

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

GOD HAS MADE A GREAT MANY PROMISES. THEY ARE ALL "YES" BECAUSE OF WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE. SO THROUGH CHRIST WE SAY "AMEN." WE WANT GOD TO RECEIVE GLORY. – 2 CORINTHIANS 1:20

PROMISE OF BELONGING

JESUS SAID, "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME. DON'T KEEP THEM AWAY. THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO PEOPLE LIKE THEM."

POINT TO SELF

WAVE TOWARD SELF

SHAKE HEAD "NO"

POINT UP

SPREAD ARMS TO GROUP

STORY: THE LOST SHEEP– LUKE 15:1–7

DISCUSS:

READ THE BIBLE STORY FROM LUKE 15 OR FROM YOUR FAVORITE STORY BIBLE. HAVE YOUR KIDS RETELL THE STORY IN THEIR OWN WORDS & ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TOGETHER.

1. Why do you think the shepherd looked for the one lost sheep?
2. Have you ever felt left out? Who makes you feel like you belong?
3. How do you think the sheep felt when the shepherd found it?
4. Why do you think the shepherd was so happy when he found his sheep?
5. What's one way we can show someone else they belong to Jesus' family?

BIG IDEA: JESUS SEARCHES FOR US BECAUSE WE BELONG TO HIM

DID YOU KNOW?

Sheep might not seem very smart, but they have an amazing ability to recognize and follow the voice of their shepherd. Even today in parts of the Middle East, several different flocks will gather together at a watering hole, all mixed up in one big group. To us, it might look impossible to separate them—but as soon as each shepherd calls, his sheep perk up their ears and come running, leaving the crowd to follow only his voice. That bond of trust is powerful. When Jesus compared us to sheep, He was showing us how personal His care really is. He knows our names, He calls out to us, and we can learn to recognize His voice above all the noise of the world. Because we belong to Him, we can trust that He will always guide us back to safety when we wander.

SOMETHING TO NOTE:

In the land where Jesus told this story, the hills of Judea weren't covered in soft, green fields like we might picture. For much of the year, the land was dry and brown, with only small patches of grass and plants sprouting up after rain. Shepherds had to lead their sheep across rocky ground and steep paths to find these little bits of green. The sheep depended on the shepherd to know where to go for food and water. That makes the story of the Lost Sheep even more powerful—because without the shepherd's care, the sheep would quickly be hungry, thirsty, and in danger.

PROMISES

PRAYER PROMPT:

Pray together thanking Jesus that He never gives up on us. Ask Him to remind your family that you belong to Him, and to help you show His love to others who need to know they belong too.