

St Philip's Family Service
Sunday 10th February



The Lost Sheep

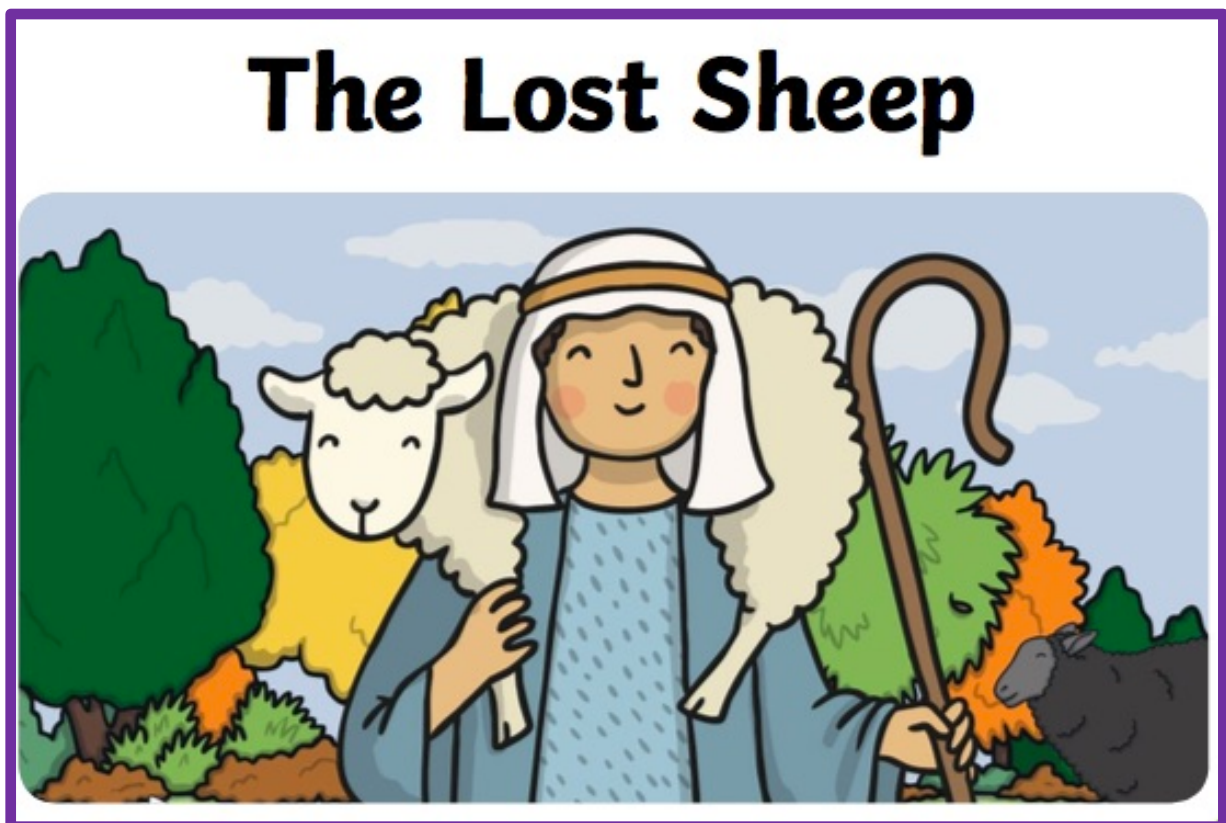


Bishop Bridgeman
Ethos Group

We would like to focus on the Christian value of love.

First of all has anyone ever lost anything? How did you feel when you lost it? What did you do? Did you find what you had lost? How did you feel when you found it?

A bible story that we feel demonstrates the Christian value of love is the story of the lost sheep. Luke 15: 4-7



When Jesus talked, everybody came to listen. People who thought they were good and people who weren't so good too. Such as liars, robbers and thieves.

The people who thought they were good didn't like this one bit. "Hey, Jesus!" they shouted.

"You say you come from God. You call him Father. So why are you spending your time with these people?"

Jesus thought for a minute. "Let me tell you a story," he said

There was a shepherd who had 100 sheep. He knew each one of them by sight and he cared for them very much. He knew the white ones and the black ones. The spotted ones and the striped ones. The thin ones and the fat ones.

