



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus teaches us that we are important to God.

**THE LOST SHEEP**  
LUKE 15:3-7

### MEMORY VERSE

"The crowds were amazed at his teaching."

MATTHEW 7:28, NIV

### KEY QUESTION

Who teaches you important things?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus teaches me important things.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### SMALL GROUP

15  
MIN

#### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

*Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.*

Who's Missing?  
Counting Sheep  
Color Search

### LARGE GROUP

20  
MIN

#### WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

#### STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"My Forever Friend" and "Jesus No Matter What"

Bible Story  
Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

25  
MIN

#### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

*Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.*

Where Is the Sheep?  
Find the Sheep  
Important Things Brainstorm  
Sheep in the Pen  
Bubble Sheep  
Journal and Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home  
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)  
Parent Cue App



## BIBLE STORY

Jesus teaches us that we are important to God.

### THE LOST SHEEP LUKE 15:3-7

## MEMORY VERSE

"The crowds were amazed at his teaching."

MATTHEW 7:28, NIV

## KEY QUESTION

Who teaches you important things?

## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus teaches me important things.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

## LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

## WORSHIP

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Matthew 7:28, NIV. You need a music player and this month's worship song, "My Forever Friend," which is included in your monthly files. The dance moves video for "My Forever Friend" is available on OrangeKidsMusic.com or in your media package if you subscribe. You also need "Jesus No Matter What," which is available on iTunes®, Spotify®, and OrangeKidsMusic.com. The dance moves video for this song is on OrangeKidsMusic.com.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hey, friends! Who's ready for worship? (Pause.) Me, too! I LOVE to sing and dance and praise God with you. God sent Jesus to be our friend forever. **Who teaches you important things?**"

**CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Jesus teaches me important things."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Yes, He does! I'm so glad to know that **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** He's a good, good friend. Sing this out with me.

*Lead children in singing "My Forever Friend," this month's worship song.*

"I wanna be just like Jesus! He's my forever friend. The Bible teaches us that 'The crowds (arms out and around) were amazed (hands to eyes like binoculars then open and close) at his teaching (hands to mouth),' Matthew 7:28. (Open hands like a book.) Let's say that together."

*Lead children to repeat the memory verse with the motions.*

"Yes, Jesus teaches us SO many important things. We can love and change the world when we do what Jesus teaches us to do! Let's sing 'Jesus No Matter What.'

*Lead children in singing "Jesus No Matter What."*

"Is Jesus with you ALL the time? (Pause.) Yes! Can we love others because Jesus loves us? (Pause.) Yes. Tell me, **who teaches you important things?**"

**CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Jesus teaches me important things."



WEEK  
**TWO**  
JANUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS  
STAGE

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      **STORY**      GROUPS      HOME

10 MINUTES

## INTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Book nook from previous week, plush lamb, plush cow, animal picture book; and prop box

**WHAT YOU DO:** Place the lamb, cow, and book in the prop box.

*The Host, very excited, walks in carrying the prop box.*

**HOST:** "Hello there, friends! I'm [your name]. I LOVE our awesome book nook.

*Walk to the book nook.*

"I just thought of one thing that will make it even better. *(Pull out the stuffed cow.)* What does this animal say? *(Pause.)* MOO! *(Place cow in the book nook.)*

"Oh and I've got another fluffy friend for the book nook. *(Pull out the lamb)* This is my favorite one: Sammy the Sheep. I've had this sheep since I was a kid.

*Sit in the book nook with the sheep.*

"I would be SO sad if I lost my little sheep! Do you have a favorite fluffy friend? Wave your hand high if you do. *(Pause.)* Wow! Lots of you like to cuddle up with fluffy friends.

*Pick up the book.*

"I like this book because it's about animals! It tells me all about them. You know, you can learn from stories. They're wonderful. Jesus told stories. Would you like to hear one? I think it's time. See you in a little bit."

*The Host exits, leaving the book and the sheep behind but somewhat covered by one of the blankets or pillows in the book nook.*

## BIBLE STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Table, bowl of cotton balls, lamb from Intro, and Bible; *Optional Story Images*

**WHAT YOU DO:** Preset the table in the storytelling area.

*The storyteller enters, carrying Bible and bowl of cotton balls.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I'm here to tell you a true story from the Bible.

