

# Week 40 Parent Sheet: The Lost Sheep

Matthew 18:10-14 NIV

*Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves us, His sheep so much that He laid down His life for us!*

Bethlehem Family Childcare – Wednesdays: Story Time (9:30-10:00) and Bible Time (10:00-10:30)

[www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com)

## Many Events of Jesus' Life in Chronological Order:

- Born (5 BC)
- Named – when 8 days old
- Presented at the Temple – when 40 days old
- Visited by Wise Men – when 2 to 5 months old
- Fled to Egypt – when 2 to 5 months old
- Returned to live in Nazareth – when 1 year old
- His parents thought He was lost – when 12 years old
- Baptized by John – when 30 years old
- Some important events of His three-year ministry:
  - ➔ Tempted in the wilderness
  - ➔ Moved from Nazareth to Capernaum
  - ➔ Called His disciples
  - ➔ Preached the Sermon on the Mount
  - ➔ Performed many miracles
  - ➔ Sent out His disciples to heal and teach
  - ➔ Warned about persecution
  - ➔ Told many parables
  - ➔ Heard of the death of John the Baptist
  - ➔ **More miracles and teaching**
  - ➔ Transfigured, Moses and Elijah appeared with Him
  - ➔ More miracles and teaching
  - ➔ Welcomed into Jerusalem – on Palm Sunday
  - ➔ Taught many things – on Holy Tuesday
  - ➔ Instituted the Lord's Supper – on Holy Thursday
  - ➔ Arrested, tried, crucified, and died – on Good Friday
  - ➔ Raised to life – on the third day, Easter Sunday
  - ➔ Ascended into heaven – 40 days after Easter

## Background:

1. During Jesus' life and ministry He fulfilled many OT prophecies, taught with authority, and did many mighty miracles; all such things prove that He is the Son of God, the Promised Savior of the world!
2. Let us see today that, *from God's perspective*, children are very important!

## The Lost Sheep:

1. The setting: Jesus was teaching His disciples – *people who were trusting in Him, learning from Him, and following Him.*
2. Earlier in Matthew 18: <sup>1</sup> **...the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"** <sup>2</sup> **He called a little child to him,**

and placed the child among them. <sup>3</sup> And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." // Think about a small child – *how he trusts others to be honest with him and to help him with all of his needs.* Jesus is calling everyone to trust in Him, even as a little child trusts his loving parents.

3. Regarding little children who believe: <sup>10</sup> **"See that you do not despise [look down on] one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."** // Those little ones each have a guardian angel watching over them; *they are not alone.*
4. God deeply cares for His children: <sup>12</sup> **"What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? <sup>13</sup> And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. <sup>14</sup> In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones [these children who believe] should perish. // Even though children or beginners in the faith or others in God's family may seem unimportant or feel forgotten, let us teach them that God:**
  - a. Made them!
  - b. Loves them!
  - c. Saved them!
  - d. Provides for them!
  - e. Is watching over them!

## Thoughts:

1. As God values children, *so let us do the same!*
2. By nature we are *spiritually dead and eternally doomed*; therefore, by *God's grace and power*, let us trust in Jesus and the work He did to *live in our place and pay the eternal penalty for our sins!*
3. Let us gladly receive the benefits of Jesus' work through Word and Sacrament!