



# leader bible study

In Luke 19, Jesus went after Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector. Zacchaeus was not well liked, but his interaction with Jesus led him to repent of his wrongdoing. Jesus said to him, “The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

Who is “the lost”? What does it mean to be lost? In Luke 15, Jesus told three parables to the crowd of tax collectors, sinners, Pharisees, and scribes. Jesus’ teaching brought gospel truth to the tax collectors and sinners—those whose unrighteousness separated them from God—and to the Pharisees and scribes—those whose relied on their own righteous efforts for salvation.

The first two parables are similar. In one, a man loses a sheep. He leaves his flock to find the missing sheep, and he rejoices when it is found. In the second, a woman loses a silver coin. The woman carefully searches until she finds it. Then she calls her neighbors and friends to celebrate with her. Heaven rejoices when even one sinner repents. Finally, Jesus told a parable about two sons. The younger son asked for his inheritance, wasted his money on immoral living, and decided to return to his father. Rather than rejecting his wayward son, the father embraced him. The older son, who had always been obedient to his father, reacted with anger.

As you read Luke 15, think about the crowd Jesus was speaking to. The focus is often placed on the younger son—the one with whom the tax collectors and sinners could identify—but Jesus also made a point about the older son. The older son was like the Pharisees and scribes, focused on his own morality and feeling entitled to his father’s favor.

Jesus taught what God is like. He seeks sinners who have wandered far from Him, and He seeks sinners who try to earn salvation by their good works. As you teach, help children understand being lost means not knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior. God loves us, and He actively seeks to bring sinners to Himself.



## Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

### After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: \_\_\_\_\_
- Where is the gospel in this story?

## March Focus: KINGDOM TO COME



### March 1st: Kingdom Parables *Matt 13*

**Story point:** Jesus taught about God’s kingdom



### March 8th: Three Parables *Luke 15*

**Story Point:** Jesus came to save people who don’t know Him



### March 15th: Jesus’ Hard Teachings *John 6*

**Story Point:** Many people did not understand Jesus’ teaching



### March 22nd: Jesus Raised Lazarus *John 1*

**Story Point:** Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead



### March 29th: The Last Supper *Matt 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; John 13*

**Story point:** Jesus told His disciples to remember Him



## Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co -Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co -pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?
- How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?
- What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?
- In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?

### Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

### Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

### Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with \_\_\_\_\_.
- You really helped me while I was \_\_\_\_\_.
- Thank you for being \_\_\_\_\_'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

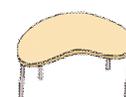
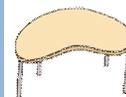
## Morning Routine



Stay with this order.

Adjust pictures on schedule according to your plan.

Review schedule with the children at the start of the morning.

|   |   |        |
|---|---|--------|
|    | <b>Take Off</b><br>VBS song<br>Verse/BPQ                            | 5 Min  |
|    | <b>Journey</b><br>Prayer<br>Bible Story<br>God Attributes           | 10 Min |
|    | <b>Flight Lab</b><br>Bible Story Activity                           | 15 Min |
|  | <b>Free Play</b><br>Inside or on<br>playground                      | 10 Min |
|  | <b>Pilot's Log</b><br>Prayer<br>Take Home Page<br>Settle and Review | 5 Min  |

At congregation last song—clean up/move inside



# 5 min Take Off

*Celebrate & being here! Introduce the morning*

## Gather

As the children enter, have them gather at the TV to begin with worship/singing.

Have your co-pilot check attendance.

## Song

Do a song or 2 of your choice as time allows to help children prepare for the lesson,

## Key passage

Transition from singing into the Verse Song. Lead the kids with the hand motions in the video!

**He has rescued us....and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.**

**Colossians 1:3**

## Big picture question

***How does God care for His creation?***

*God loves and rules over all He made.*

*Repeat the question 2-3 times for learning!*

## Transition to the Bible Story

Clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy, use a finger play, etc... Set expectations for the children: "my turn to talk, your turn to listen, eyes on me, hands in your lap"

Choosing the same transition every week works super well with child and kindergarten ages.

## Bible Connection Ideas

### Bible FingerPlay:

1, 2 (hold up fingers) The Bible is true (hands like book), God loves me (cross arms, point to me) and God loves you (cross arms, point to class)

### Bible Foundation Motions:

- The Bible is **True** (*thumbs up*)
- The Bible is How God **Speaks to Us** (*cup hands around mouth as if you were shouting*)
- The Bible is **Different** from other stories (*cross your arms and point in opposite directions*)
- The Bible points to **Jesus** (*ASL sign for Jesus*)

## Fingerplay Ideas

### Open Shut them:

*Hold hands in front as you open and shut them while saying:*

Open shut them, open shut them, give a little clap

Open shut them, open shut them, lay them in your lap.

Creep them creep them, slowly to your chin

Open wide your little mouth (pause), but do not let them in!

