



CONNECTS EVERYDAY MOMENTS TO BIBLICAL WISDOM

Bible in Life lets you build a comprehensive ministry program that fits your budget and your church. No matter where kids are in their walk with Jesus, Bible in Life communicates the gospel with life-changing clarity, inspiring people of all ages to know God and make Him known.

The lessons and activities help your kids see God's truth all around them as you disciple this generation.

AGES

Toddlers to Preteens

FORMAT

Age-graded classroom setting

SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Toddler-Early Elementary: 2 years
Elementary-Upper Elementary:
3 years

LESSON TIME

60-90 Minutes



Download and explore every
age level at **BibleinLife.com**

Bible in Life lessons show children how to connect their everyday moments with biblical wisdom.

PRESCHOOL:

1. **Getting Ready for the Bible** helps children connect their experience through a short activity and discussion.
2. **Bible Story Time** uses engaging storytelling to guide children to discover what the Bible says.
3. **The Bible and Me** activity centers feature play, crafts, and simple games to give preschoolers space explore the Bible story.
4. **Going Home with the Bible** helps preschoolers apply what they learned about God to their lives.

EARLY ELEMENTARY:

1. **Bible Readiness** invites children to connect their experiences to the Bible through a short activity and discussion.
2. **Bible Study** guides kids deeper into God's Word by actively reading, exploring, and experiencing God's story.
3. **Bible Activity Choices** helps children review what they explored in the Bible through engaging activities.
4. **Bible Response** helps children apply the story they learned to their daily lives.

ELEMENTARY:

1. **Bible Readiness** invites children to connect their experiences to the Bible through a short activity and discussion.
2. **Bible Story** explores what God's Word says using a Bible story and review time.
3. **Bible Activity Choices** encourages children to review the Bible lesson with activities tailored to different learning style.
4. **Bible Response** helps children connect and apply the story they learned to their daily lives.

UPPER ELEMENTARY:

1. **Connecting with God's Word** helps students relate the Bible study to their own experience.
2. **Studying God's Word** invites students to dig deeper into God's Word by actively reading and exploring God's story.
3. **Interacting with God's Word** encourages students to practice the lesson they've been studying by exploring God's story.
4. **Applying God's Word** invites students take the lesson into their everyday lives.



Discover more at
BibleinLife.com

LESSON 10

Jesus Loves Us

Bible Basis: Luke 15:1-7

Lesson Focus: Jesus loves us.

Memory Verse: "[Jesus] went around doing good." —Acts 10:38

Easy-to-follow lesson path helps teachers visualize the lesson

Go to Bibleinlife.com for free unit videos (Preschool through Upper Elementary)

Lesson Video for Step 2!
Check out the contents page for details.

Invite teachers to understand the context of the Bible passage

1

Bible Readiness:

The children will join in finding a lost item and talking about their experiences with lost things, to help them get ready to learn about Jesus' love from Luke 15:1-7.

- ☐ Find the Lost Pencil: 10 pencils
- ☐ Sharing Time: No materials needed

2

Bible Story:

The children will learn a story that shows Jesus' love for us. Teach Luke 15:1-7: Jesus Loves Us.

- ☐ Bible Story: Bible, Teaching Aid 15 (from *Early Elementary Creative Teaching Aids*), story board, self-adhesive hook or glue dots
- ☐ Bible Story Review; *optional*: chairs, stick
- ☐ Memory Verse Practice: No materials needed

3

Bible Activity Choices:

The children will become involved with activities that review and reinforce that Jesus loves each of them.

- ☺ Self-Portraits and Lost Sheep: *Bible Beginnings* pp. 39-40, crayons, pencils; *optional*: small mirrors
- ☐ Story Plays with Masks: *Early Elementary Make-It/Take-It* page for Lesson 10, crayons, yarn, scissors, tape; *optional*: glue, cotton, chairs, stick
- ☐ Find the Lost Sheep Game: Teaching Aid 15 (from *Early Elementary Creative Teaching Aids*)

4

Bible Response:

The children will apply the lesson by remembering that Jesus loves them and by telling others about Jesus.

