

## Family Worship Response

### Elementary

**Purpose:** The shepherd relentlessly searched until at last he found his sheep. The woman did not give up until she found that missing coin. The father rejoiced greatly when his son returned to him! In the same way, the Good Shepherd pursues and longs for every sheep whom His Father has given to Him, that none will be lost ([John 17:2, 6, 9](#)), but that all will be brought safely into His care. Jesus tells us in John 10:27-28, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." Today, let's take a moment to listen to the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

#### Supplies Needed:

- Journal or piece of paper (an older person can write for younger children)
- Pen
- Noise cancelling headphones or earplugs (kids can also plug their own ears if these supplies are not handy)

#### Activity:

- Find a silent spot in the room to sit or stand alone.
- Put the earplugs in, the headphones on, or plug your ears!
- Take this time in silence to be still before God and listen to hear what He wants to say to you!
- Write down or draw what you hear Him telling you! Maybe you hear Him say that He loves you! Or maybe that you should forgive that one person for what they did. Whatever it is, write or draw it out and thank God for speaking to you!

**Tip:** If your kiddos are wrestling with the question, *How do I know if the voice I hear is mine, God's or the enemy's*, encourage them that whenever God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit, that His voice will always match up with scripture and the character of God we find in the Word.

## **Family Activity**

### **Elementary**

**Jesus Pursues Activity Purpose:“ For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Luke 19:10**

In our lesson from Matthew 18:10-14 and Luke 15, we see people- a shepherd, a woman, a father- looking for those things which are lost- a sheep, a coin, a son. Their looking is an intense “seeking.” They have eyes to see and hearts to persevere. They earnestly wait, seek, pursue the item that is lost...and then exuberantly REJOICE- often including their neighbors- when it is found.

These people represent the heart of God- of Jesus- for the lost to become a part of the Family of God. Jesus came to this world to seek and save those who were far from God...you and me. And when we are found, there is a mighty party in the heavens! God wants us to care about whether people know Him, too. The Holy Spirit gives us eyes to see people like Jesus does and the power to share the Good News. Take a moment to pray before the hunt that the Holy Spirit would give you “eyes to see.”

### **Lost Treasure Hunt**

#### **Supplies Needed:**

- Each family member brings a “treasure” to be lost (hidden), something that means something to them (use wisdom if something that will cause fighting)
- Picture(s) of family member
- One piece of paper per person
- Writing utensils

#### **Action:**

- Decide whether to play outside or inside.
- Family members exchange “treasures” so each person holds someone else’s treasure and then takes a turn hiding the “treasure” without anyone else seeing until all the “treasure” is hidden.
- On a piece of paper, each person writes out clues for the treasure’s owner to find (option: spoken clues are fine, too).
- Each family member takes turns following the clues to find their treasure. At that point the whole family celebrates creatively- loud yell, dance, hand motions, etc- for the lost item being found.
- Next Level- hide a family member’s picture—can be someone who does not yet know Jesus. Everyone searches for the picture and celebrates when it is found—representing God’s heart that none be lost and all would be a part of God’s Family...and His heart that we feel the same!

## **Family Discussion**

### **Elementary**

**God Statement:** Jesus Pursues!

**Family Verse:** Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Matthew 6:8b

Blessing: **Children, God tells us in His Word that when even one of His children goes the wrong way, He will find them and bring them back to His way. He wants everyone to be part of His family. "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God" (1 John 3:1a).**

Encourage children to close their eyes as you speak the final blessing over them:

**May you truly know what it is to be part of God's family.**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Have you ever been lost in a store, at a park or somewhere else? How did it feel?
2. What does it mean to be lost spiritually?
3. How does it make you feel knowing Jesus is always pursuing your heart?
4. What can you do to help Jesus find lost family and friends?
5. Do you believe Jesus has found you? (Depending on response this is great time for parents to invite Children into the family of God)

**Prayer Time:** Take time for prayer requests or praise reports (something you are thankful that God has done). Afterwards, take time to pray as a family.