

STORY TIME

Preschool
Week 2

Read: Luke 15:1-7

Why would Jesus spend so much time with sinners, the marginalized, and the unaccepted? The Pharisees repeatedly asked Jesus this question. Jesus' care for imperfect humans was offensive to them. So, he told this story of the shepherd and the lost sheep. The shepherd in the story went to great lengths to rescue just one lost sheep. He still had 99, so why search for only one? Because it was his own sheep. It belonged to him. That one sheep was vulnerable and that one sheep needed him. And the shepherd experienced great joy in the seeking and finding of that sheep.

Jesus is the same way. When we know that we are vulnerable, broken, and lost, then we are better able to realize that we need something meaningful. And that something is Jesus. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and it gives him great joy to seek and find us, the lost sheep. The tax collectors and sinners that approached Jesus to hear his teaching were already a step ahead of the Pharisees. Those people that followed Jesus knew without a doubt that nothing that they had done was enough to give them status, value, or worth. They knew they were missing something and they were beginning to see that thing was Jesus.

The great paradox of the Gospel is that we can only win after we admit we are lost. The winning is in the losing. Seeing ourselves as the same as everyone else (sinful) is the only way to see that we need Jesus. When we let Jesus find us and save us, we see just how precious we are to him. And when we realize how much we need him, then we will find he is enough.

In what ways is it hard for you to admit that you are lost apart from Jesus?

How does knowing that we are all the same in our need for Jesus help you see people differently?