### Active Preparing to sit and listen:

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I jump up from the ground.

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I turn myself around.

I stomp my feet , I clap my hands, I sit myself right down

I stomp my feet (*while sitting*) , I clap my hands, I do not make a sound (*finger over lips, spoken in a whisper*).



# 10 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

## Introduce the Bible Story

Use our Bible Finger play each week to transition to the Story.

- Many different people wrote down God's true word in the Bible.

Today we are reading stories that Jesus told in the Book of Luke. **Point to the Bible story picture on their timeline.** The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

## Tell the Bible Story

Using the pictures, tell the Bible Story or watch the video (*This lesson is NOT in It's All About Jesus Bible Storybook*). Tell the story using your own words keeping eye-contact with the children.

- Jesus told a lot of stories to teach people about God. Most people knew what it felt like to lose something special. They would search until they found it and then celebrate! Jesus told these stories to teach about Himself. Jesus looks for people who are lost, people who do not know Him. **Jesus came to save people who do not know Him.** He gave His life to save people from sin. All of heaven celebrates when one sinner comes back to God.

## Talk about the Bible Story

Show the Bible story picture as you ask:

1. **What did the man who lost one of his sheep do?** (He left his other sheep to find the one that was lost.)
2. **What did the woman who lost a coin do?** (She searched until she found it.)
3. **Did the younger son make good choices?** (no)
4. **What did the father do when his younger son came home?** (welcomed him and celebrated)
6. **How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over all He made.**

What movement-based activity can I use?



**God's attributes-** helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

-With Us    -Father

**Have a student place the story picture on the 'timeline'**

## Age Appropriate Bible Story

Use your own words—Trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you

### Three Parables— Luke 15

Many people came to listen to Jesus teach. The religious leaders were angry that sinners came to listen to Jesus. They did not think Jesus should be friends with people who do wrong things. So Jesus told them three parables, or stories, to teach them about God.

Jesus said, "If a man has 100 sheep and one goes missing, he leaves the 99 sheep and looks everywhere for his lost sheep. And when he finds it, he tells his friends and neighbors, 'Let's celebrate because I have found my lost sheep!'"

Jesus told them, "In heaven, there will be more joy over one person who is sorry for his sin and turns back to God than over 99 good people who don't need to be sorry."

Then Jesus told a second story: "If a woman has 10 silver coins and loses one of them, she lights a lamp, sweeps the house, and searches until she finds it. Then she tells her friends and neighbors, 'Let's celebrate because I have found my lost coin!'"

Jesus said, "In heaven, God's angels will celebrate when one person is sorry for his sin and turns back to God."

Then Jesus told one more story: "A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, 'Give me the money that will be mine someday.' So the father gave his son what was his.

"The younger son traveled to a faraway country. He spent all his money and made wrong choices. The son had nothing left, and the country he was in ran out of food. He got a job feeding pigs, but he was still hungry.

"The son was sorry for his wrong choices. He said, 'My father's workers have plenty of food. I do not deserve to be his son. I will ask to be his worker.' So he went home. His father ran to him and gave him a big hug and a kiss. The son started to say he was sorry, but the father told his servants, 'Bring the best clothes for my son to wear! Let's celebrate with a big meal! My son was lost, and now he is found!'

"The older son came home and asked, 'What's going on?' A servant said, 'Your brother is home. Your father is celebrating.'

"The father asked the older son to come inside and celebrate. But the older son was angry. He said, 'I always obeyed you, but you never threw a party for me.'

"'Son,' the father said, 'everything I have is yours. This is a day to celebrate because your brother was lost, but now he is found.'"

**Christ Connection:** Jesus told stories about people who were looking for things that were lost. Jesus told these stories to teach about Himself. Jesus looks for people who are lost, people who do not know Him. Jesus gave His life to save people from sin.

## Picture Card Lesson

Use your own words—Trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you!

### Three Parables— Luke 15

**Card 1:** The religious leaders did not think Jesus should be friends with people who do wrong things. So, Jesus told them three parables, or stories, to teach them about God.

**Card 2:** In the first story, Jesus said, “If a man has 100 sheep and one goes missing, he leaves the 99 sheep and looks everywhere for his lost sheep. He celebrates when he find the sheep!” Jesus told them, “In heaven, there will be much joy when one is sorry for their sin”

**Card 3:** Jesus told a second story: “If a woman has 10 silver coins and loses one of them, she lights a lamp, sweeps the house, and searches until she finds it. She then celebrates!” Jesus said, “In heaven, God’s angels will celebrate when one person is sorry for his sin and turns back to God.”

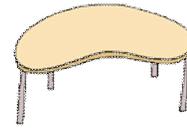
**Card 4:** Jesus told a third story: “A man had two sons. The younger son went far away with his father’s money. Soon he had nothing. He worked feeding pigs, and felt sorry for what he had done. He went home to ask for forgiveness. When his father saw him he ran and gave the son a big hug. The father was so happy! They threw a huge party for the lost son.

