



Where are my sheep

Welcome (Parents and Carers asked to stay until after the Pilots Prayer)

Welcome back to Friends on Faith Adventures. We are looking forward to going on a journey and nobody knows where we will end up. All we know is we have got our crate filled with adventure and an open path ahead. So, hold on tight and enjoy the ride!!

Let's hear about FOFA bear and FOFA cam's adventures this week and how everyone got on with the Walking the Way challenge. (Encourage everyone, including parents and carers, to join in.)

The Pilots Prayer

Lord help us to be:

Prepared for adventure

In all we do.

Loving and caring,

Open to others

Together as one community

Sharing the love of Jesus on our way.

Amen

Fun Together

What you will need:

Find the sheep

- 40 x Green Paper cut in the shape of bushes/drawn bushes
- 2 x Sheep images

Circle of sheep

- Stickers, one with sheep written on it.

Sticky Sheep

- Vaseline
- Cotton wool balls



Where are my sheep

FIND THE SHEEP

Cut 20 bushes out of green paper. On the reverse of each of the bushes draw/print and stick an image of a sheep. Hide the bushes around the room – choose appropriate places depending on the age and height of the children! Send the children to find all the hidden bushes. When a child finally finds the 20th bush with a sheep on the back, get them all to do a celebratory dance or cheer. To make it more of a challenge, you may want to play the theme tune to Mission Impossible or something similar and see if they can find them all before the music finishes!

CIRCLE OF SHEEP: Get the children and leaders to stand in a circle representing a circle of sheep. Choose one child to be the shepherd who will stand in the middle of the circle of sheep. A leader will walk around the outside edge of the sheep circle and pat each sheep on the back and will "secretly" place a sticker on the back of one child without anyone knowing who she picked for the ONE SHEEP that the Shepherd will find. Then the "Shepherd" will guess who has the sticker - that "sheep" will turn around and let the shepherd see if the sticker is on his back; if not, the Shepherd will continue to look for his "sheep" with the sticker. IF the sheep with the sticker is found by the Shepherd, the shepherd should shout "found you" and then race the person with the sheep sticker round the outside of the circle and back to the space where the sheep was standing. If the sheep wins, then the game begins again. If the shepherd wins, then they take the sheep's place and the person who had the sheep sticker then becomes the shepherd. (Make sure to take the used sticker off before continuing to play the game).

STICKY SHEEP: Put a little Vaseline on each child's nose and let them see how many cotton balls they can get stuck on their face and nose in the allotted time that the leader gives them. This is a good opportunity for some photographs!

Today's theme is about God never gives up on us and cares about us as individuals, no matter who we are

The Big Story: The Lost Sheep

Luke 15: 1-7

Get the children and the leaders to sit around in a circle to listen to the story.

Reader 1: Today we are going to hear about one of the stories that Jesus told. Jesus told lots of stories to help people understand things.



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Jesus was hanging out with a lot of people that other people thought weren't good enough to be Jesus's friends. The chief priests and holy people of the time were not impressed. They thought it was wrong for Jesus to hang around with these bad people.

Reader 2: "He take in people who do wrong things. He eats meals with them and treats them like old friends!!!!" they said.

Reader 1: Now their moaning and complaining was getting on Jesus' nerves and so he told this story. We are going to be the characters in the story and you each need a number.

Use sticky labels numbered from 1 to however many children and adults you have. Give each of the children and leaders a sticker, leaving one to be the shepherd.

You are all sheep. Can you baaaa like sheep? And can you stop baaa-ing now please!!

Get them all to line up and shout out their number in order.

Reader 1: So, we have (however many) sheep. Jesus said imagine you are a shepherd, and these are your sheep... But your sheep scattered all over the hill side.

Get the shepherd to close his/her eyes while the children to go and spread out or hide around the room. (If there is nowhere for them to hide, they could pretend to be hiding e.g. stand like a tree or curl up small as though hiding behind something) Prime one of the leaders to slip out of the room.

Then send out your shepherd to go and find them all. As the touch each sheep, the sheep should hold the shepherd's hand and the next one should join on to make a chain of sheep being led by the shepherd. Once all have been gathered, return to the story-teller. Get the shepherd to count the sheep.

Reader 2: Hold on there's one missing

Reader 1: No there's not, they are all here. Look, let's count them 1,2,3 etc *(realises that there is one missing)*

Reader 2: Not to worry. We still have all these others.

Reader 1: Well, that is what the people that Jesus was speaking to thought. But Jesus thought differently. He said that for a good shepherd, one missing sheep is just as important as all the others. A good shepherd would leave the rest of the sheep somewhere safe and to go and look for that one missing sheep. *(Speaking to the shepherd)* Shall we go and find that missing sheep then?

Take the shepherd to find the missing sheep the return to the group and all sit down.



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Reader 1: Jesus said to the people that when the shepherd found the sheep, he carried it all the way back and was singing songs of praise, he was so happy. We won't carry this lost sheep though!

Then, when he got home, he called all his neighbours around for a party to celebrate.

Get out some party hats and some little sweets for each of the children and leaders and pretend to have a party

Reader 2: Hold on! Hold on! This is all very nice and all, but what has this got to do with Jesus having some dodgy friends? Has anybody here got any ideas about what the story helps us understand? *Encourage the children to put forward some ideas.*

Reader 1: Well, the shepherd celebrated because he'd found the lost sheep, even though he'd got 99 safe at home. Jesus explained that God is happy in the same way when he has everybody believing in him and walking in his way. He said "there is more partying in heaven when one person who's got it wrong comes back to me than over any number of good people who don't really need me." Isn't that amazing that Jesus cares about everyone, even those who get it wrong. He never gives up on anyone.