- ☐ *Bible Beginnings* pp. 41-42, pencils, scissors, *Storytime* for Lesson 10



This symbol will appear whenever preparation takes more than five minutes or whenever supplies are needed that are not included on the list of standard materials (on page 6).

Understanding the Bible

Jesus' audience was familiar with shepherds. The theme of the good and caring shepherd is clear in Scripture (Ps. 23; Isa. 40:11; Ezek. 34:11-16). Shepherds were common in the hills of Palestine. At the end of a day, when a shepherd brought his flocks in for the night, he would take a careful count. If even one sheep was missing, the shepherd would leave his flock with other shepherds and retrace his steps until he found the lost sheep. No matter how hungry or tired he was, he was devoted to finding the lost sheep. When he did, he rejoiced along with his fellow shepherds.

Jesus addressed His parable to the Pharisees. They criticized Jesus because He associated with sinners whom the religious leaders despised. The Pharisees and teachers of the law believed God forgave sinners who repented and came to Him. But the idea that God loved sinners so much that He would associate with them in that condition and seek them out to save them was not acceptable to the Pharisees and teachers of the law. The Pharisees thought their strict law-keeping pleased God. But actually it is the repentance of sinners who respond to God's love that causes a celebration in heaven.

Teacher Devotional

Jesus told the parable of the lost sheep to a sin-toughened crowd. They were tax collectors and recognized sinners. But there were also men who considered themselves righteous (Pharisees) and teachers of the law. We all need Jesus' love in our lives. Any one of us can feel lost at one time or another. Put yourself in Jesus' story. Imagine that you are the lost lamb. How did you get lost?

God is always reaching out with His great love for us. Whether we see ourselves like the one lost sheep needing rescue, or more like one of the 99 in the fold, Jesus loves us and is always seeking to save us with His grace and mercy.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who loves us. He gladly gave His life for us (John 10:11), wants us to rest in His love (Matt. 11:28), and celebrates everything His love accomplishes in our lives. What is Jesus' love accomplishing in your life?

When we receive Jesus' forgiveness, when we let His love find us however we are lost, we give Him joy! And His joy over us is shared with all the hosts of heaven. We can pray as Paul prayed in Ephesians 3:18-19, that we may be able "to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" for us.

Encourage teachers to personally ponder the lesson focus

Support teachers with valuable insights about children in this age level

When Teaching the Bible to Early-Elementary Students ...

Children this age understand why Jesus would tell a story to teach something important. Children learn in the early years of school that stories may entertain us, but they also can teach important lessons. Trust your children to be ready and willing to learn from the story of the lost sheep that Jesus loves us. But how they respond and apply the lesson may depend on other factors:

- Children learn about love through their early relationships, especially with their parents. Be aware that children who have not had a sound foundation at home in their early years may find it more difficult to believe that Jesus loves them.
- Expressions of love differ from family to family. Try to express God's love to your students in ways that are familiar to them. For example, most children will identify with a hug as showing love.
- Regardless of their early relationships, you can teach children about love through your relationship to them. By consistently demonstrating concern and interest in each child, you are teaching them about how Jesus loves us.

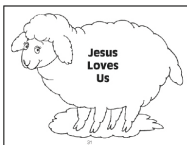
Welcome children with simple activities while others arrive

LESSON 10

Early Bird Options

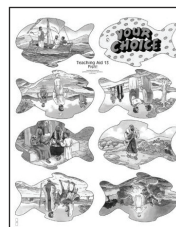
Give children who arrive early something meaningful to do. Provide one or more of these activities.

Craft Table – Let the children start thinking about sheep right away. Remove the sheep from the bottom half of *Make-It/Take-It*, page 31. Let the children decorate the sheep for a bulletin board display.



Drawing – Help the children begin thinking about what it means to love someone. Ask them to draw pictures of someone doing something that shows love.

Fish Game – Let the children review what they have learned. Put out the fish pieces from the Fish Game, Teaching Aid 13. Let the children pick a fish and tell the Bible story and truth they learned from the story.



LESSON 10 FOCUS:

Jesus loves us.

Capture attention with an activity that relates to the lesson focus

■ The children will join in finding a lost item and talking about their experiences with lost things, to help them get ready to learn about Jesus' love from Luke 15:1-7.

