

Bible background

Luke 15:8-10

Aim of lesson

To teach the children that God loves them.

Preparation required

Make ten silver 'coins' from kitchen foil circles. These will look more like coins if you make a rubbing of a coin on them. Or wrap silver foil round discs of plasticine.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children to hunt for the coins and bring them to the table or box. Count the coins. Find that one is missing. Then all hunt to find the one that is lost.
2. Tell the class that Jesus told a story of a woman who lost a coin. Ask the children to imagine how the woman would sweep the house and look everywhere. Ask the children where she would look. Tell how delighted she was when she found it.
3. Ask the children to look for the coins on the activity sheet and complete it.
4. Tell how Jesus told this story to teach us about his Father, God. God loves each one of us and he does not want to lose one person. Stress how, just as the woman was delighted to find her coin, so God is delighted when we come back to him. Ask the children what they do to celebrate something wonderful - maybe have a party. Jesus is teaching that God feels happy like that about us when we come back to him. We come back to him by remembering his goodness to us and saying we are sorry for things we have done wrong and choosing to live our lives to please him.
5. Teach the song 'God Loves' in Lesson 22.

Alternative activities

1. Do some coin rubbings with wax crayons or make coin imprints in Plasticine.
2. Give them a thick paper or thin cardboard 'purse' to decorate and then count the coins into it. To make the purse, simply fold the paper or card in half and staple or tape along the sides.
3. You may like to explain about the coins forming part of a head-dress and give each child an outline of a head to complete by drawing or sticking on features, hair and then a paper or fabric head-dress on to which they can glue milk bottle top or silver foil coins. (There is a picture of a woman's head with coins in the CSSU Year 4 Infant colouring book.)
4. Role-play. Let the children sweep and tidy the 'house', hunting high and low for the lost coin. Then, when it is found, have a party to celebrate. You can make food from Plasticine or salt dough or even have some real food to share. (Make sure none of the children is allergic to any of the food you propose to use.)

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask how we can be lost to God. Since he can always see us he will always know where we are, but we can be lost when we are selfish and want what we want without caring for others or for what God thinks.

Prayer

Ask who is glad that God loves them and why. Use the answers as prayers.

Verse

'Consider the great love of the Lord.' Psalm 107:43.