Reader 2: So God even loves those people we think are horrible?

Reader 1: Yes

Reader 2: I wonder if we can help someone be friends with God?

Creative Adventure

What you will need:

- Green Party Cups
- Green Paper
- Printed images of a sheep (supplied below)
- Lolly Sticks or green garden canes
- Glue
- Colored Pencils
- Scissors





Where are my sheep

- Flower stickers or Flower Foam Shapes.

How to Make:

1. Before class cut off the ridge of the paper cups. (If you don't have green cups you can glue green paper around a paper cup.) Cut a slit in the middle of the bottom of the cup so that a stick will fit through.
2. Print out the Sheep Patterns onto white card stock.
3. Have your children color the sheep patterns and glue them to the end of a lolly stick, and then Insert the stick into the bottom of the cup.
4. Older children can cut slits in the top of the cup to make it look like grass. Write the words "Where is the Lost Sheep" on the green paper on a piece about 4cms high and long enough to wrap around the bottom of the cup and cut the top in to a pattern to make it look like grass. Have your children glue the words to the front of the cup.
5. To finish decorate the cup with flower stickers or flower craft foam shapes.

NOTE: you may want to think about the environment and repurpose used (washed) cups or use paper cups or biodegradable plantpots covered in green paper.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder why we are so important to God....

I wonder what things lead us away from God...

I wonder what things you would never stop looking for if they were lost....

The Adventure Map

Explain the Adventure Map and how a lot of the books were written shortly after Jesus's time. They tell us about what Jesus said and did and how his friends lived their lives, sharing with others how to be good followers of Jesus.



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Take the young people to the Adventure Map that you have created on the wall. Get the children to find where on the Map today's story came from. Choose one or some of the things created by the children to be photographed and attach this to the wall to create a visual reminder of where the story came from and your adventure together. The aim is that in a year you will have lots of reminders of the stories and where in the Bible they come from. Use a piece of string or ribbon to connect the photo of the craft work to the book of the Bible.

Walking the Way

This is a time to invite the parents and carers back in to share what the children have been up to during the session. They will also be here to hear about the Walking the Way challenge and the tasks (should they choose to accept them) that the children (and parents) are about to undertake.

For the Younger: FOFA the bear

This is FOFA. FOFA likes nothing more than to go on an adventure; FOFA is a little more adventurous than me. FOFA believes that faith is a journey and that's why FOFA would love to take you on a journey with him and walk the way of God in our everyday lives. Each session FOFA would like to go home with one of you and add to FOFA's scrapbook of things you do together. FOFA doesn't mind if you draw a picture of what you have done, take a photograph or just write a story about it. FOFA also doesn't mind if you just come and tell the rest of us what you got up to together. But because FOFA's memory isn't very good as FOFA's brains are made of stuffing, it would be better to save the memories in the book if you can. At the end of our time together we can always remember the great adventures we have been on together with FOFA and hopefully you will walk a little closer with God.

For the Older: FOFA cam

This camera is your window on the world. You have one shot at this, so choose carefully. You will be given a very precious piece of equipment – a FOFA cam. You have one photo to take with the camera, that records one thing – a way you have met the challenge. If there are other people in the photo, please ask their permission first and explain this photo will be put on display here. Bring back the camera and your photo next time to share your moment - and remember you only have ONE shot at this!

Every time we will choose someone to take FOFA bear and someone to take FOFA cam to help them with the challenge – but we can all have a go at the challenge!



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Our Walking the Way Challenge this time is: Find someone on the playground who looks lost or alone and offer to play with them.

Adventurers Go!

So, today's story was about how Jesus told the people that God wants everyone to know him no matter who they are. Everyone is welcome in his house and to follow him no matter what.

Prayers (choose one/both)

Dear God

We sometimes think there are people who are not as good as us or are not nice.

You don't think like that.

You accept everyone no matter who they are.

Help us share your love by what we say and do and how we treat people.

Help us to keep thinking of others and be happy when people find your love.

Amen

Active Prayer

Cut a large sheep outline and place it on the floor. Give each of the children a piece of cotton wool.

Get the children to feel how soft and nice to feel the cotton wool is remind them that God's love is like this.

Get them to think about people that they wish could find God and would benefit from his love and care when they have get them to place their piece of cotton wool on the sheep and they can either keep that name secret or say the name out loud.

Amen



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End Prayer Every Session: Altogether

We are Friends on Faith Adventures, travelling together with God.

Location	Possible hazard	Action required	Action taken	Signature
During session	Use of sharpies and glue may cause possible damage to clothes	Consider offering protective clothing	Offer children protective clothing and warn older children of the indelible nature of the pens.	
During session	Use off scissors possible cutting of hands	Use rounded end scissors or closely supervise young children	Allocate a helper to the younger children or get an adult to do the cutting	
During session	Use of Vaseline	Check in advance for any allergies on consent form	Ask parents if unsure if a problem make a mask that the children can use instead of Vaseline on their nose.	
During session	Children hiding in dangerous places	Assess the room in advance for possible issues	Inform children where they are and are not allowed to hide before commencing the game.	

Adventurers go! Amen



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What you need for this session

Games:

Find the sheep

- 40 x Green Paper cut in the shape of bushes/drawn bushes
- 2 x Sheep images

Circle of sheep

- Stickers, one with sheep written on it.

Sticky Sheep

- Vaseline
- Cotton wool balls
- Mask if children are allergic to Vaseline

Story:

- Numbered stickers

Craft:

- Green Party Cups
- Green Printed images of a sheep (supplied below)
- Lolly Sticks or green garden canes
- Glue
- Scissors
- Flower stickers or Flower Foam Shapes
- Colored Pencils
- Paper



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