MATERIALS:

- ☐ 10 pencils or like items

Spark conversation with questions that tie the lesson focus to children's interests

1 Bible Readiness

Find the Lost Pencil

Today's Bible lesson from Jesus' story of the lost sheep in Luke 15:1-7 teaches students that Jesus loves all of us. Help children get ready to learn from the Bible by looking for a lost item and talking about losing things.

Before class, collect 10 pencils or any item you have 10 of. Hide at least one pencil in your classroom. Try to find an unlikely place to hide the pencil. Hide more than one pencil if you want the activity to take longer or want more children to find a lost pencil.

During class time, have the children help you count the pencils. **Oh, no! I'm missing a pencil. I should have 10 pencils. Where do you think the missing pencil is?** They might suggest you left it at home, or dropped it on the floor. Acknowledge all ideas.

The missing pencil is lost! I counted the pencils today before Sunday school. I'm sure there were 10. Now I only have nine. What could we do to find it? Where do you think we should look? The children will most likely suggest looking in the classroom. Send children to search for the pencil. Call the children back after about 30 seconds. They will probably not have found the pencil. This will help illustrate the need for searching carefully or searching longer. Send the children back to search again. This time give them time to find the pencil.

Show excitement when the lost pencil is found. **Yeah! You found the lost pencil! I'm glad you found the lost pencil! Now I have all of my pencils. Losing things isn't fun. But it's probably something we have all done sometime. Let's talk about times you have lost things.**

Sharing Time

- ❖ **What are some things you have lost?** You might hear about lost money, toys or parts of toys, dogs, coats, mittens, and so on. Acknowledge all of their lost things are important.
- ❖ **What do you do when you know something is lost?** The children could come up with a lot of different reactions. They would usually look it, but might also tell a parent what they lost, ask someone to help find it, ask a parent to buy a new one. Reinforce how we look for what we lost because it is important.
- ❖ **How do you feel when you lose something?** They could mention feelings such as anger or sadness. Reinforce the sadness of losing something and the importance of finding lost things. Some children might say they don't care about some lost things. Accept these responses without comment.
- ❖ **How do you feel when you find something that was lost?** Most will say they are happy and feel better.

Jesus told a story about someone who lost something important. Jesus told the story to teach people He loves us. Let's listen to Jesus' story.

LESSON 10 FOCUS:

Jesus loves us.

2 Bible Story

Connect children to God through His Word

■ The children will learn a story that shows Jesus' love for us.

MATERIALS:

Bible Story:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Teaching Aid 15
- ☐ Story board
- ☐ Self-adhesive hook or glue dots

Bible Review:

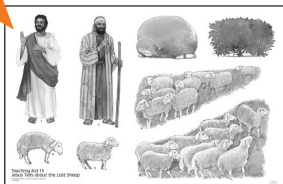
- ☐ *Optional:* chairs, stick

Compelling visual resources enhance storytelling

Before class, read Luke 15:1-7 and the Bible story presented below. Add self-adhesive hook or glue dots to the figures of Teaching Aid 15. Practice telling the Bible story aloud as you move the figures. Let your voice give expression to the drama of the story.

In class, bring the children around you so they can see you and the story board. Explain to the children that Jesus did many good things. One of these good things was to teach us by telling good stories. Open your Bible to Luke 15:1-7. Tell them that today's story comes from the book of Luke. Have a child find Luke on the Bible Timeline. Keep your Bible open during your story time.

Jesus Loves Us: Luke 15:1-7



Place Jesus, Figure 1, at upper right of the story board.) Jesus often taught people about Himself by telling stories. His stories gave people word

pictures for what He wanted them to learn. One day Jesus told a story about a sheep and a shepherd to teach us about His love. Here is how the story went.

Once there was a shepherd. (Place shepherd, Figure 2, and sheep, Figure 3, at lower left.) This shepherd had 100 sheep to take care of! (Place Figures 4 and 5 near the shepherd.)

The shepherd loved each of his sheep. Every morning he led the sheep to fields where they could eat fresh green grass. (Place rock and bush, Figures 6 and 7, at the center, with the lost sheep, Figure 8, hidden behind the bush. Move the sheep and shepherd near the rock and bush.) Near the end of each day, the shepherd brought the sheep home to be safe. (Move sheep and shepherd to the far left; remove Figure 3.)

