



CELEBRATES AFRICAN AMERICAN FAITH AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Echoes literature connects God's Word to life, presenting the relevant gospel of Jesus Christ to the African American church. People of all ages develop Bible knowledge and foster lifelong spiritual growth—all while making meaningful connections to the African American experience.

Lessons are easy to use, relatable, and certain to keep your students engaged. The scope and sequence for each age level is developmentally appropriate and connects all ages thematically with the Sunday School Superintendent Handbook.

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 free lessons and
explore every age level at
EchoesCurriculum.com



Echoes Sunday school literature inspires children to connect God's Word to their everyday lives.

1. **Life Need** Connect children with each other and with God's Word through a relevant opening activity.
2. **Bible Learning** Study God's Word through exploring a Bible story and finding key themes and takeaways.
3. **Bible Application** Engage Scripture through deeper discussion and interactive activities.
4. **Life Response** Encourage children to connect and apply the story they learned to their daily lives.

Teaching methods complement life experiences of ethnically diverse students. An excellent educational mix of teaching tools match developmental abilities and reach every student's learning style: visual, active, and auditory learning.



Discover more at
EchoesCurriculum.com

EARLY ELEMENTARY LESSON

ECHOES

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

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

THEME FOR UNIT 6: Jesus Did Good Things
UNIT MEMORY VERSE: Acts 10:38
CHURCH/HOME THEME: Christ Jesus Is Our Savior

lesson 10

Jesus Teaches about God's Love

Show children how to apply the lesson to life

See what is happening in each step and any needed supplies

BIBLE BASIS

Jesus tells the story of the lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7).

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus loves us.

MEMORY VERSE

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

LESSON AIM

That your students will be thankful that God loves each of them.

1 LIFE NEED (5 MINUTES)

- Identify the feelings we have when we are lost



Materials: Stuffed animal

2 BIBLE LEARNING (10-15 MINUTES)

- Tell the story of a shepherd looking for a lost sheep
- Review with questions and an activity



Materials: Bible; Bible figures "Jesus Tells about the Lost Sheep" (Teaching Aid 15); *optional:* 100 cotton balls; *Storytime* paper for Lesson 10

3 BIBLE APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

- Review the memory verse with a poem
- Make sheep masks
- Use sheep masks to act out the story



Materials: *Early Elementary Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 10, yarn; *optional:* cotton, glue

4 LIFE RESPONSE (10 MINUTES)

- Tell a story of children who are lost
- Search for paper hearts
- Children name ways they can help others know about Jesus' love



Materials: *Storytime* paper for Lesson 10; red paper hearts cut out before class and hidden in the classroom

Understanding Your Students

Your students understand that 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. Some children may find it more difficult to believe that Jesus loves them. By consistently demonstrating concern and interest in each child, you are teaching them about how Jesus loves us.

Support teachers with valuable insights about children in this age level

10



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.

EARLY ELEMENTARY | LESSON 10

1

Order today at DavidCCook.org

Understanding the Bible

The parable of the lost sheep is followed by two other parables in Luke 15. Jesus told these parables in response to an objection by the Pharisees and the teachers of the law. These men said that Jesus welcomed sinners and ate with them. Jesus wanted the self-righteous religious leaders to know He did this because of God's love for everyone. "Pharisees" (vs. 2) were highly committed lay people. They were dedicated to carrying out the 613 commandments (or rules) of the rabbis (or Jewish teachers). Unlike the Sadducees, the Pharisees believed that all those oral laws were binding (as well as Scripture). Most of the chief priests were of the religious party of the Sadducees (who only held to the first five books in the Old Testament).

The "scribes" (Luke 15:2, KJV) were those who originally transcribed (or copied) the Scriptures. (Ezra was a scribe.) Eventually the scribes (in New Testament times) were considered to be the experts in the Old Testament law (compare the parallel accounts of Mark 12:28, KJV ["one of the scribes"] with Matt. 22:35, KJV ["a lawyer"].) The scribes were like Bible scholars or theologians among the Jews.

"Sinners" were usually considered to be those people who were adulterers and robbers, although often included people who lacked the time or money to follow the laws of Moses, as interpreted by the teachers of the law. "Publicans" (vs. 1, 2) were tax

word for tax collectors. Tax collectors were especially hated by many Jewish people. Not only did they collect the taxes for the Romans who occupied Israel, but they also frequently cheated their own people and charged excessive taxes in order to make themselves rich.

