

The Lost Goat

Kid Shorts



Session outcome

Students will engage the story of a goatherd and his runaway goat as a playful introduction to food security issues.

Advance Preparation

- Prepare the videos, *The Lost Goat*, and *The Lost Goat: Interviews*
- Secure a copy of the picture book, *Beatrice's Goat*, by Page McBrier (2001, Alladin Paperbacks), <http://resources.mennonitechurch.ca/FileDownload/11706> , to use as background on goats as important for food security.
- As an opening activity, prepare a scavenger hunt. Hide pieces of paper on which you have written clues about goats and their importance for food security. Remember to prepare a map of where you have hidden the clues so you can assist with the hunt as needed.
- Collect or purchase smooth stones and fine Sharpie markers for the craft activity.
- Choose discussion leaders for small groups.

Creating community

- Activity for early arrivals: Introduce the day's theme of looking for things that lead to food security.
- Enjoy the scavenger hunt and collect the hidden clues about goats and food security in a basket. After about ten minutes help find any missing clues, then gather in a circle to share what you have gathered. Share animal crackers as a group reward.
- Reflect on the reasons we enjoy hiding or seeking, and finding things. Who prefers hiding, or seeking? What experiences have you had with animals that like to run away? What truths about life do you find in this story? Encourage each other to have open hearts and minds to see the truths hidden in today's video.

Exploring a new view

- Watch the video *The Lost Goat*.

Responding

- In small groups, discuss several of the questions the kids discuss in the video: *'The Lost Goat: Interviews,'* then return to the larger group to watch this followup video.

1. What happened after the goat ran away?
2. How did James find the goat?
3. Why was it important for James to find the goat?
4. How would the story be different if James had done nothing?
5. How does this story relate to your life?
6. Have you ever been lost? What was it like?
7. Have you ever lost something that you cared about? What happened?
8. Of whom do James and the goat remind you?
9. What advice would you give to someone who has lost their way?
10. What does 'food security' mean and why are goats important to food security?
(Goats give milk, meat, and also a way for families to earn an income.)

- Tell the story of Beatrice and her goat, based on the picture book, to highlight the connections between goats and food security, or download the following article about buying goats for others as a way of supporting food security.
www.canadianmennonite.org/articles/african-goat-project-demonstrates-group-power
- Pass out the smooth stones so students can each choose one. Using the markers, decorate these stones, drawing on images and ideas from the story or the saying: *"Seek and you shall find."*
- Make a graffiti wall of things and people that have been lost and found.
- Sit in a circle. Name things that you, and others, have lost and then found. You can remain playful, or get more serious and include things like employment, dignity, food security, etc. Everyone responds by saying: *"We are grateful that what is lost can be found."*

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