Every night the shepherd counted the sheep to be sure he didn't lose any sheep. (Count and point to the sheep.) He counted, "One, two, three, four." He kept counting until at last he was near the end. "95, 96, 97, 98, 99. (Pause and look around.) I should have 100 sheep. Oh no, one of my sheep is lost!"

After he made sure the 99 sheep were safe, the shepherd went to look for the one lost sheep because he loved all of his sheep, including the lost one. (Move shepherd to the right.) The sun went down and it got dark, but still the shepherd looked. He looked everywhere. (Move shepherd to rock, Figure 6.) Finding the sheep was very important to him. He went back to the field of green grass where the sheep spent the day. The lost sheep wasn't there. He looked behind rocks, but he didn't find the lost sheep there either. The shepherd didn't stop looking because he loved the lost sheep just like he loved all of his sheep. Then at last the shepherd heard a familiar sound from behind a bush.

(Lift one side of the bush and pull out the lost sheep, Figure 8.) The shepherd looked behind the bush. There was the lost sheep! He found the sheep. (Place sheep, Figure 8, around the shepherd's shoulders and move them to the far left.) The shepherd picked it up and carried the sheep back home. He put the sheep that was lost with the other 99. Now all of his sheep were together where he could protect them. The shepherd was so happy that he called his friends and neighbors and said, "Come to a party. Celebrate with me because I found my lost sheep!"

(Hold Jesus, Figure 1, in front of you.) Jesus told this story to help us learn that He loves us just like the shepherd who loved all of his sheep. Jesus loves you, (point to each child) and you, and you. Jesus loves us.

Engage children with questions that help them recall the Bible story

Involve children in retelling the Bible story to make it stick

Bible Story Review Questions

- ❶ **Who did the shepherd love?** The shepherd loved all of his sheep.
- ❷ **What did the shepherd lose?** The shepherd lost a sheep.
- ❸ **Why did the shepherd go look for the lost sheep?** The shepherd loved the lost sheep. The shepherd loved all of his sheep.
- ❹ **What did the shepherd do when he found the sheep?** The shepherd took the sheep home. He put the sheep with the others. He called his friends to come to a party.
- ❺ **Why did the shepherd call his friends to come to a party?** He was happy that he found the sheep that he loved.
- ❻ **Why did Jesus tell this story?** Jesus told the story to help us learn that He loves us.
- ❼ **Who loves us?** Jesus loves us.

Guide your children in acting out this Bible story. Help them place chairs in an open circle for a sheep pen. Ask one volunteer to be the shepherd. Have the rest of the class be the sheep.

Start with the shepherd leading all of her sheep out of the pen in the morning. Select one sheep to go hide. Then have the shepherd lead all but the one lost sheep back to the pen. Let the shepherd count the sheep as they go in. Have the shepherd announce what she discovers. Let the shepherd go find the one lost sheep and lead it back to the sheep pen. Then have the shepherd call out, "I found my lost sheep! Come celebrate with me!" Invite everyone to jump up and shout, "Jesus loves us."

Repeat the story play to allow different children to volunteer to be the shepherd and the lost sheep.

Bible Story Review Activity

Early-elementary age children like to use their knowledge for acting out stories they know. This activity will also help the children connect themselves with the sheep as the ones that God loves.

Intentional activities help kids hide God's Word in their hearts

Memory Verse Practice

The memory verse will help the children remember that Jesus did good things like teaching us about His love through stories.

Have the children say the verse with you. Repeat the verse five times, each time replacing a word with a clap, as in the song "B-I-N-G-O."

The last time will be five claps followed by everyone saying "Acts 10:38."

For a variation, ask the children to suggest different silent actions to do for each word you leave out. Some possible actions might be: jump, hop, turn around, step forward, step backward, and so on.

Memory Verse:
"[Jesus] went around doing good."
Acts 10:38

LESSON 10 FOCUS:

Jesus loves us.

3 Bible Activity Choices

Invite children to explore the lesson focus through engaging activity options—choose one or all three!