**Card 5:** The older son who had stayed with his father did not want to celebrate. “Why don’t you throw me a party” the older son asked. The father said, “Everything I have is yours. But today we celebrate because your brother was lost, and now he is found.” Jesus looks for people who are lost.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus told stories about people who were looking for things that were lost. Jesus told these stories to teach about Himself. Jesus looks for people who are lost, people who do not know Him. Jesus gave His life to save people from sin.

#### Bible Storytelling Tips:

**Hear three parables:** Write the numbers 1-3 in large font on construction paper and draw a picture that indicates what the story is about (sheep, coin, son). Hold up the number 1 page as you tell the first parable, number 2 as you tell the second, and 3 as you tell the third .



15 min **Flight Lab**

Learning the story in an interactive way

Choose from below or use your own idea-however the Lord leads. Then go into free-play.

#### Play “Shepherd, Where’s Your Sheep?”

Select one child to be the *shepherd* who will sit in the middle of the floor with a toy sheep behind his back. Guide the rest of the children to sit in a wide circle around the *shepherd*. Ask the *shepherd* to close his eyes while you silently invite another child to hide the sheep behind her back. When the sheep is hidden, invite children to chant, “Shepherd, shepherd, where’s your sheep?” Encourage the shepherd to open his eyes and guess who has his sheep. After three tries, reveal who has the sheep. Celebrate the found sheep. Choose another shepherd and play again.

- Jesus told stories about people who were looking for things that were lost. He said a shepherd would search for one sheep that was lost until he found it. Jesus told these stories to teach about Himself. Jesus looks for people who are lost, people who do not know Him. Jesus came to save people who do not know Him. He is the Good Shepherd!

#### Search the room

Hide a coin in the room when children are not looking. Tell children a coin is lost in the room and ask them to find it. Provide flashlights for children to use while searching. Celebrate when the coin is found. Play again as time allows.

- Jesus told stories about people who were looking for things that were lost. He said a woman would light lamps and clean the whole house to search for one coin that was lost. Jesus told these stories to teach about Himself. Jesus looks for people who are lost, people who do not know Him. **Jesus came to save people who do not know Him.** He celebrates when just one person comes to know Him!

## Make mud

Pour a handful of dirt and a little water in a ziplock bag. Add small plastic pigs. Seal the bag with duct tape. Encourage children to squeeze the bags to make mud. Talk about the Bible story as they play.

- Jesus told stories about God's love. A son left home, wasted his money, and was so hungry he wanted to eat pig food! The father was happy when his son came home. God is happy when sinners trust Jesus.

## Shake coins

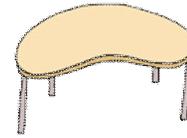
Place a few coins in empty plastic spice jars. Seal the jars with duct tape. Encourage children to shake the coins to listen to them jingle. Talk about the story.

- Jesus told stories about God's love. A woman searched for her lost coin and was happy to find it. God is happy when sinners trust Jesus.

## Search for a sheep

Hide a stuffed sheep in plain sight. Suggest children find the sheep and lead it to the "pen" (a basket). When children put it in the basket, cheer. Play as time allows.

- Jesus told stories about God's love. The shepherd had many sheep, but he went searching for one lost sheep. Because He loves us, Jesus gave His life to save people from sin.



# 5 Min Pilot's Log

*Where we prepare to go home*

After flight lab, allow the children to play. **When congregation begins last song, move to the tables.**

## Pause and settle

- Signal the end of free play, (use the time-timer to count down)
- Sing the clean-up song and guide children to clean their areas. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer if needed.
- Have children sit around the table.

**ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.**

**This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.**

- After prayer, hand out the activity/coloring page. Direct children accordingly to complete the page. Remind children of what they can take away from today's lesson.

If a child finishes the activity/coloring page while waiting for mom and dad or is not interested, only offer options that can be completed at the table (playdough, puzzle, select a book to examine, practice the verse, etc) **Keep children at the table to maintain a calm and quiet environment for easy transition to mom and dad.**

When parents pick up their children, as appropriate share something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the morning.

**Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents. Have your Co-Pilot encourage parents to use this to talk to their kids about what they learned in class today.**

## PREK/K Prayer Extra Ideas:

**Prayer Chain** — in small groups, ask children for their prayer requests and have the Pilot or Co-Pilot write them on a few strips of paper. Connect strips into a chain and display our growing conversation with the Lord. Feel free to revisit old prayer requests as well.

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**Pointing to a Globe** — Have a child or Co-Pilot spin the globe and place their finger on a country. Place a star sticker on the place(s) and pray over it as a group. We will provide a PreK/K age geography book to help guide discussion and prayer. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus, light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

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**Looking out the Window** — Grab a dry-erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry-erase marker, write or draw these things on the window then pray over them.

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**Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers**— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

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**Head Shoulders Knees and Toes**—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

