

THE SHEEP, THE COIN & THE SONS

Seeing God's Love
For Lost People

...

Week #1: The Sheep





PLAY TOGETHER

Play a game together.



PRAY TOGETHER

Spend time praising and thanking God in prayer.



GROW TOGETHER

Learn from Scripture about who God says He is and how we should respond to Him.

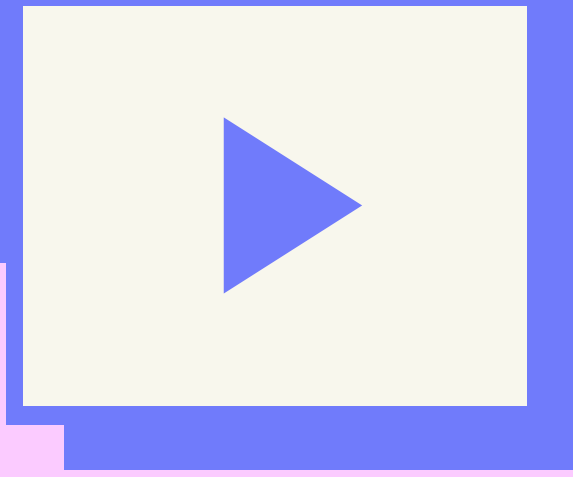


GO TOGETHER

Look for opportunities to share the Gospel, and serve others in your community with your YCI club members.

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How To Lead Your YCI Club



TALLEST TOWER

First, the YCI club should be split up into teams of 3–5 people. Next, each team has five minutes to build the tallest tower they can *only* using supplies found in the backpacks of each group member. At the end of the five minute countdown, the team that has built the tallest tower wins the game. This process can be repeated for as long as time allows!



ASK GOD FOR HIS WILL TO BE DONE IN THESE AREAS:



Club Time

Pray that God will speak to everyone in the room through His Word.



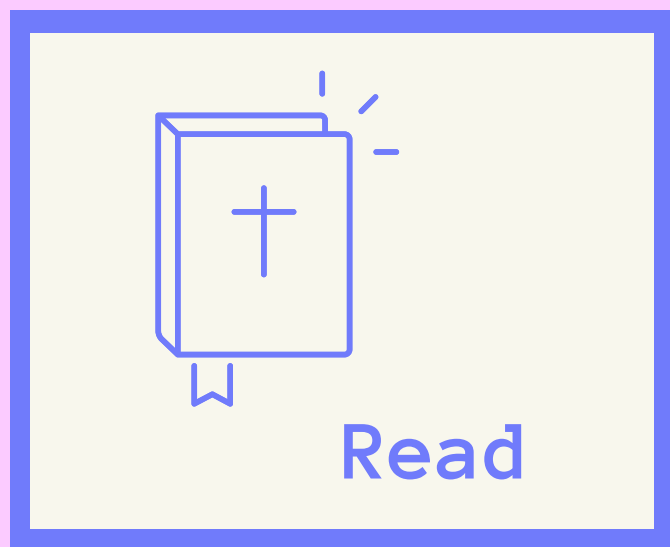
Group Needs

Take time to discuss and pray over the personal needs and requests of those in attendance.



School Community

Ask God to move in situations that are unique to your school and community.



LUKE 15:1-7 (ESV)



“Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. **2** And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.' **3** So he told them this parable: **4** “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? **5** And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. **6** And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ **7** Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”





WHY IS JESUS TALKING ABOUT SHEEP?

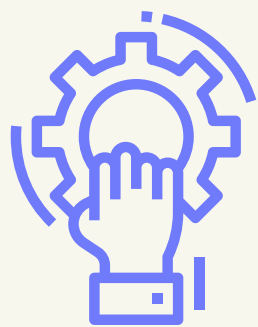


The scribes and Pharisees (religious leaders) are angry because Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath (the weekly day of rest God gives His people as a reminder that He is in control).

They accused Him of working when He should have been resting, and He responded by asking if it is lawful to heal on the Sabbath (Luke 14:3). He points out that, if it were them, they would immediately rescue their livestock from trouble on the Sabbath. In the same way, Jesus' "flock" is *people*. In this exchange,

Jesus suggests that He can work on the Sabbath because *He is God* who created the holy day. He then begins to share a collection of parables (short stories that reveal big truth). To heighten the frustration of the religious leaders, tax collectors and sinners continue to approach Jesus. He compares these broken souls to a lost sheep in need of a shepherd. Just like the man who Jesus heals and the sheep the shepherd finds, all of us are lost people in need of a Savior.





Apply

HOW DOES GOD SAVE WANDERING SHEEP?

He Chases Us

In Luke 15, Jesus illustrates His ultimate purpose in coming to earth. When God created humanity in Genesis 1, we were designed to be in perfect relationship with Him (all sheep together with their Shepherd). However, sin severed this relationship, and Jesus humbled Himself to the level of man to restore the connection (bring us back into the flock). He is the one who "goes after the one that is lost, until he finds it" (Luke 15:4). We don't find Jesus, He finds us.

He Carries Us

Once the shepherd in the parable found the lost sheep, He *carried* it back to the rest of the flock on His shoulders (Luke 15:5). As Christians, we have no room to boast about how strong we are. We are weak and helpless on our own, and we need our Savior to carry us.

He Celebrates Us

When a lost soul is saved by Jesus, He describes the scene in heaven as a party (Luke 15:6–7). The salvation of lost people is worthy of our celebration!





LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS

(SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS
IF TIME ALLOWS)



1. Can you remember the moment that Jesus saved *you*? If so, what was that experience like? If not, what is holding you back from surrendering your life to Him?



2. How can this parable help us be patient with the difficult people in our lives? How does knowing that we are *all* sheep in need of a Savior help us in our relationships?



3. As a YCI club, what are some practical things we can do to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the "wandering sheep" in our school?



CONSIDER THIS BEFORE YOU LEAVE:



Big Idea

As the result of sin, all of us are born as lost sheep in need of a Shepherd. Jesus *chased* us by coming to earth, *carried* us by bearing the weight of our sin on His shoulders and there is *celebration* in heaven when lost people find home in Him.



Sharing Truth

Who is someone in your life that needs to hear about what we discussed today? Pray for them, and find time this week to encourage them.



Meeting Needs

What is something your YCI club can do to show God's love this semester?

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