



Lost & Found

Children's Story

Cycle C, Proper 5

Title: Lost and Found
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Text: Luke 7: 11-17
Theme: Jesus cares for us and helps us when we are sad.
Needed: Any object to "hide" somewhere at the front of the church before the children's time begins.

Gathering Activity:

Warmly invite the children to come for the children's time, to come if they are feeling happy, and especially if they are feeling sad. Once they are ready to listen with their hearts, open your Bible to Luke 7 and say, "Today's story comes from ideas in Luke, chapter 7, where someone was very sad." Show children the place in the Bible.

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Story:

I'd like to tell you a story, but I'm very sad, so I'm going to tell you about that instead. I am sad this morning because I have lost something that is special, I've lost my_____ *Describe the object.* I am scared I will never find it again. Has anyone here ever lost anything? Was it special to you? How did you feel?

What did you do when you lost something? Did you look for it? Did your Mom or Dad help you look for it? I wish there was something I could do so I could feel better. Can you think of anything that might help? *If the children suggest looking for it, take the suggestion; if not, steer the conversation in that direction. If you have a large group of children, suggest that three or four children look for it, and that others provide clues about where to look.*

Let me tell you where I thought I last had it. I was walking into church to get ready for the story. Then when I sat down for worship, I noticed it was gone. Let's look together for a little bit. *Look around the front of the church with the children. Look under the front pews, behind the pulpit, and anywhere else that you may think of. Allow one of the children to find the object and give it back to you.*

You've found it!!!! I am so happy. I thought that I had lost [name the object] forever!

Thank you so much! You really comforted and helped me! How do you think you comforted me? *Let the children answer the question.* Yes, you comforted me by helping my find my lost item. You also comforted me by listening to me and being with me. Thanks.

In our Bible story today, Jesus comforts and helps a very sad mom like you just comforted and helped me.. Jesus helped people feel better when they had lost something or when they were sad. Listen to the scripture reading to see how he helped her.

Sometimes we cannot get back what we have lost. Maybe a pet dies and we know that it cannot come back. Jesus has a plan for that kind of sadness, too. Jesus puts friends and family in our lives to be with us when we are sad. When they are sad with us, it helps us feel better. Before we looked for what I had lost, I started feeling better as soon as I could tell you about it. Jesus wants us to take care of each other when we are sad, just like Jesus took care of those around him.

Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, for taking care of us when we are sad, and by loving us through others. Help us to comfort people around us with your love. Amen.