to have a shepherd like that?

Ask: How is Jesus like the good shepherd in our story?  
[Answers: He cares for us. He gives us the things we need. He would do anything to save us—even giving His life.]

Ask: How is having Jesus in your life like having a good shepherd? [Answers: He'll lead and guide us. We can turn to Him in prayer. He'll protect us.]

### **LESSON APPLICATION:**

Supplies: Copy of lamb outline (one per child)

Scissors

Cotton balls

Glue

Moveable eyes

Have children:

1. Cut out the lamb outline.
2. Glue on cotton balls to make a fluffy, wooly lamb.
3. Glue on moveable eyes.

### **Music:**

Sing "I Just Wanna Be a Sheep" (from *Great Songs for God's Kids 2*, 1992, Singleton Productions, Inc.; manufactured and distributed by Word, Inc.) or "The Lord Is My Shepherd" (from *Sunday School Favorites 1, 2, 3*, 1998, Everland Entertainment, manufactured and distributed by Word, Inc.).

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

1 Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

Do: Teach a simplified version of the memory verse, "God cares for you," in sign language:

God: Point with the index finger of your right hand, with the other fingers curled down. Bring your hand down and open your palm.

Cares: Move your open right hand past your face and toward your left shoulder. Repeat the motion with your left hand.

You: Point out with your index finger.

# family activity

## THE POINT:

Today we learned how much Jesus cares for us and wants us to be in His family.

## ASK ME...

How smart are sheep?

Who watches out for the sheep?

Can you tell the story of the one little lost sheep?

Who is our shepherd?

How do we know that Jesus cares for us?

How do you say 1 Peter 5:7 (God cares for you) in sign language?

## FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Who said, "My Father does not want any little one to be lost" (paraphrase of Matthew 8:14)? Color all the squares containing the numbers 1, 4, and 6 to find the answer.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| 0 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| 7 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| 5 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| 8 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| 9 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| 5 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 |

Instructions: Cut the strip off the bottom of this page. You will see this week's memory verse on the backside. After your child has learned the verse, glue the two ends together, forming a link of a paper chain. Each lesson's memory verse will add a new link to their chain of Bible knowledge.

-----cut along dotted line-----

(Memory verse on reverse)

(Teacher's note: please write the memory verse on the back of this page at the bottom.)