A shepherd had 100 sheep. He cared for them very much.

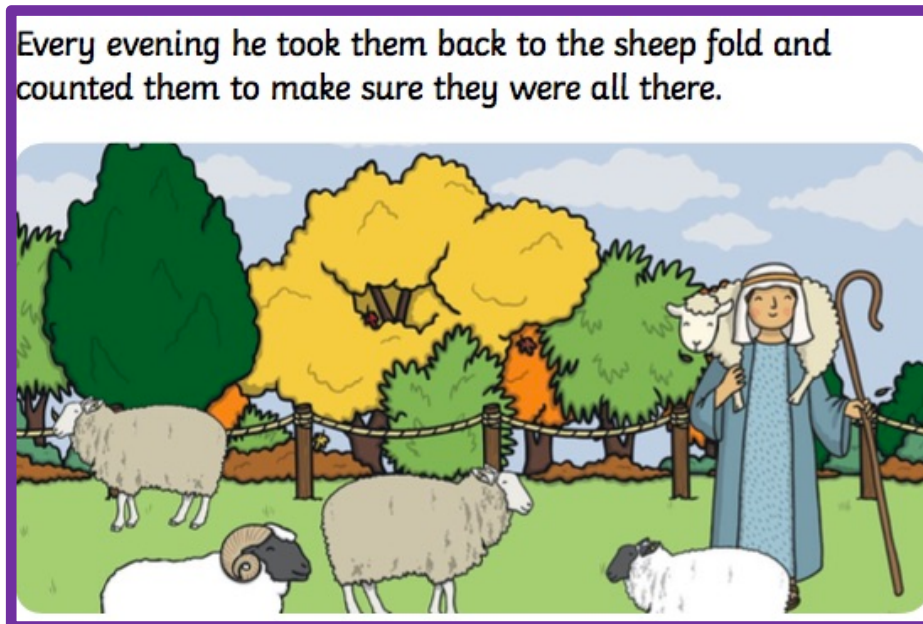


He watched over them in case any animals came to attack.

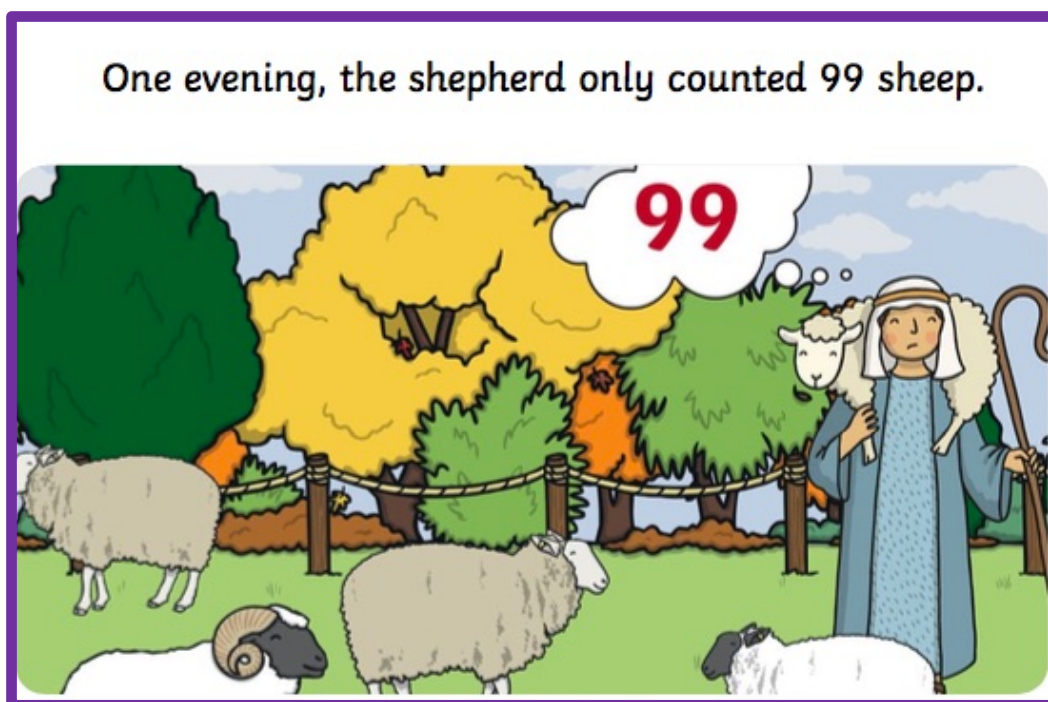
He watched over them in case any animals came to attack.



