

Godly play. The Lost Sheep. Luke 15:1-7

Need a large square of green felt. Smaller circle of brown or black felt. Shepherd. Sheep. Box.

Smooth out green felt square.

"I wonder, what might this be?"

Place felt brown circle in one corner.

"I wonder, what is this?"

I wonder, (Show box) ...What is this? Treasure chest? Present? Well, it does contain something very precious/ a gift. Inside is a parable. A parable is precious, but you have to open it up to see what is inside.

There was a man who did such wonderful things - said such wonderful things - that great crowds of people followed him everywhere. One day some important people asked Jesus (that was his name)

Jesus, why do you make friends with bad people? We wouldn't have anything to do with their sort.

Jesus told them this parable.

Once upon a time there was A kind shepherd. (put the shepherd on the board)

He had (put the sheep down one by one) one hundred sheep. (put one sheep on the brown circle). I wonder ... what has happened here?

One hundred. That is a lot of sheep.

The shepherd loved his sheep. He stayed with them all day long to watch over them and keep them safe.

I wonder ... how did that make the sheep feel? Who does that for you?

O dear, it is getting late. Time to go home! The shepherd calls his sheep and they all come running. 'Come on, come on! Time to go home!' The sheep come when they are called and follow him (show the sheep following the shepherd) all the way home. They love their shepherd. They know that he loves them.

When they get back home the shepherd counts them in. One two, three ... ninety-nine ...

Oh no! One sheep is missing. Where is it? What can have happened?

The shepherd is worried now. It is getting dark. He leaves the others safe at home and goes looking for the lost sheep. Where are you? Where are you? He goes back to the hillside where the sheep had been.

Where are you? Now he hears a scary sound 'Wooooooh!' It's the wolf. Oh no - he will eat my lost sheep! Where are you? And then the shepherd hears (bleat softly) There it is (bleat) over there. The lost sheep had fallen down a dark, dark hole and he could not get out. He could not come home. He had been so scared. Bleat - over here, over here! The shepherd hurries over and pulls him out. The lost sheep is very cold and very tired. Never mind! The shepherd puts him up on his strong shoulders and carries him all the way home!

I wonder ... how did the sheep feel? How did he feel about the shepherd?

I wonder ... who is the shepherd in the story? What is he like? Who are the sheep?

Listen, Jesus said to the people. Sometimes people lose their way and do sad, bad things. God never stops loving them. He is calling them. He wants to rescue them and set them free from doing bad things.

I wonder ... what do you think about that?"