*Hold up the Bible then set it on the table.*

"You know, [Host's name] is exactly right! Jesus told stories. Today, I want to share one of the stories Jesus told to teach us something very important. And this story starts with a shepherd. Do you know what a shepherd does? Raise your hand if you think a shepherd is responsible for taking care of dogs? *(Pause.)* No? Okay, what about birds? Does a shepherd take care of birds? *(Pause.)* Nope. A shepherd takes care of, say it with me."



WEEK  
**TWO**  
JANUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS  
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Sheep!"

**STORYTELLER:** "That's right. A shepherd takes care of sheep! What does the sheep say? Let's all make a sheep noise together."

*(Option: Display Story Image W2 01)*

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Baa!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Whoa, you sound like a herd of real sheep. Excellent job. Okay, so Jesus said to pretend you're a shepherd and you have 100 sheep.

*Dump out the cotton balls on the table.*

"Let's pretend these are our fluffy sheep. Can you imagine taking care of ALL these sheep? Crazy, right? So Jesus said the shepherd had 100 sheep. That's a lot! Can you imagine counting out 100 sheep? What if you were a shepherd counting all those sheep but instead of 100 sheep, you only counted 99?

"Like this . . .

*Take out five cotton balls from the pile as you count.*

"Ninety-five, ninety-six, ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine . . . oh, no! There's only 99 here!

*(Option: Display Story Image W2 02)*

Where's number 100? Where's the last sheep? Does anyone see it? Oh no, it's lost! What should the shepherd do? Should he stay with the 99 sheep he has or find the missing one?

*(Option: Display Story Image W2 03)*

"Well, Jesus said the shepherd loved all his sheep, Each ONE mattered to him. So the shepherd went out to find the one missing sheep. Let's see, do you see any sheep around here?

*Search the storytelling area but stay away from the book nook.*

"Do you see the sheep? Nope, not here.

*Keep searching among the children in the audience.*

"Sheep? Oh little fluffy sheep!

*Walk to the book nook and spot the sheep.*

"Do you see it? Yes! There it is!

*Pick up the sheep.*

*(Option: Display Story Image W2 04)*



WEEK  
**TWO**  
JANUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS  
STAGE

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      **STORY**      GROUPS      HOME

10 MINUTES

"The shepherd was so happy to find his sheep that he picked it right up, put it on his shoulders, and carried it all the way home. Yay, the lost sheep is found! Everybody cheer!

"Jesus told this story to teach us something very important. YOU matter to God. Yes, YOU are important to God. If you were a lost sheep, God would go out and look for you. And when He found you, He would be SO happy that He would celebrate. You are important to God. Say, 'I am important to God.'"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "I am important to God."

**STORYTELLER:** "Yes, you are! I'm so glad we have a friend like Jesus to teach us important things. Tell me, **who teaches you important things?**"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "**Jesus teaches me important things.**"

**STORYTELLER:** "Yes, it's true. One more time, **who teaches you important things?**"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "**Jesus teaches me important things.**"

**STORYTELLER:** "You've got it! God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to be your friend forever. Let's close our eyes and talk to God together."

### PRAYER

**STORYTELLER:** "God, thank You for sending Jesus, Your Son, to teach us so many important things. Every friend here is so important to You, God. Thank You for loving us so, so much. We love You, God. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

"Thank You for being such great listeners and helpers with the story! I'll see you next time. Bye!"

*The Storyteller exits with the Bible and leaves the stuffed sheep on the table.*

### OUTRO SKETCH

What You Need: Stuffed lamb and book from Intro

*The Host enters smiling.*

**HOST:** "Wow! Jesus told a story to teach us that we are important to God and He loves us SO much! I think I got the story. If you got it, let me see a thumbs-up! (Pause.) Awesome. I'm so glad **Jesus teaches me important things.**  
*Pick up the stuffed lamb and sit in the book nook.*

"Okay, Sammy, let's finish this story."

*Arrange Sammy under the covers and pick up the book.*

There! Now we're all nice and cozy. I love this book nook. See you later, friends."

*Host waves to the children as they exit.*