PARABLE

PARABLE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: THE SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP (MATTHEW 18:12–14; LUKE 15:1–7)

● PARABLE
● CORE PRESENTATION

THE MATERIAL

● LOCATION: PARABLE SHELVES
● PIECES: PARABLE BOX WITH GREEN DOT, 12 BROWN FELT STRIPS, 3 BLACK FELT SHAPES, 1 BLUE FELT SHAPE, 5 SHEEP, 1 GOOD SHEPHERD, 1 ORDINARY SHEPHERD, 1 WOLF
● UNDERLAY: GREEN

BACKGROUND

The primary sheep and shepherd parable of Jesus, recognized as authentic by many scholars, is the shepherd who searches for the one sheep that is lost and leaves the ninety-nine to do so. In this presentation, the gate is left open as the shepherd searches for the sheep, but you will also find that many of life’s conflicts find meaning and resolution in the themes from Psalm 23 and John 10, also present in the lesson.

The term *parable* can have a wide meaning. This lesson is more of an identity statement of Jesus than a parable. It is especially connected to and an introduction for the later lessons on the “I am” statements in John’s gospel.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

Find the material in a gold parable box with a green dot, located on the top shelf of one of the parable shelves. Inside the box is a green underlay with roughly rounded corners and an irregular, approximately square outline. Twelve brown felt strips (about 1” x 10”) form the sheepfold. Three irregular black shapes made of felt give the rough appearance of a mouth and two eyes when put together to form the dangerous place. A blue piece of felt provides the water. There are five sheep of different shades of gray and brown, a Good Shepherd, an ordinary shepherd and a wolf.