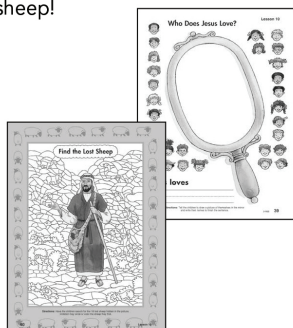
■ The children will become involved with activities that review and reinforce that Jesus loves each of them.

These activity choices will let the children identify themselves as the focus of Jesus' love and revisit the Bible story in different ways. Offer as many of these activity options as you can to give the best opportunity for each child to find something that fits his or her learning style.

Self-Portraits and Lost Sheep

- ☐ Bible Beginnings, pages 39 and 40,
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Pencils
- 😊 *Optional:* small mirrors

Show the class page 39 as you point to the white drawing area in the hand mirror frame. Tell the children to draw a picture of themselves in the hand mirror. Then the children write their own names on the blank lines at the bottom. Reinforce that Jesus loves each of them when you visit this center. On page 40 the children search for 18 lost sheep. Let them search and color the hidden sheep. Remember that Jesus loves every one of us, so don't miss any of the hidden sheep!

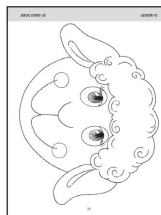


Story Plays with Masks

- ☐ Make-It/Take-It page for Lesson 10
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Yarn
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ *Optional:* glue, cotton, chairs, stick

Before you begin the story plays, let the children make their own sheep masks. Have the children remove the masks from the page, then remove the eye holes and open the nose slit. Show them where to tape yarn for tying the masks on their heads.

If you guided the children in the Bible story play review activity on page 75, then they should be ready to conduct their own Bible story plays. If you didn't use the Bible story review activity, you might use the suggestions for the active review on page 75 to help guide this activity.



Find the Lost Sheep Game

- ☐ Lost sheep Figure 3 from Teaching Aid 15

In Jesus' story, the shepherd went looking for the lost sheep because he loved each of his sheep. Your students can better understand Jesus' love for them by searching for a lost sheep, too. Tell the children to pick a volunteer to hide the sheep, Figure 3. Then the other players search for the sheep. When they find it, let them celebrate by saying, "We found the lost sheep." Play more rounds, but have a different volunteer hide the sheep each time.



Creative student pages and crafts engage kids with different learning styles

Encourage children to apply what they learned to their lives

LESSON 10 FOCUS:

Jesus loves us.

4 Bible Response

■ The children will apply the lesson by remembering that Jesus loves them and by telling others about Jesus.

MATERIALS:

- ☐ Bible Beginnings, pages 41 and 42
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Scissors



We learned from Jesus' story that Jesus is like the shepherd who loved all of his sheep. Jesus loves each one of us.

- ☞ **How do you know Jesus loves you?** Let the children have time to think. The quality of their answers can depend on having enough uninterrupted thinking time. When the children respond you will hear a variety of ideas. Some responses might be: the Bible tells us, He cares for us, He gives us what we need, and so on.

Jesus told His story about the shepherd and his sheep so everyone would know that He loves us.

- ☞ **How could we help others know that Jesus loves them?** Let them think and talk. Some ideas might be: tell others the story of the shepherd, show people my lamb mask, have people look in a mirror and tell them they are looking at someone Jesus loves, etc.

Here are badges you can use to help you remember Jesus loves you, and you might use them to tell others about Jesus too! Hand out Bible Beginnings, pages 41 and 42, scissors, and pencils.

Keep one of the badges for your reminder. On that badge, write your name on the line after "Jesus loves _____!"

Let the children have time to write their names on a badge they pick.

Give the other two badges to others to let them know Jesus loves all of us. Think of others you would like to give a "Jesus loves me!" badge to. Offer to print names on the board to help the children write names of others. Children might write names of family members, friends, classmates, and so on. Let them cut out the badges if time allows.

- ☞ **What do you plan to do with your badges?** Let the children talk. Reinforce ideas. Plans can be unlimited. Some ideas might be: put my reminder badge in my room, give two badges to friends at school tomorrow, wait till I find someone who is sad, and so on.

