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Lost and Found



Broken bits of bushes stuck to the wool of the tired sheep as they moved along the path. The shepherd gently guided his flock of one hundred sheep. The scraping sound of their hooves on the rocks

mixed with the bleating of the young ones. It was music to the shepherd's ears.

"Come back over this way," he coaxed, smiling at a playful lamb.

The sheepfold was in sight now. Like most of the sheepfolds in the area, the shepherd had made it secure. He had piled many rocks on top of each other. Then he had placed thorn bushes along the outside of the rocks.

Finally, the shepherd and the sheep reached the sheepfold gate. As each one went into the sheepfold, he checked it carefully for cuts or bruises. He ran his strong but gentle hands over every sheep. The shepherd spoke soothing words and poured medicine on sore places. The impatient animals bumped against one another, eager to get in to rest. Tired and hungry, the shepherd would be glad to reach home as well.

"Ninety-four, ninety-five, ninety-six," the shepherd counted. Every morning he took his sheep to pasture. And every evening he counted them as he brought them home. "Ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine," he kept on counting. Ninety-nine? What? thought the shepherd. I'm so tired tonight that I didn't count correctly. Slowly he counted again. A frown crossed his face. "Ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine." His eyes checked every ewe, every ram and lamb. Oh no! Where was the little lamb the shepherd had been calling back to the flock? It was there just a short time ago. Now it was nowhere in sight. That one sheep could be anywhere!

Carefully, the shepherd latched the gate to the sheepfold. He turned back the way he had just come in spite of the rising storm. He called out to his missing sheep. I'll really have to listen, he thought. With the wind blowing like this it will be hard to hear, especially if my lamb is hurt.

The shepherd called. Then he listened. Then he called again. Carefully the shepherd worked his way in the dark back over the rough ground. Where are you, little one? he thought.

A stinging rain began to make the rocks slippery. The wild wind howled. How could the small lamb have strayed so far in such a short time?

Straining once more to hear anything, he paused.

"Yes!" he shouted into the storm. "Yes, I found you!" There it was, just over there, beside some rocks. The lamb lay in a crumpled heap, tangled in thorns, and bleeding.

"OK, OK, you'll be fine." The shepherd's gentle words calmed the frightened lamb. He untangled the thorns and scooped the lamb up into his arms. "I'm so glad I found you," he whispered. "Let's go home."

The rugged shepherd hiked back over the slick trail again. But this time he smiled. This time he was holding his rescued one close. Bursting into the house, the shepherd gently laid the sheep down. He cried joyfully. "I have found my lost sheep!" He was so happy! He wanted to share the good news with his friends.

When we wander far from Jesus, He comes looking for us, too. We are His "sheep." He loves us so much. And He is very happy when all His sheep are safe at home again.



Lost and Found Questions

What does the Shepherd do for his hurt sheep?

How many sheep does the shepherd have?

What does the shepherd do when he finds out a sheep is missing?

How does the story of the lost sheep end? Explain



Lost and Found Coloring Page



What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

Luke 15:4



Lost and Found Craft

Sheep Puppets



You will Need:

- Sheep cutouts
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pop sickle sticks
- Crayons
- Googly eyes

