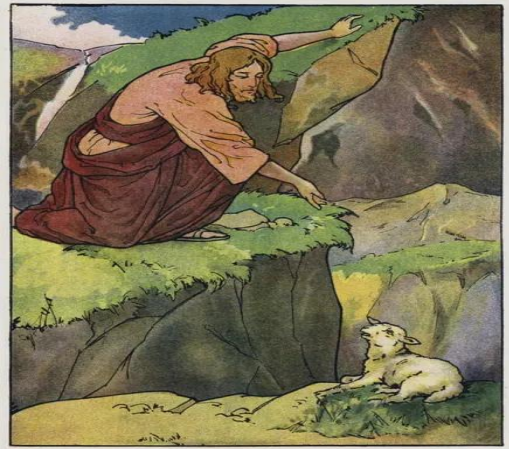


- **The Parable:** Luke 15:3-7 **The Lost Sheep** The Pharisees were criticizing Jesus for making friends with poor people who had to steal for food, and others who were sick and people who had been in jail.
- Jesus answered the Pharisees. Suppose, you had 100 sheep and you loose one of them. Would you not leave the others and go and look for it? And when you find it, you are excited and even hold a party for the lost sheep.
- I tell you....there will be more joy in heaven when even one person turns to God and says "I'm sorry."



I have a very nice collection of stuffed toys. Especially Lambs. Oh, my! I seem to have lost one of my stuffed toys. I know I had it when I got here this morning. Would you help me look for it? (Lead the children in a search for the lost toy.) Thank you so much for helping me find the lost toy. Even though I have a lot, every one of them is very important to me and I would be very upset if one of them was lost.

That reminds me of a lesson that Jesus taught to a group of religious leaders one day. The religious leaders were very upset that Jesus was often seen associating even sometimes seen eating with all kinds of people. Jesus was a friend to the rich and the poor, the happy and the sad, the rich or the poor, the old and the children. The religious leaders didn't like that at all and were very critical of Jesus. Jesus told them a story to help them to understand.

"Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and you lost one of them,"

"Wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine who were safe, and go and search for the lost sheep? Wouldn't you be joyful when you found the lost sheep, put it on your shoulders and carry it back home? Wouldn't you be so happy that you would tell all of your friends about finding the lost sheep?" (Luke 15:3-6) imagine that all of the religious leaders had to agree that they would do just as Jesus had suggested. Then Jesus said to them; "In the same way, there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who is sorry than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not think they needed to be sorry.." (Luke 15:7)

The Bible teaches us that we are like sheep and sometimes stray away from God. That makes God very sad, but he never gives up on us. He keeps searching for us and calling to us. He wants to draw us back into his arms. He even sent Jesus, his Son, to save those who are lost. Aren't you glad that God doesn't give up on his lost sheep? I am, because "I once was lost, but now I'm found!"

Dear Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. We are thankful that you came to save those who are lost. Amen.

Help the shepherd find his lost sheep.



Let's sing about Jesus!

Tell me the stories of Jesus, I love to hear.
Things I would ask Him to tell me, if He were here.
Scenes by the cities, Tales of the sea.
Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

First, let me hear how the children, stood round His knee.
And I shall fancy His blessing resting on me.
Words full of kindness, Deeds full of grace.
All in the lovelight of Jesus face.

Teach me to follow His lessons, I love to hear.
And be His sons and His daughters, when He comes near.
Love one another, forgiving each one.
Listening to Jesus, He'll say "Well done!"