By eating with "sinners," Jesus established fellowship with these people and indicated acceptance of them. His association with these despised persons showed God's interest and concern for them.

Jesus always went beyond outward appearances and looked at the hearts of people. He said that repentance was essential and hinted that the Pharisees thought they needed no repentance. The Pharisees totally overlooked God's grace, love, and forgiveness.

God's love for each of us is expressed in the story of the lost sheep. The shepherd left 99 sheep in order to find one sheep that was lost. Jesus said that even as the shepherd rejoiced over finding one sheep, there is rejoicing in heaven "over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:7).

Notice the percentages in the three parables. Jesus shifts from one-out-of-a-hundred sheep (Luke 15:4) to one-out-of-ten coins (Luke 15:8) to one-out-of-two figs (Luke 15:11). It almost seems as if He were trying to show us just how important we human beings are to God. God does love each of us. He seeks to save the lost (Luke 19:10).

Use Classroom
Tips to make the
most of your learning
time together

Begin
each lesson
with songs and
prayer

Classroom Tips

Here are some ways to help all of your students experience God's love.

- Focus on the individual care the shepherd gives each of his sheep, and model this love. Comfort your students when they are sad; listen excitedly when they are glad. They'll soon believe that God loves them too!
- Since each child is special to you, find something to commend in each one.
- Call each child by name, for no other word sounds as sweet to him or her. If you have trouble remembering names, don't be afraid to use name tags. Children love them!
- Some children may need extra attention—those who feel "lost" because they are new or wondering if others like them. As you remind them that God loves them, show them that you do too! When you talk to them, sit on a low chair or kneel beside them so that you are at their eye level.

Worship Activities

- Call the children for worship with a transition song.
- Collect offerings and say a prayer for them.
- Say a prayer. **Dear Jesus, thank You for showing us how much You love us. In Your name. Amen.**

Before Class

Give each child a personal greeting. Your personal remarks will let each child know that he or she is special to Jesus and to you.

Today we will hear a Bible story that tells us how much Jesus loves us.

Remind the children to mark their attendance with a small sticker, by writing an X, or coloring a square. Let your students place their offerings in the offering container before leading them to the first activity of the

Getting Started

The following activities will prepare the children for the story of the lost sheep.

-  **Bulletin Board:** Remove a sheep pattern for each child from page 3 of Make-It/Take-It. The children can color the sheep or add cotton to make them soft. You may want to display the sheep on a bulletin board. **Today we will hear a Bible story about sheep.**
- **Story Fish Game:** For review of previous lessons, use Teaching Aid 13 and the fishing pole from last week. Add the fish with the picture of Jesus healing the man who is deaf. Let children play using the rules you taught in Lesson 8.
- **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. **We can show someone we love them by what we do.**

Students connect their own experience to the Bible story, all in the context of African American culture and community

1 Life Need 5 minutes

Objective: That your students will talk about times they have been lost.

This activity will prepare your students for the Bible story about the lost sheep. Before the children arrive, hide a stuffed animal. During class, talk about the feelings we have when we are lost.

Have you ever been lost? (Let the children tell about times they were lost.) **How did you feel?** (Probably scared, alone.) **We have a stuffed animal that is lost. Let's all look for it. We can pretend we are parents looking for a lost child.**

Encourage the children to talk about their feelings as they search. **Are you worried about the stuffed animal? I'm worried too. I hope we find it soon. She may be crying because she's afraid.**

Children who have not attended school may be unfamiliar with classroom games. If they don't know where to look, give them hints or let them follow you as you look for the stuffed animal. **I think I heard a noise near the bookcase. Try looking over there.**

Express joy when the stuffed animal is found. **We found the stuffed animal! Now we all are happy.** Pretend to talk to the stuffed animal. **We were so worried about you. We're so glad we found you!**

- **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?** (Children would usually look for 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?** (Anger, sadness. Reinforce the sadness of losing something and the importance of finding lost things.)
- **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.

2 Bible Learning

10–15 minutes

Objective: That your students will learn how God's love is like that of a shepherd for his lost sheep.

