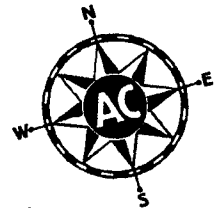


3/10 - Bag it Night  
- Games

# Lesson 29: He's Our Shepherd



Adventure Club

## Concept

God seeks out His lost.

## Goals

- To understand how special each one of us is to God.
- To understand that "lost" means being without God or away from Him for while.
- To understand that God will look for us until he finds us.

## Memory Verse

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me..." **John 10:14.**

## Bible Exploration

**Parable of the Lost Sheep:** Luke 15:3-6

**Key Verse:** Isaiah 43:1

## Response

Adventurers will be encouraged to thank God for His love.

## Music Time

Lead adventurers in 2-5 songs from music CD included in the Adventure Club Kit.

## Setting the Compass

*Stage:* The office. Ed is looking for his favorite **pen** (which is inside his shirt). He's looking under things, around books, behind the computer, on the floor - everywhere.

### He's Our Shepherd

*Cast:* **Apocalypse; Ed Venture**

**APOC** — What did you lose, Ed?

*Ed stops and looks up.*

**ED** — My pen. Have you seen it?

**APOC** — Is that it? By your mouse?

*Ed looks hopeful and then is crestfallen.*

**ED** — No. That's a different pen. The one I'm looking for is my favorite . . . well, one of my favorites. It's blue with silver trim and writes so smoothly - it never skips. It's trim and lightweight. I used it when I wrote the article on pig genetics and why they don't fly. That pen and I go way back.

**APOC** — Well, the pen right there - does it work?

**ED** — Yes.

**APOC** — Then just use it. It's right there.

**ED** — It's not the same. It's such a special pen, unlike any other. That pen there is great — it has black ink and a very smart design, but it's not like my other pen. It's here and safe, but I'm worried about the other pen. It's lost and if I don't find it, who will? (*Ed begins to look really worried.*) Someone may find it who doesn't really care about it . . . someone who'll just use it and give it away to someone else. My pen could be used to write down phone numbers or shopping lists and not equations and theories of the universe. Don't you see?

**APOC** — I see you care about your pen.

**ED** — And I will search for it until I can safely bring it home to its rightful place. (*Ed points his finger in the air as a final decree.*) I must keep searching. (*begins looking again.*)

**APOC** — (*trying to be helpful*) Did you check in the chair cushion? Under the key pad? On the floor? Behind your ear?

**ED** — (*sits down*) It feels like I've been searching all day! (*Continues to move through papers on the desk*) I want to give up!

**APOC** — (*Ed's chest*) What's that slipped inside your shirt?

*Ed looks down, jumps up, pulls the pen from his shirt and begins to celebrate!*

**ED** — Look, Apoc! It's my pen! Isn't it wonderful: My pen has been found! I looked, I searched and I found it! It's a great day! I didn't give up.

**APOC** — Yes, you did.

**ED** — I just kept on looking.

**APOC** — Yes, you did.

**ED** — Well, you know . . . this pen is important to me!

**APOC** — I do now! By the way, where's that other pen? (*Teasing Ed*) The one with the black ink?

*Ed begins a frantic search for the 'new lost pen' but find it right there where it should be.*

**ED** — It's right here, Apoc.

**APOC** — But if it was lost, you would have started looking for it, right?

**ED** — Yes, I would. You see, it's . . .

*APOC joins in.*

**BOTH** — . . . a special pen!

**ED** — Yes!

**APOC** — You know, Ed, Jesus thinks we're special. In fact, He once told a story about . . . Let's get

those reality glasses, if they're not lost, and go back in time and listen to one of Jesus' stories.

*Ed puts on glasses.*

**APOC** — There He is! Look at all the people! All different kinds waiting to hear his words, his stories . . . I can't hear what He's saying.

*Ed cups his hear and strains to hear.*

**ED** — It seems there was a man who had a flock of sheep . . . a big flock . . . 100 of them! He had been grazing them in a field in the foothills where the grass is tall and sweet. On the way back from this field one of his sheep - I think his name was Gilbert - got lost out in the wilderness and the shepherd left the other 99 sheep to go look for Gilbert. At first Gilbert wasn't afraid, because he didn't know he was lost. He played a bit, chasing after butterflies. He didn't really notice he was alone until he started to get tired. Then he noticed the flock was gone and he couldn't hear his shepherd's voice! He climbed on rocks to look around. He called out . . . b-a-a, b-a-a . . . but no one answered. Finally he laid down on the hard soil and shook. He didn't know what to do and his hooves were sore. Then there was a familiar voice in the distance. He heard his shepherd calling his name. He jumped up and ran to him. His shepherd was so happy to see him that he picked him up and took him home. The shepherd had looked high and low for Gilbert and would have looked all night if he had to. He wasn't going to leave Gilbert in the wilderness.

**APOC** — That's why they call Jesus the good shepherd. He does the same thing. If we go astray, get lost, He'll come to search for us. He truly loves us.

**ED** — Yes, he does.

**EMCEE** — Jesus really loves each one of us as much as that shepherd loved his sheep. Once we're born, Jesus keeps looking for us to come to him and to say we want to follow him. Have you told Jesus you want to follow him? If you haven't then you're like that lost sheep. He didn't know where to go without his shepherd leading him and caring for him. Jesus wants to be your shepherd. He wants to lead you because he loves you. He wants to show you the best way to go through life. Let's pray and thank God that even though there are millions of people in the world, He knows each of our names. We are special to Him.

*Close in prayer.*

# Small Group Activities

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## Bible Discovery Questions:

- 1) What did Ed lose? (His pen)
- 2) What did Apoc see that he thought might help Ed? (Another pen)
- 3) Why did that not help? (Ed wanted the special pen he was looking for - it was his favorite and had used it many other times)
- 4) Where did Ed finally find it? (Inside his shirt)
- 5) What story did Ed and Apoc hear Jesus telling? (A story about 100 sheep. If one was lost the shepherd would leave the other 99 and go look for it.)
- 6) What would the shepherd do when he found the lost sheep? (Carry it home and have a big party to celebrate)
- 7) How does that story describe how God feels about us? (We are each special to Him, and He will do everything He can to make sure we stay with Him)
- 8) How does that make you feel? (Important to God - He loves me)

## Memory Verse:

John 10:14

**Preschool:** "I am the good shepherd..."

**Primary:** "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep..."

**Middler/Junior:** "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me..."

## Activity Page:

Follow the directions on the suggested activity page.

## Additional Exploration:

- ✓ Look up and read Isaiah 43:1. Who created you? Why shouldn't we be afraid? What does it mean that God has redeemed us? How can you tell from this verse that you are special to God? How does that make you feel?
- ✓ Leader hides candy all over the room, with each piece having a child's name on it. Adventurers search for the candy until they find the one with their name. How did they feel knowing there was a piece of candy with their name on it? How did they find their piece of candy and saw their name? You are like that piece of candy. He knows you, he knows your name. You are special to God. He loves you and wants to have a relationship with you. Let's pray and talk to God now.