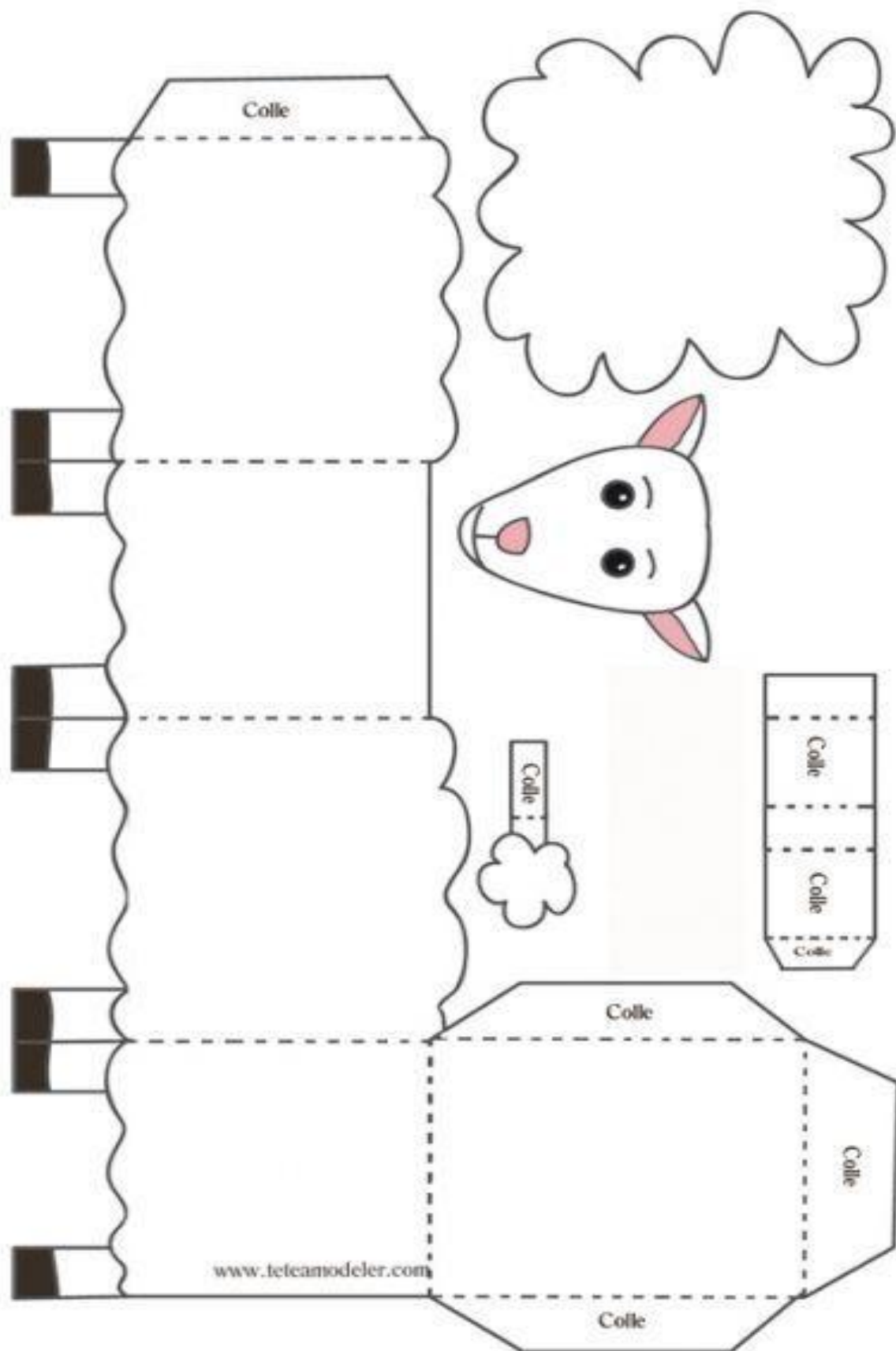


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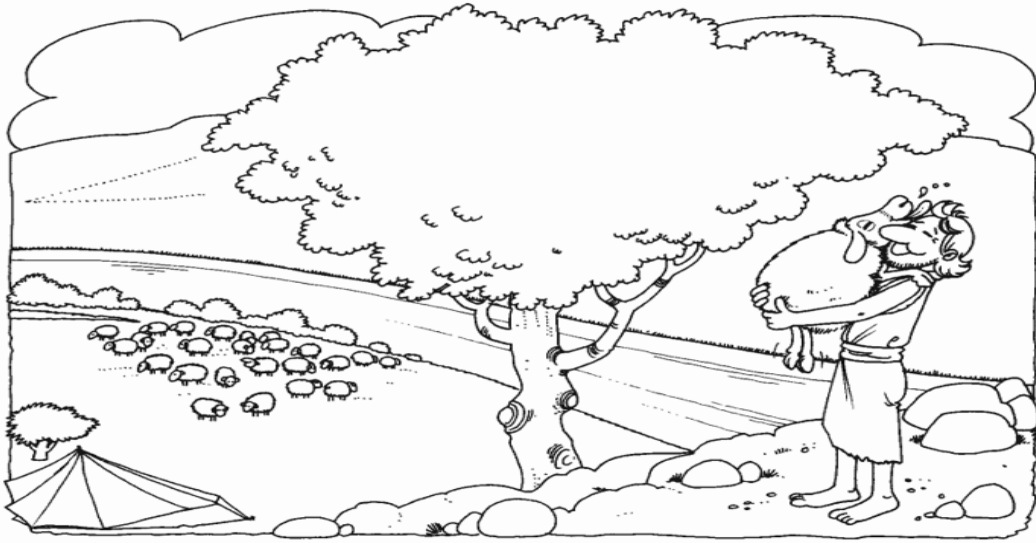
he Lost Sheep

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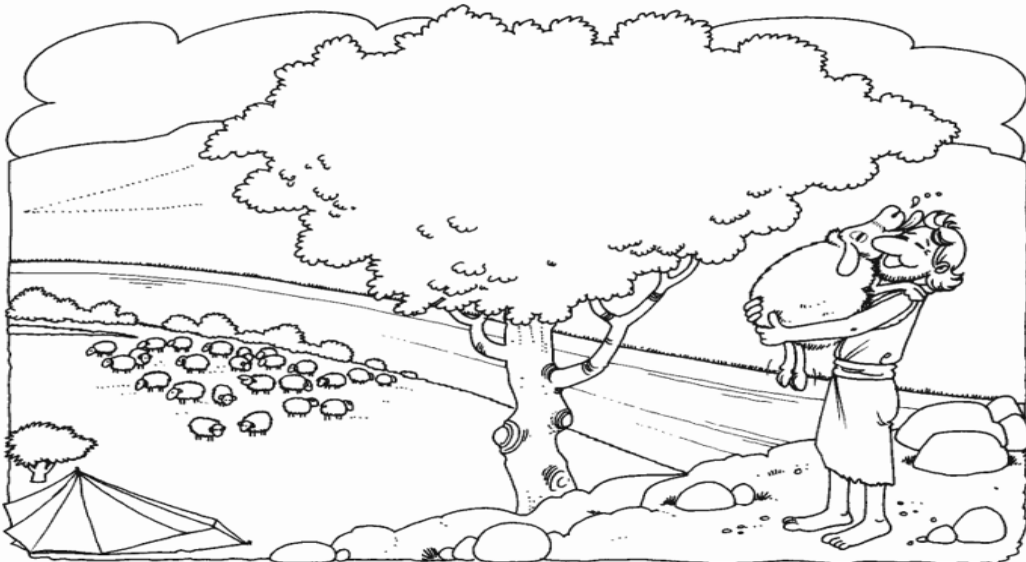


The Parable of the Lost Sheep



**We become a lost sheep when we stop following our shepherd, Jesus.
Looking after each other is one of the most important things we need to do.
The Good Shepherd went and searched until He found the lost sheep.
Jesus will keep searching our hearts until He finds a heart full of love.**

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