

SPREAD THE FRESH

Week 1: The Lost Sheep

Week 2: Jonah

This two-week series looks at one of the basic principles of our faith - telling others about Jesus!

We have called this series “**SPREAD THE FRESH**”. How can we as children of God spread the fresh? How can we spread the love of Jesus to give people a fresh and new start? How can we be the change that our cities, schools and families need?

Week 1 looks at the story of the **lost sheep**. This story shows us how important every single person is to God and that **EVERYONE** deserves to hear about the Gospel and the incredible offer that Jesus has made for us to spend eternity with him.

Week 2 looks at Jonah. Jonah was sent to the city of Nineveh in the hope that the people there would change from their evil ways. In the same way, God has called us to be the change in the world! He’s called us to be courageous and to go where no one else will go. Our obedience means everything to Him and our obedience to follow Him is only the beginning; we need to be obedient to his call of being disciples to **ALL** people!

Use this time to go deep with the kids. How do we share our faith with other kids at school who pray to other gods? How do we share the gospel to friends or family who believe there is no God? We need to equip kids to deal with issues such as these and we hope that through this short series we will be able to tackle some of these obstacles.

MEMORY VERSE

“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” Mark 16:15

WEEK 1 STORY

Opening Scene: Sarah is standing in the middle of her messy room. She's lost her Maths project & can't find it anywhere.

Sarah: (Cries out in desperation) Moooooom!!!!

Her mom comes rushing to the room thinking there's an emergency of some sort. She's out of breath and worried.

Mom: Sarah! What's wrong??

Sarah: I can't find my Maths project.

Mom: You're telling me I ran up all those stairs for a project?

Sarah: This is important mom, these marks go towards our final term mark and we fail it, it's game over.

Mom: I think you're being a little dramatic, but anyways, let's think about where it might be.

Sarah: My room is in such a mess I don't even know where to start. (*feeling defeated*)

Mom: Let's start with why your room is in such a state?

Sarah: It all began when I couldn't find my project. I may have gone a little crazy and unpacked all my cupboards and drawers.

Mom: A little crazy?

Sarah: Okay... maybe more than a little...

Mom: I'd say.

Sarah: But it's just that I know how important it is that I get that project in on time and so I wanted to check everywhere.

Mom: Alright, well, best we get cleaning up so we can try make sense of all this and hopefully find your project somewhere.

Sarah: Thanks mom, you're a life saver.

They begin sorting out the room and come across all sorts of "hidden treasure" in the process - a half-eaten chocolate, a puppy or other small pet, a kitchen sink, etc.

(Have fun with some funny and unexpected items which the actors can interact with.)

The next moment, Sarah's dad walks in holding what appears to be her project...

Dad: (*Very casually*) Sarah, is this yours?

Sarah: (*Doesn't look at her dad properly*) It could be, would you mind leaving it on my desk for now, we're just trying to look for my Maths project.

Dad: Um... I think this might be it?

Sarah: *(Jumps up and runs to her dad)* It is!!! Thank you, thank you, thank you!! Where did you find it? I thought I was going to fail Maths and my whole life would come to an end!

Dad: Slightly dramatic, but it's my pleasure, I found it in the study where you were obviously working on it.

Sarah: Obviously! And after all that worrying! *(Gives her dad a big hug)* Thanks dad, and thanks for helping me look mom.

Mom: My pleasure. Don't think you're going anywhere until we get this room of yours cleaned.

Sarah: Yes mom...

Sarah and her mom go back to cleaning her room. She's much happier now that she found her project.

Wrap it Up:

This story reminds me of a story in the Bible where someone also lost something important to them. I'll give you a clue... it involves a shepherd... and some sheep... that's it! Today we're looking at the story of the lost sheep and what it means for us. But before we go any further, let's remind ourselves about the story.

*The lost sheep video clip.

From this story, one thing is every clear: Everyone is important to Jesus! And because Jesus sees everyone as being equally important, we should too. Everyone has been lost at some point, but Jesus came and found us.

Maybe you have family and friends who don't know Jesus? Our duty as God's sheep is to go out and tell everyone about Jesus so that they too can be saved. Think of all the effort the shepherd went through to find his one lost sheep. Don't you think we should do whatever it takes to see our friends and family saved?

WEEK 2 STORY

Opening Scene: *Sarah's mom has asked her to bake cupcakes for her younger brother Josh's birthday. At the time of her mom's request, Sarah and Josh had just had a fight because Josh took her bicycle to his friend's house without asking her.*

Mom: Sarah honey, I'm really busy today, but I need to make cupcakes to send with Josh to school tomorrow for his birthday, do you think you could help me?

Sarah: *(Under her breath)* The only thing Josh deserves is mud cakes.

Mom: Sorry what was that?