In advance, remove the Bible figures from Teaching Aid 15. Attach self-adhesive hook or glue dots to the back of the figures. Arrange figures in the order you will show them. *Optional:* to help the children visualize 100 sheep, bring 100 cotton balls and show 99 as a group and one to one. Have your Bible open to Luke 15 as you tell the story.

BIBLE STORY

(Place Jesus, Figure 1, at upper right of the story board.)

Jesus taught people about Himself by telling stories. One day He told a story about a sheep and a shepherd to teach us about His love.

There was a shepherd

(Place shepherd, Figure 2, and

sheep, Figure 3, at lower left.) **who had one hundred sheep to take care of!** (Place Figures 4 and 5 near the shepherd.)

The shepherd loved each of his sheep. Every morning he led them 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 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. (Look around.) I should have 100 sheep. 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 everywhere. (Move shepherd to rock, Figure 6.) **Looking for the sheep was very important to him.** (Move shepherd back to the field of green grass.) **The shepherd spent the day. The lost sheep was still there.** He looked behind rocks, but he didn't find the lost sheep there either. The shepherd decided to stop looking because he loved the lost sheep just like he loved all of his sheep. The shepherd heard a familiar sound from behind a bush.

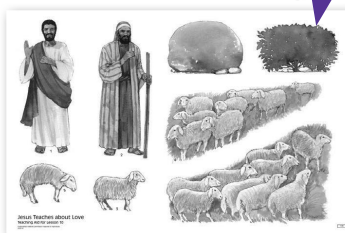
(Lift one side of the bush and pull out the lost sheep, Figure 8.) **The shepherd looked behind the bush. There was the lost sheep!** (Place sheep, Figure 8, around the shepherd's shoulders and move them to the far left.) **The shepherd picked it up and carried the sheep back home. He put the sheep back with the other 99. 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).

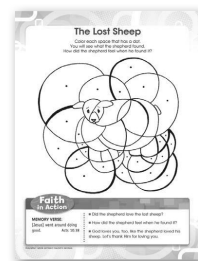
BIBLE STORY REVIEW

- What did the shepherd do when he noticed one of the sheep was lost? (He looked for it everywhere.)
- Who loves us just like the shepherd loved each sheep? (Jesus)

Distribute *Storytime* for Lesson 10. Have students complete the activity.



"Jesus Tells about the Lost Sheep"
Teaching Aid 15



Storytime, Lesson 10,
page 4

Where the Bible Truth connects with life through a variety of activities like a memory verse or a craft

3 Bible Application 10 minutes

Objective: That your students will learn that Jesus loves them.

MEMORY VERSE

Help students find the verse on page 4 of *Storytime*. Read it together with your students. **In today's story, Jesus helped people learn that He loves us. Our poem tells about some of the good things Jesus did. When we say the poem, listen for these things.** Say the poem together.

Jesus went around doing good.

(Walk in place.)

What good things did He do?

(Hold flat palm over eyes as if looking.)

He taught, forgave; He helped and prayed.

(Clap twice after each action word.)

I want to be like Jesus too.

(Walk in place.)

Jesus teaches, forgives, helps, and prays. Let's say our memory verse says again: "Jesus went around doing good" (Acts 10:38). Everything Jesus did was good.

Collect the *Storytime* papers and then put them away until the end of class.

HANDCRAFT

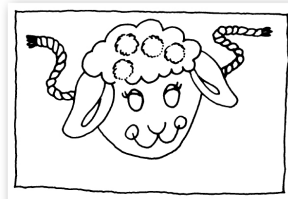
Before class, remove *Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 10 from each booklet and cut two 12-inch pieces of yarn for each student.

Help the students remove the masks and eyeholes. Some of them may wish to color their projects while others may prefer to keep their sheep white. Then show the students how to tape a piece of yarn to each side of the sheep's face near the ear.

Optional: you might want to provide the children with bits of cotton to glue onto their masks as fluffy sheep's wool.

Tie the masks around your students' heads. 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 Jesus loves.

Guide your children in acting out this Bible story. Help them place chairs in an open circle for a



Make-It/Take-It, Lesson 10

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.

Jesus loves each one of us, too, like the shepherd loved each of his sheep.



4

Life Response 10 minutes

Students practice the Lesson Aim in class, then apply it to their own lives during the week.

The objective highlights the Lesson Aim as students take what they learn and apply it to life.

