

QUICK GUIDE: SESSION 19 - LET'S ENJOY STORIES

Calendar Event: World Book & Poetry Days (1st Thursday in March & 21st March)

Goals: Explore how Jesus loved telling stories, and taught us how precious we are through a story. Explore books and rhymes, emphasising how they often tell a story.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 15

1. Recap the story so far – God created us to be His friend. He even sent Jesus to Earth to help everyone. Last session, Jesus showed kindness to Zacchaeus, who showed kindness to others.
2. For today's story, whenever you hear the word **'SHEEP'**, use your sheep craft and say 'baa'!
3. Whilst on Earth, Jesus loved telling stories to help us learn important things.
4. One story Jesus told was about a **'SHEEP'**.
5. In the story, a shepherd had one hundred **'SHEEP'** to look after!
6. But something bad happened... one of the **'SHEEP'** went missing. Oh no, it was lost!
7. This one **'SHEEP'** was so precious to the shepherd that he wanted to find it, even though he still had ninety-nine other **'SHEEP'**.
8. The shepherd searched high and low, far and wide, until he found his one lost **'SHEEP'**!
9. Jesus continued the story by saying that the shepherd had a party with all his friends to celebrate finding his one, precious, lost **'SHEEP'**!
10. Jesus told this story to show us how precious we are, too, just like the one lost **'SHEEP'**. Jesus thinks you and me are so precious.
11. Jesus even said there's a party in Heaven whenever one person finds friendship with Him! Isn't that fun?
12. And isn't it great having stories that help us and teach us how precious we are?!

CRAFT: KEEP YOUR SHEEP

You will need: Cotton wool, white wool, paper plates, black pipe cleaners, black card/fabric/buttons, googly eyes, glue/sticky tape (optional jumbo lollipop sticks or elastic for masks).

1. Give children a paper plate each, and let them stick on wool to make a sheep's body. Chat about wool and how we use it, too.
2. Give children black pipe cleaners for the sheep's legs, and black, oval-shaped card for the face. Stick on googly eyes, along with small 'ear'-shaped pieces of black fabric/card/buttons.
3. Attach a lollipop stick or elastic to make a puppet or mask.
4. Keep your sheep for a Bible Buds story later, which Jesus told!



PLAY: RHYME TIME!

You will need: Bag, rhyming objects.

1. Encourage children to close their eyes, feel inside a bag of objects and explore, using their senses.
2. Say a little 'I Spy' rhyme: 'I feel, and hope to reveal, something I'm guessing is...' Then children take out 2 objects.
3. See if the objects rhyme, e.g., pig/twig, car/star, spoon/moon, keys/cheese, dog/frog, etc. Parents/carers could even make up a little story out of the rhyming words to tell their child!
4. Jesus enjoyed telling stories, which we'll find out about in the Bible Buds story, later!



Daddy God, thank you for the fun today. Thank you for friends, mummies, daddies and carers. Thank you for rhymes and stories, especially Jesus's story of how precious we are. Amen!



Conversation starters for the grown-ups!

- » **Testimony:** Share stories of what God has done in your life.
- » **Question:** Share an ice breaker question with each other, e.g., 'If you were asked to write an autobiography, what stories from your life would you include?' Or, 'If you could communicate any message through a book or poem, what would you say?'
- » **Chat:** Talk about favourite books, poems or rhymes, explaining why they're your favourite.
- » **Activity:** Ask each family to bring a favourite book along (adult and children's books), to swap and loan out to others in your group. Everyone could go away with a new story to enjoy reading!



Go on a trip to a library, and enjoy reading stories together. Remember to chat about any good messages in the stories, reminding children how we can learn through stories, too.

Play a game of hide and **sheep**! Take turns being the lost **sheep** and shepherd, remembering to tell the lost **sheep** how precious they are!

Experiment with rhyming words in conversations, e.g., Wash your handy-candies! Would you like a pink drink? Let's change your nappy-happy-clappy!

Mission Opportunities

Make a little book for someone, telling a story of how precious they are (to God and you), like the one lost **sheep**. For an added challenge, try making the story rhyme!

Invite a family to go on a walk to find a **sheep**! Go to a field or farm and enjoy looking at the **sheep**, listening to them, stroking them, and feeding them. As well as looking for **sheep**, look for opportunities to share your faith, too!

Have a book-themed fancy dress party! Share stories together, including Bible stories and God stories from your life.

Have an open invite for attendees to do lunch after the session. Remember to share and declare God's love!