

Children's Story – God Is Looking for Us

Luke 15:1-10

Advance preparation: Ahead of time, hide a coin in storytelling area.

Supplies: 10 coins, flashlight, broom.

Have you ever heard someone say, "You can't play with us" or "You can't sit with us" or "You can't be our friend." People in Jesus' time wondered if everyone could be a part of God's kingdom, especially people who had done wrong things. So Jesus told them a parable to help them understand more about God's kingdom: A woman had 10 coins. One day she counted her coins: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 ... *(slowly lay out each coin as you count)*. Oh no! One coin was missing. The woman began searching for the missing coin. She took a light *(turn on flashlight)* and looked in every nook and cranny. She swept the house from room to room *(sweep with broom)*. She searched everywhere. "Ah, here it is," she said. "I found it."

(Find hidden coin. Hold it up. Then lay coin beside the other coins and count. Point to each coin as you count.) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10! The woman called her friends together. "Come celebrate!" she said *(make motion to come)*. Then she invited her neighbors over for a party. "Come, rejoice with me! I have found the coin I had lost"

(Pause.)

God is always looking for us *(cup hands over eyes as you look at each child's eyes)*. God is happy when God finds us. God finds *(say each child's name in group)*. God celebrates when everyone is included in God's kingdom *(place symbol 5 into grass container)*.

Pray: Thank you, God, that you are always looking for us and everyone, no matter what we have done, no matter who we are. Help us be found by your love. Amen.

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