Objective: That your students will name ways they can help others know that Jesus loves them.

Read aloud to your students the "Lost!" comic strip on pages 2 and 3 of *Storytime*.

PRESENT-DAY STORY

Scene 1—"Juan, Bella, please stay close to me. I do not want to lose you," said Mrs. de la Cruz.

Scene 2—"Look, Bella, at all the colors!" Juan said.

"Red, yellow, green, blue," Isabella said.

Scene 3—"What color?" asked Isabella.

"That color is orange, Bella. We need to stay with Mom. We can look for more things that are orange," Juan said.

Scene 4—"Oh no! I do not see Mom. We need to stay right here. Mom will find us," Juan said.

"Lost? I want Mommy!" Isabella was scared.

Scene 5—"Let's pray and ask God to help Mom find us. Dear Jesus, we know You and Mom love us. Please help Mom find us."

Scene 6—"There you are. I'm glad I found you. I love you too much to lose you," said Mrs. de la Cruz.

"We stayed right here and prayed God would help you find us," said Juan.

Scene 7—"I am glad God helped me find you and you stayed where you were. I was not too far away. I just turned the corner and saw you were not with me. Let's finish our shopping," said Mrs. de la Cruz.



Storytime, Lesson 10, pages 2-3

As each child finds and brings his heart to you, whisper, **Jesus loves you**, (child's name).

All artwork emphasizes an African American perspective.

■ **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.

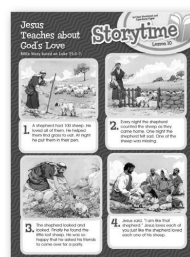
■ **How could we help others know that Jesus loves them?** (Let them think and talk. Some ideas might be: tell others the story of the shepherd, show people my lamb mask, have people look in a mirror and tell them they are looking at someone Jesus loves, etc.)

Say a prayer with your class. **Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us so much. We love You too. In Your name. Amen**

Be sure each child has a copy of *Storytime* for Lesson 10 and the *Make-It/Take-It* sheep mask.

This is an excellent lesson in which to present the salvation message. Talk with parents about spiritually mature students who express an interest in being part of God's family.

Say a personal goodbye to each child. **Jesus loves you! Tell others about Him.**



Storytime, Lesson 10, page 1

Jesus Teaches about God's Love

Bible story based on Luke 15:1-7

In-Class Worksheet and
Take-Home Paper

Storytime

Lesson 10

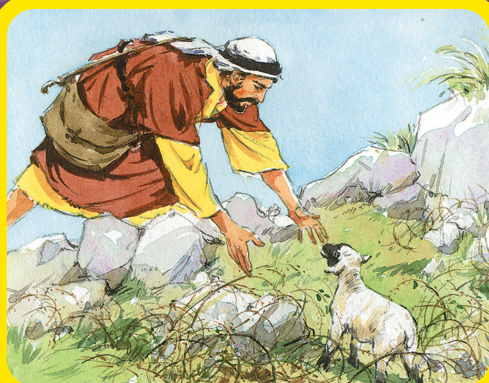
Resources
for home to help
families connect!



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 that he asked his friends to come over for a party.



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

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



PRINT



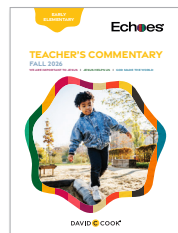
MUSIC



DIGITAL
DOWNLOAD

Teacher's Commentary

Bible background with African American biblical heritage highlights and other teacher helps are combined to create easy-to-teach lessons for each age level.



Creative Teaching Aids

Visual and audio resources (Bible art posters, moveable figures, and PraisePAC) enhance the lessons in the Teacher's Commentary.



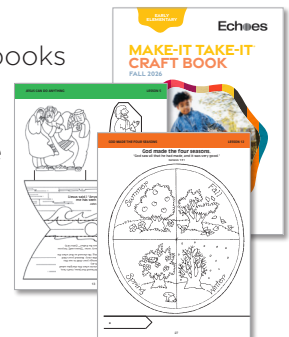
Student Activity Pages

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 age-appropriate 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.



Superintendent's Handbook

With this handbook you and your teachers will be able to better follow God's calling in your Christian education ministry. This enables you, the Sunday school leader, to guide all your classes toward a common goal—age-appropriate and biblical discipleship.