Sarah: Sorry, nothing, of course I'll help you. Vanilla or chocolate? Or mud?

Mom: Let's stick with chocolate, how about that?

Sarah: And icing?

Mom: Let's do blue. Do we have blue food colouring?

Sarah: Yes, I think we do.

Mom: Wonderful! All the other ingredients are here. I just need to pop out to the shops and run a few errands, but then I'll be back; hopefully in time to help you ice the cupcakes.

Sarah: See you later, love you.

Mom: Love you too, bye-bye.

Sarah: Alrighty then, let's get started.

She picks up the recipe book and starts checking to see that she has all the ingredients. Her eye catches a bottle of peri-peri sauce on the counter and she gets an idea.

Sarah: *(Talking to herself while picking up the bottle of peri-peri sauce)* This will teach Josh a lesson... last time he'll take my bike without asking me...

She begins to make the cake. She adds all the normal ingredients and then right at the end she adds in the peri-peri sauce. She is pleased with herself. She puts the cupcakes in the oven.

Sarah: I can't wait to hear what happens when Josh takes these to school tomorrow.

Sarah: Alright, let's set this timer for 20 minutes. I'm sure I can even get a quick nap in too.

Sarah goes to lie down on the couch while she waits for the cupcakes in the oven.

Next thing she wakes up to the smell of smoke and runs to the kitchen.

Sarah: No, no, no! I fell asleep and didn't even hear the timer go off! This is terrible!

She tries to get rid of the smoke, but at that same moment her mom walks in.

Mom: Sarah, are you okay?

Sarah: Yes, I'm fine, but the cupcakes aren't. (She looks sad.)

Mom: What happened?

Sarah: I fell asleep and didn't hear the timer go off.

Mom: You know what, don't worry, we can just take Josh down to the cake shop and let him pick something there. Thank you so much for trying to help, I know that will mean a lot to Josh.

Sarah's face dropped, she couldn't believe what was happening.

Sarah: *(Trying to smile)* Sure, no problem.

Mom: *(Calls for Josh upstairs)* Josh! Come quick, we're going to go pick out cupcakes for you to take to school tomorrow. *(To Sarah)* Don't worry Sarah, I'll tell Josh you really wanted to make him your own special ones. Let's go.

MC Wrap it Up:

Sarah reminds us of someone we're going to learn about in our story today... can you guess? Jonah! God had instructed Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh to tell the people there to turn from their wicked ways. Jonah tried to run away as he didn't think the people there deserved God's forgiveness, he felt they deserved to be punished.

Let's look at the story of Jonah in more detail...

*Jonah media clip from Kids on the Move.

Well there you have it! The bottom line is obedience. When God speaks, we need to listen, no matter the cost. It will always be worth it when we're doing it for God and His Kingdom.

BIG GROUP GAMES

Week 1 – The Lost Sheep

- Divide your kids up into 2 or more teams.
- For each team you have, you will need a bin/box.
- Fill the box up with scrunched up paper and place cardboard pictures of sheep in the box amongst the paper.
- In a relay fashion, teams need to race to see who can retrieve all the lost sheep out of their box the fastest!

Get your sheep home!

- You will need some white balloons for this game. You can use about 3 or 4 depending on how many kids you want to play the game at a time.
- Using permanent markers, draw sheep faces on the balloons.
- Set up two chairs to act as the goals at one end of the room.
- Select a few kids to play the game and have them stand in a line on the opposite side of the room to where the chairs are.
- Tell them, they can only use their weak hand to get their “sheep” across the room and into the goals.
- The first person to get their sheep “home” WINS!

Week 2 – Whale it up!

- Pick one child to be the 'whale'.
- The whale will stand in the centre of the playing area. Line up all the other kids on one side of the room. They will be 'Jonah'. --When you call out 'STORM', the kids will try to run from one side of the room to the other without getting tagged by the 'whale'.
- Whoever gets tagged will remain in the middle and become an extra whale.
- Play will continue until there is only one 'Jonah' left and everyone else has now become a 'whale'.

Jonah Quiz

- You could do the quiz before the story to see how much they know or you could use it as a recap after the story.
- You could put them in groups and see which group can answer the most questions correctly first.

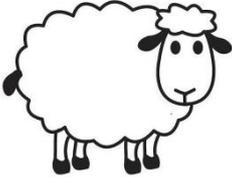
1. Which city did God ask Jonah to go to? (Nineveh)
2. Where did Jonah try run to instead of going to Nineveh as God had asked him? (Tarshish)
3. Where did Jonah board a ship? (Joppa)
4. What did Jonah do during the storm? (He slept)
5. Who threw Jonah overboard? (Sailors)
6. What happened when Jonah was thrown overboard? (He was swallowed by a big fish)
7. How long was Jonah inside the fish? (3 days and 3 nights)
8. What did Jonah tell the people when he reached Nineveh? (To repent)

Week 1 – THE LOST SHEEP (0–3)

Story: The Lost Sheep

Scripture: Luke 15

Bottom Line: Everyone is equally important in God's sight.

