

National Youth Sunday 2020

Through my fear, I trust in God (Psalm 56:1-4)

Children's Story for younger kids by Rachel Johnson

Have any of you ever been lost? Maybe you couldn't find your parents in the grocery store? *(wait for kids to answer and have some conversation with them)*

I have a story for you from the Bible where an animal was lost. Does anyone know of any stories in the Bible where there is a lost animal? *(let kids name animals)*

Today we are going to talk about a lost sheep in the Bible. There was a shepherd who had 100 sheep. Can you imagine having to keep track of 100 sheep?! And what about taking care of the sheep? That would be a huge responsibility!

One day, the shepherd goes to count his sheep and only has 99. One of the sheep was lost! The shepherd could not find one of his sheep! Does anyone know what the shepherd did? *(wait for kids to answer the question)* The shepherd went to look for that sheep. He left the other 99 sheep behind. How many of you would leave 99 things you have to go looking for 1 missing one? If you lost a toy, but all these other toys are still with you, would you go hunting for that one toy?

If sheep had feelings, what might that sheep have been feeling when it was lost? *(wait for answers)* The sheep might have been scared and afraid. It was lost and had no idea where to go. Maybe you have felt this way when you weren't able to find your parents. It's scary when you don't know where you are!

So the shepherd left the 99 sheep to go looking for the 1 lost sheep. God is like this shepherd, because God would look for one lost person rather than stay with all the found people. God will come looking for us and come help us if we are lost and afraid!

God cares so much about all of us and is always going to be there for us to lean on. God never wants us to feel lost or afraid. God will help us and come looking for us when we are lost, but we have to be willing to accept help.

Doesn't that just sound like an awesome thing that God is always there for us? I think it does!

Will you pray with me? (*pause*) God, thank you so much for all these children here today and their willingness to learn more about You. I pray that they will realize You are always there to help them. AMEN.