Every night, after he had called them from the fields and gathered them in their pen, he would count them. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine and all the way to one hundred.



One night, he found himself a sheep short. Ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine he counted. But he never reached a hundred, because the last sheep was missing!



The shepherd looked around the pen. "It's Bramble!" he said. "It's Bramble that's gone." And what do you think he did? Did he say to himself, "I have ninety-nine sheep left, who cares if one is lost?"



He cared for the missing sheep as much as for the rest. So he picked up his walking stick and off he went, across the hills and fields, looking for that lost sheep. He looked under bushes. He looked down the deep ravines.



Finally, he found the lost sheep trapped amongst some rocks. The shepherd shouted, "Hooray!"

Finally, he found it!
It had got trapped amongst some rocks.



Then he slung the sheep round his shoulders, and carried it safely home.

"Come to my house!" he called to his neighbours. "Come to my house!" he called to his friends. "My sheep was lost, and now it's found. We're going to have a party!"

The shepherd was so happy, he threw a party to celebrate!



Why do I talk to people who have done bad things? Or people that have lost their way? Said Jesus to the crowd.

Because God is like that shepherd and we are all his sheep, he loves us. Some stay in the pen but some leave the pen and become lost. So someone has to look for them, talk to them and love them. When they come back to him, God throws a party too!

Just as the shepherd loved his sheep, God, our Heavenly Father loves his children. Even when we disappoint him and stray from what he has taught us, his love remains strong and he longs to return. There is no end to our Heavenly Father's love!!

Just Because

When you're thinking up a reason, do you ever say, 'Just Because'?

God says, 'I love you – Just Because!'

He doesn't say, 'I love you because you're kind' or 'I love you because you're helpful' or 'I love you because you're getting good grades' or even, 'I love you because you love me.'

God says, 'The reason I love you is – I LOVE you!'

God loves us – Just Because!

Our God did not love us or choose us for anything in us; it was simply because he loves us. Deuteronomy chapter 7 verses 7 and 8.

Please join us after the service in the prayer space we have set up. Our prayer bag idea for the next 2 weeks is prayer socks. Please take you prayer socks home to help you in your prayer life.

Bishop Mark we have a knit and natter group and we have knitted you some prayer socks. We all took turns (Mrs Pilling did the heel and the toe!). We hope you will use them to help you pray.



Intercessions

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have come before you to offer our praise and adoration. You are God, the creator, giving us richly all things to enjoy.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We pray for your church throughout the world, for those that are thriving and those which have lost direction. We give you thanks for our church and its people, and gladly acknowledge all the gifts you have given us through life. We ask you to open wide our hearts that we may welcome the stranger and share with others, loving others as you do.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We remember all who bear the responsibility of leadership, for heads of state, ambassadors and political advisors. We pray for the Queen and her government, and our Bishops. We also pray for our clergy Bishop Mark, Canon Chris and Fr Roy. Let your will for our world be accomplished through the decisions they make and give them a vision of peace and reconciliation.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We pray for love in the world, in our communities and our families: create in us a love for each other. We pray for our school, our children, staff and families that through the busy weeks ahead we will care for one another. Thank you that through the story of the lost sheep we can see how much you love and care so much for the lost, that you go looking for them. We pray that those we know who are lost will be found.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We remember this morning those who are sick, sad or lonely and those who are brave and patient when things are going wrong. We pray that they may be aware of your comforting presence and know that in your hands they are safe and loved. We pray especially forand all those who are dear to us.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We remember before God, those who have died and all those whose life is saddened by the death of a loved one. We remember the anniversaries of death falling this week:
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Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Merciful Father: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.