TAKE-HOMES

- ☐ Storytime for Lesson 10
- ☐ Self-Portrait and Lost Sheep
- ☐ Sheep Mask
- ☐ "Jesus Loves Us" badges



Seeing God throughout the Week

The lesson today about the shepherd searching for his one lost sheep shows us how much Jesus loves us. Encourage your students to look for ways Jesus shows them He loves them and their family and friends.

Prayer Time

What are some sentences we might say in prayers to thank Jesus for loving us? Let the children think and talk. Repeat or rephrase ideas to help them remember suggestions. Begin a time of prayer for volunteers to thank Jesus for His love.

Foster connection to God and one another by prompting prayer

Storytime

A Take-Home Paper
for Early Elementary

Little Lost Sheep

Bible Story based on Luke 15:1-7

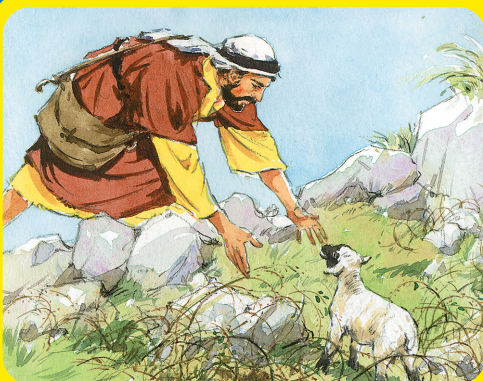
Resources
for home to help
families connect!



1. A shepherd had 100 sheep. He loved all of them. He helped them find grass to eat. At night he put them in their pen.



2. Every night the shepherd counted the sheep as they came home. One night the shepherd felt sad. One of the sheep was missing.



3. The shepherd looked and looked. Finally he found the little lost sheep. He was so happy he asked his friends to come over for a party.



4. Jesus said, "I am like that shepherd." Jesus loves each of us just like the shepherd loved each one of his sheep.

Add more **flexibility** and **fun** with these **resource options**.



PRINT



MUSIC



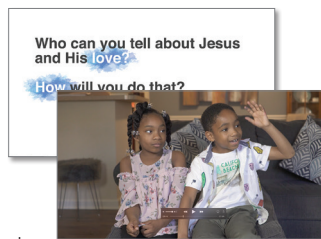
VIDEO



DIGITAL
DOWNLOAD

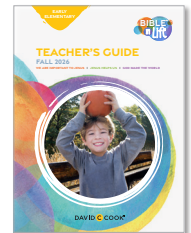
Lesson Videos

Each unit features a different video showing children living out their faith in everyday life. These three-to-four-minute video segments highlight the monthly unit theme.



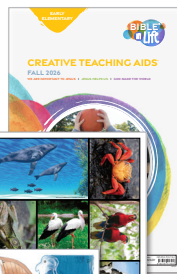
Teacher Guide

In every lesson, you'll find a teacher devotional, Bible background information, tips on understanding and teaching specific age levels, and the Bible story along with a variety of activities to help students learn and apply the Bible lesson.



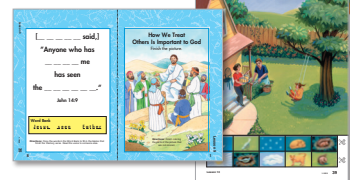
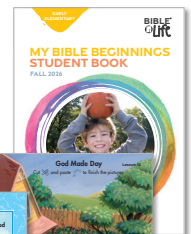
Creative Teaching Aids

This packet equips you with all essential audio and visual resources that support each lesson. Packets include a quarterly attendance chart, posters, figures, games, and PraisePAC.



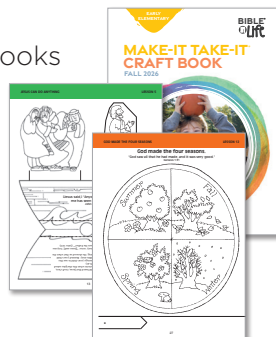
Student Activity Pages

In-class student books for each lesson, including Bible study pages and activities.



Craft Book

In-class student craft books are full of hands-on projects and crafts. These ageappropriate projects can be done by the students with little or no help from the teacher.



Take-Home Pages

Teachers can use these in-class/take-home papers to help Bible lessons thrive in students' hearts and hands.

