

Lesson 7 Additional Activities



Welcoming

Book Suggestions

- Strega Nona* by Tomie dePaola
- Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney
- Stella Luna* by Janet Cannon
- The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
- The Skin You Live In* by Michael Tyler
- How Butterflies Came to Bee* by Tania Bloch and Lana Grimm
- If Everybody Did* by Jo Ann Stover
- Do Unto Otters: A Book about Manners* by Laurie Keller



Discovering

- two strips of unpatterned cloth, or two wide ribbons, 12" long and at 3" wide; these must be different colors
- two wooden craft figures, about 2' tall
- toy sheep, at least five
- The Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown
- red construction paper
- small box, at least 3" x 3"
- safety scissors
- bells, streamers, or rhythm instruments

Before the Lesson:

- Obtain a copy of the book, *The Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown (easily found in public libraries).
- Cut out a heart with the red construction paper. (See Activity Master 26 in the Catechist/Teacher Guide for a pattern.)
- The 3" x 3" box will be used as a house for a wooden figure. On one side, cut a rectangle for a door.
- Put the items near your place in the Discovering area.



Discovering

Additional Option to the Discovering Story

(**Note:** The following replaces the Discovering text on page 95.)

- Have the book, *The Runaway Bunny*, nearby.

Before we read our stories from Scripture, I want to show you a book you might have seen before. Maybe someone read it to you when you were little. Do any of you know this?

- Hold up the book.

If a child or children have seen it, ask one to tell briefly what it is about. Then begin to read the book. Read only a few pages so children understand the pattern of the mother bunny's faithful care of the child bunny. Then just show the rest of the pictures.

Does the mother bunny help you think about how God loves you and watches over you? The mother bunny always watches over the child bunny, no matter where the little bunny goes, doesn't she?

- Encourage a short discussion about this.

Now we will read some other stories. These stories are from the Bible. In our prayer, we talked about Jesus as a teacher. Jesus was also a storyteller. He often taught by telling stories. Like the bunny book, Jesus told stories that helped people understand God better. These stories are called "parables." Can you say that word?

- Help the children say the word parables.

Jesus' parables are stories that use everyday things that can help us better understand God.

In another language, the word "parable" means "something laid alongside."

- Take the two strips of cloth and lay them out alongside one another.

Now we will read two parables from the Bible. They are from the Gospel of Saint Luke.

ASK AND YOU WILL RECEIVE

(Based on Luke 11:5–10)

Jesus' parable went like this:

Suppose that late one night, a man hurried to a friend's house.

- Put one wooden figure on one strip of cloth. Place the box "house" over the figure.
- Hurriedly "walk" the other figure over to the house.

It was dark and everyone inside was in bed. Still, the man knocked and called, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread! Another friend of mine has arrived at my house after traveling and I have nothing to offer him to eat."

- Have the wooden figure "knocking" on the house.

From the darkened house, the friend answered, "Do not bother me! We have locked the door and are all in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything!"

The man did not give up, but kept knocking and calling. Finally, the friend in the house got up and brought bread outside, because the man kept asking.

Jesus told this so we would understand something about praying and how God loves us.

- Place the heart on the other strip of cloth.

If people help each other out, even if it is just so they can go back to sleep, how much will God, who loves us greatly, help us? So much, much more!

Jesus said of praying, "Ask and you will receive.... knock and the door will be opened to you."

Do you see how Jesus used a story of every-day things to show God's love for us?

- Indicate little houses and figures.
- Indicate the heart on the other strip of cloth.

Now we have another parable.

- Ask a child to remove the box, figures, and heart and place them next to the other props near you.
- The strips of cloth should be left in place.

THE LOST SHEEP

(Based on Luke 15:1-6)

Many people had come to listen to Jesus teach. Some thought they were better than the others. They complained that Jesus was willing to talk with people who sometimes made mistakes or did wrong things. Jesus wanted them to understand that God loves everyone. So here is another parable, or "side-by-side" story for the people who were complaining. Jesus' story went like this: There was a man who had one hundred sheep.

- Place one wooden figure and all the sheep on one of the strips of cloth. Explain that the story says one hundred sheep, but you don't have that many, so they should imagine one hundred sheep.

One day, one of the sheep became lost!

- Move one of the sheep off the cloth and away about 12".

The man left the other sheep and searched and searched for the lost sheep.

- Move the wooden figure as if it is looking in many places.
- Then have the figure "find" the lost sheep.

He found the sheep! He was so happy! He carried the sheep back, rejoicing all the way.

- Have the figure "carry" the sheep; the figure can leap and jump for joy as they return to the rest of the flock on the strip of cloth.

Jesus wanted the listeners to understand that all people, even those who have done something wrong, are loved by God.

- Place the heart onto the other strip of cloth. Then place the figure onto the heart.

Jesus told them that God is very happy when people who have done something wrong tell God they are sorry and that they love God. God rejoices then, just as the man rejoiced when he found his sheep.

Let's end our story time with a bit of rejoicing too!

- Hand out streamers, bells, or rhythm instruments.



**SING OR PLAY "JESUS' STORIES"
(ALLELU! K MUSIC CD, TRACK 11)**