Activity	Items Required
<p>GIRLS</p> <p>-Cut out in the inside of a paper plate.</p> <p>-Using the black paper, make two sheep ears and glue them on.</p> <p>-Then, using cotton wool, create the wool for the sheep and glue it all over the paper plate.</p> <p>-Finally, stick a large popsicle stick onto the bottom so you're able to hold it up as a mask.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper plate• Black paper• Cotton wool• Large popsicle stick• Craft glue and scissors 
<p>GUYS</p> <p>-Use popcorn to create the wool for the sheep.</p> <p>-Colour in the rest of your sheep as you like.</p> <p>*Leaders, you will be provided with popcorn kernels, but you will need to pop the popcorn yourselves*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sheep Template• Popcorn• Craft glue  

Talk About It

OPENING DISCUSSION:

- Have you ever lost something?
- Maybe it was money?
- Maybe it was a toy or your favourite game?
- Maybe it was a pair of shoes you left at a friend's house?
- Maybe it was something you knew you couldn't get another of?
- How did you feel? Get them to share some of their own stories.

Even though in some cases you probably had more than one of what you lost, you probably still tried hard to find it right? And it's even worse if you only had that one!

Chat with your group about why they think they get upset when something goes missing?

THE LOST SHEEP

- What went missing in our story today? (a sheep)
- What did the farmer do when he realized he was missing one of his sheep? (He went out to look for it)
- Who do the sheep represent in the story? (God's children who have gotten lost.)
- Who does the shepherd represent? (God)
- Chat with them about what they understood by the story then? (Sometimes we are like sheep who stray away from God, but God never gives up on us. He sent his son Jesus to save all who are lost.)

HOW WE SPREAD THE FRESH:

1. Accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.
2. Tell others who don't know Jesus about Him.

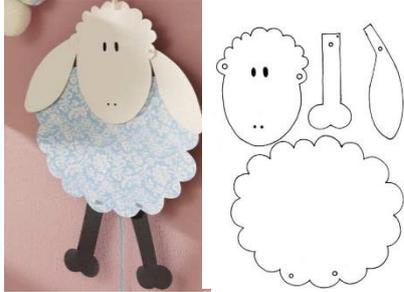
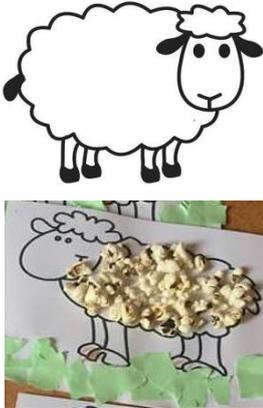
- Who has God placed in your life that needs to hear about Jesus?
- How do we tell people about Jesus?
 - We **SHOW** them Jesus by how we **act** and how we **love** people.
 - We **SHARE** what we believe and **pray** that God would change their hearts.
We never force it on anyone.

Week 1 – THE LOST SHEEP (4-7)

Story: The Lost Sheep

Scripture: Luke 15

Bottom Line: Everyone is equally important in God's sight.

Activity	Items Required
<p>GIRLS</p> <p>Make a sheep.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Colour, cut out and stick together to look like the picture alongside.-Use the split pins to attach the legs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Template• Split Pins• Glue• Colouring materials 
<p>GUYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Use popcorn to create the wool for the sheep.-Colour in the rest of your sheep as you like. <p>*Leaders, you will be provided with popcorn kernels, but you will need to pop the popcorn yourselves*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sheep Template• Popcorn• Craft glue 

Talk About It

OPENING DISCUSSION:

Begin by chatting with your group about a time they lost something important to them.

- Maybe it was their favourite pair of shoes?
- Maybe it was a really epic X-box game?
- Maybe it was money?
- Maybe it was a project for school you had worked really hard on?
- Maybe it was a brand new cricket bat or hockey stick?
- Maybe they've even seen their parents frantically look for keys or a cell phone that they've lost?

-Chat with your group about why they think it upsets them so much when they lose something?

THE LOST SHEEP

Chat with your group about what the story means:

- Who do the sheep represent? (People who are lost and have turned away from Jesus)
- Who does the shepherd represent? (God.)

-Thinking back to how you feel when you lose something important, how do you think God feels when His children go astray? (it breaks His heart and He goes out to look for them)

-What plan has Jesus made to bring back His lost children? (He sent Jesus to die on the cross. When people accept Jesus, they are welcomed back into God's family.)

HOW WE SPREAD THE FRESH:

As children of God who are safe in the "herd", how do we tell others about Jesus so they can be "found" too?