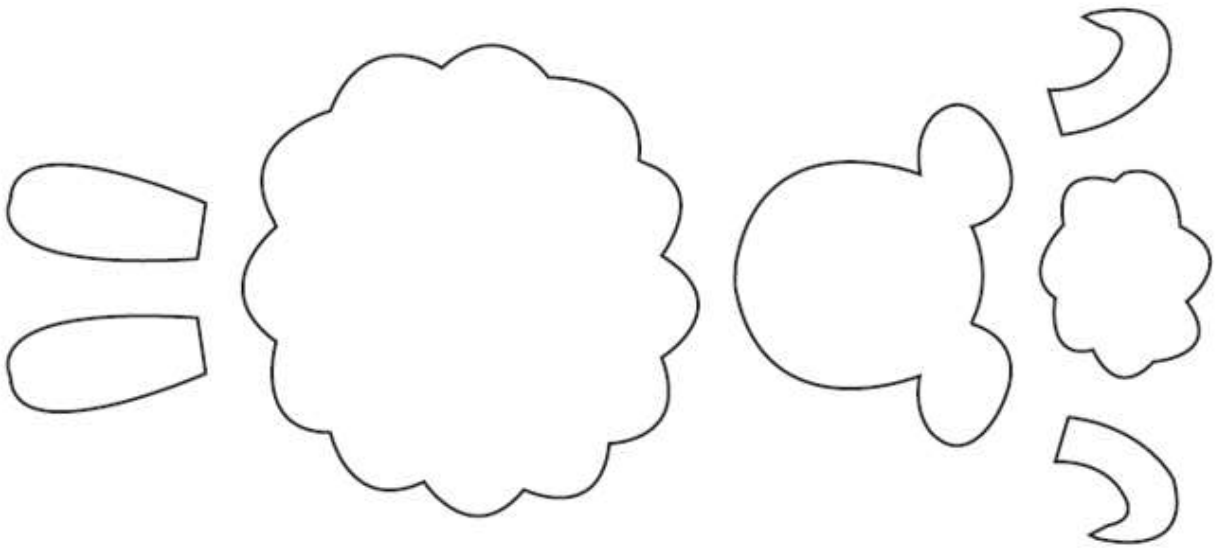
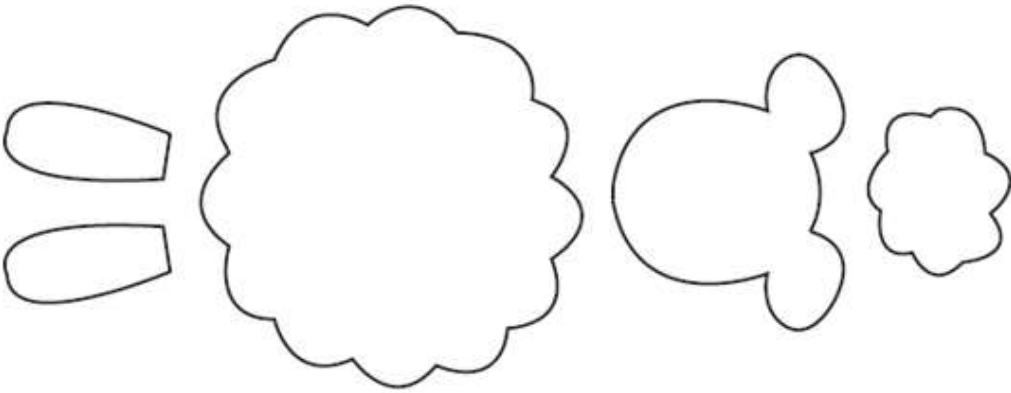
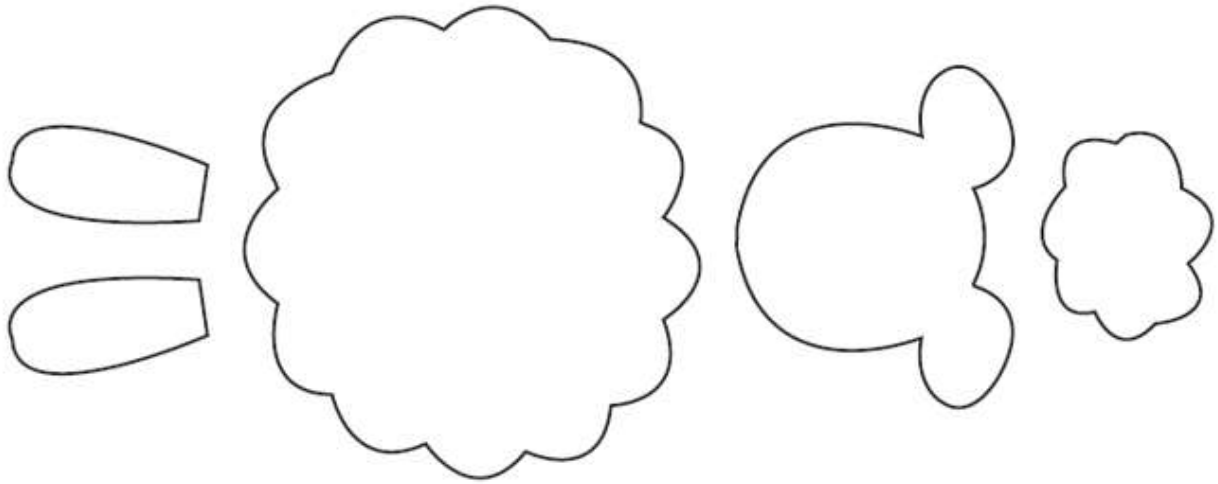
Instructions:

1. Gather all materials needed to make your sheep puppets.
2. Begin by coloring all your sheep pieces. You may add a nose and mouth for effect.
3. Next, cut out your pieces and begin to assemble them together to make your sheep.
4. Once you have pasted all the sheep paper pieces add the eyes onto your sheep.
5. Finally add the pop sickle stick and be sure to check that it is securely in place.
6. Enjoy playing The Lost Sheep dramatization with your family members.

Remember, Jesus loves us so much and wants to be our friend! That's why Jesus looks for us just like the shepherd looks for his lost sheep.

Enjoy!





Lost and Found Puzzle

The Good Shepherd

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11 (NIV)

Based on John 10:11-18 (NIV)



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A W A Y U O E H S M V K U Z T
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D O A C L A F X L C Y L N D R
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| WOLF | FLOCK | GOOD | KNOW | AUTHORITY |
| PEN | CARES | RUNS | SCATTERS | VOICE |
| SHEPHERD | FATHER | HIRED | ATTACKS | LOVES |
| LISTEN | LIFE | HAND | SHEEP | AWAY |