1. SHOW THEM

-We show them the love of Jesus by how we act and how we treat others. Telling them they're bad sinners won't get us anywhere! We don't need to judge anyone, we simply need to love them.

2. SHARE IT WITH THEM

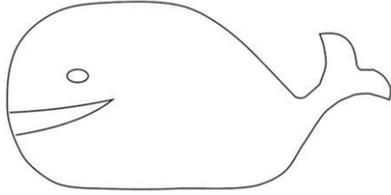
-We can't force anything on anyone, so we simply need to share what we believe with them (The truth about Jesus) and pray that God would change their hearts and they would turn to Him

Week 2 – JONAH (0–3)

Story: Jonah is sent to Nineveh

Scripture: Jonah 1-4

Bottom Line: We need to be obedient when God sends us.

Activity	Items Required
<p>GIRLS & GUYS</p> <p>-Begin by cutting out the whale template.</p> <p>-Using sticky tape, secure a party blower to the back of the whale as seen in the picture alongside. Make sure the paper part that shoots out is by the whale's mouth, so it looks like the tongue.</p> <p>-Lastly, add the googly eye and there you have your whale!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whale Template on blue cardboard• Party blower• Sticky Tape• Googly eyes (1 per child)   

Talk About It

OPENING DISCUSSION

Chat with your group about a time they can remember being disobedient to a parent or a teacher and things didn't work out as well as they were hoping!

- Why didn't they want to do the thing they were being asked to do?
- What happened as a result of them not doing it?
- Do they think they'd do the same thing again if they had a second chance?

JONAH

- How was Jonah disobedient in the story today? (He didn't go to Nineveh as God had asked Him too.)
- Why had God sent him to Nineveh? (He wanted Jonah to tell the people living there about Him, so they could turn from their bad ways.)
- You can use the quiz in the games section if you would like to recap the story again with your group.

SPREAD THE FRESH

Chat with your group about the fact that the world is not always a happy place. People can go through difficult things and can often feel like there is no hope. But when we spread the love of Jesus, there is always hope!

1. God used an **ORDINARY** guy to save an entire city!

- God can use **US** to change our cities, schools and families.
- Even if we're scared or nervous, God will give us courage.

2. When people **REPENT**, they will be changed forever!

- When the city of Nineveh repented, God didn't destroy their city.
- When we introduce people to Jesus, we give them an opportunity to be saved and to spend eternity with Jesus.

End off by challenging your group to share the love of Jesus with those that need it. How can they be **OBEDIENT** and go where God sends them?

Week 2 – JONAH (4-7)

Story: Jonah is sent to Nineveh

Scripture: Jonah 1-4

Bottom Line: We need to be obedient when God sends us.

Activity	Items Required
<p>GIRLS</p> <p>-Begin by blowing up your balloon but keep it quite small.</p> <p>-Using a permanent marker, draw Jonah on the balloon and secure him to the cup with a piece of string. You will need to make a small incision in the cup (about a quarter of the way down from the top of the cup) to tie the string through. Make your string about 20-30cm.</p> <p>-Next decorate your whale by adding fins and eyes.</p> <p>-Finally, your aim is to now try get Jonah in the cup by only holding the whale (the cup).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cup• Balloon• String• Googly eyes• Cardboard• Scissors & craft glue  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Balloon• Cardboard• Scissors
<p>GUYS</p> <p>-On a piece of cardboard, cut out a small body to represent Jonah.</p> <p>-Squeeze this inside your balloon and then blow the balloon up to represent the whale.</p> <p>-Using permanent marker, write the memory verse on the balloon.</p>	

Talk About It

OPENING DISCUSSION

Chat with your group about the state of the world we live in. Many people live in fear because of what goes on around us every day.

- Crime
- Sickness
- Poverty
- Abuse
- Bullying
- Violence

As Christians, we can't live in fear, we need to be the answer! We need to be the ones offering hope - and that hope is JESUS!

JONAH

-Why did God send Jonah to Nineveh? (To tell the people to turn from their wicked ways)

-Why did Jonah try to run away instead of being obedient? (Jonah didn't like the people of Nineveh. In fact, he wanted God to destroy their city. He didn't feel that they deserved to be saved. He also feared he would look like a false prophet if God didn't destroy Nineveh after they repented after Jonah warned He would.)

-Have you ever felt someone deserves to be punished? And that it made you glad when they got in trouble? (It's okay to be honest, we're all human and fall short of God's perfect standards)

SPREAD THE FRESH

Refer to your opening discussion. Chat with your group about how we can love people in a world that's so broken? How can we soften our hearts so that we don't judge - like Jonah - but instead love?

1. We all deserve punishment, but God chooses to forgive us instead.
2. Jesus has made a way for everyone to come to know Him and it's our responsibility as children of God to share this good news with everyone!

