

Parables

Over the next few weeks, we are going to learn about some of the parables that Jesus told. Do you know what a parable is? A parable is a story, which has a meaning. Jesus used stories to teach people about how God wanted them to live because they were easy for them to understand and remember.

Game

Collect a number of items on a tray (the more you have the more difficult the game will be!) and have a good look at them to remember what they are. While everyone else covers their eyes, one person will select an item from the tray and hide it somewhere in the room. When the item is hidden, the rest can uncover their eyes. They then need to work out what is missing and then try and locate it in the room. Don't give up until you find it!



Bible Reading



The Lost Sheep

One day when many tax collectors and other outcasts came to listen to Jesus, the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law started grumbling, "This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them!" So Jesus told them this parable:

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them — what do you do? You leave the other 99 sheep in the pasture and go looking for the one that got lost until you find it. When you find it, you are so happy that you put it on your shoulders and carry it back home. Then you call your friends and neighbours together and say to them, 'I am so happy I found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate!' In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 respectable people who do not need to repent.

Luke 15v1-7

You can watch a video of this story here -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Ry2MaMyvGo



Big Questions



1. What do you think Jesus wanted to teach people from this parable?
2. When the man counted his sheep he had 99 sheep left, why was the missing one so important? Jesus wanted people to know that each one of us is important to God and that he will never stop wanting a relationship with each and every one of us!
3. Who are the lost sheep now? How do you think God might use us to help him find 'his lost sheep', those people who don't believe in him?
4. Sometimes when things are difficult it can seem like God isn't with us, but remember the love shown in this parable, he is ALWAYS searching for us so we can be close to him! Can you think of a time when it seemed like God wasn't with you?
5. The man was so happy when he found the lost sheep that he called all his family and friends to celebrate! Jesus says there is a huge party in heaven each time someone becomes a Christian and decides to follow God, imagine what that would be like!



Prayer



Thank God for his amazing love for you. He loves you so much that he would continue to search until he found you and he sent his Son to die for you!

God wants us to share this love this love with others. This can be by telling people about God or by being an example of his love. This could be praying for others, an act of kindness or helping someone in a practical way.

How can you show someone God's love this week? Maybe you could make a card to show you are thinking of them or make a special call to speak to someone who might be lonely.



Songs



Our God is a Great Big God - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaXPXWBcE3I>

Who you say I am - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgBB863p2vw>



Craft



Here are a few different crafts and activities suitable for a variety of ages.

Make a find the sheep game

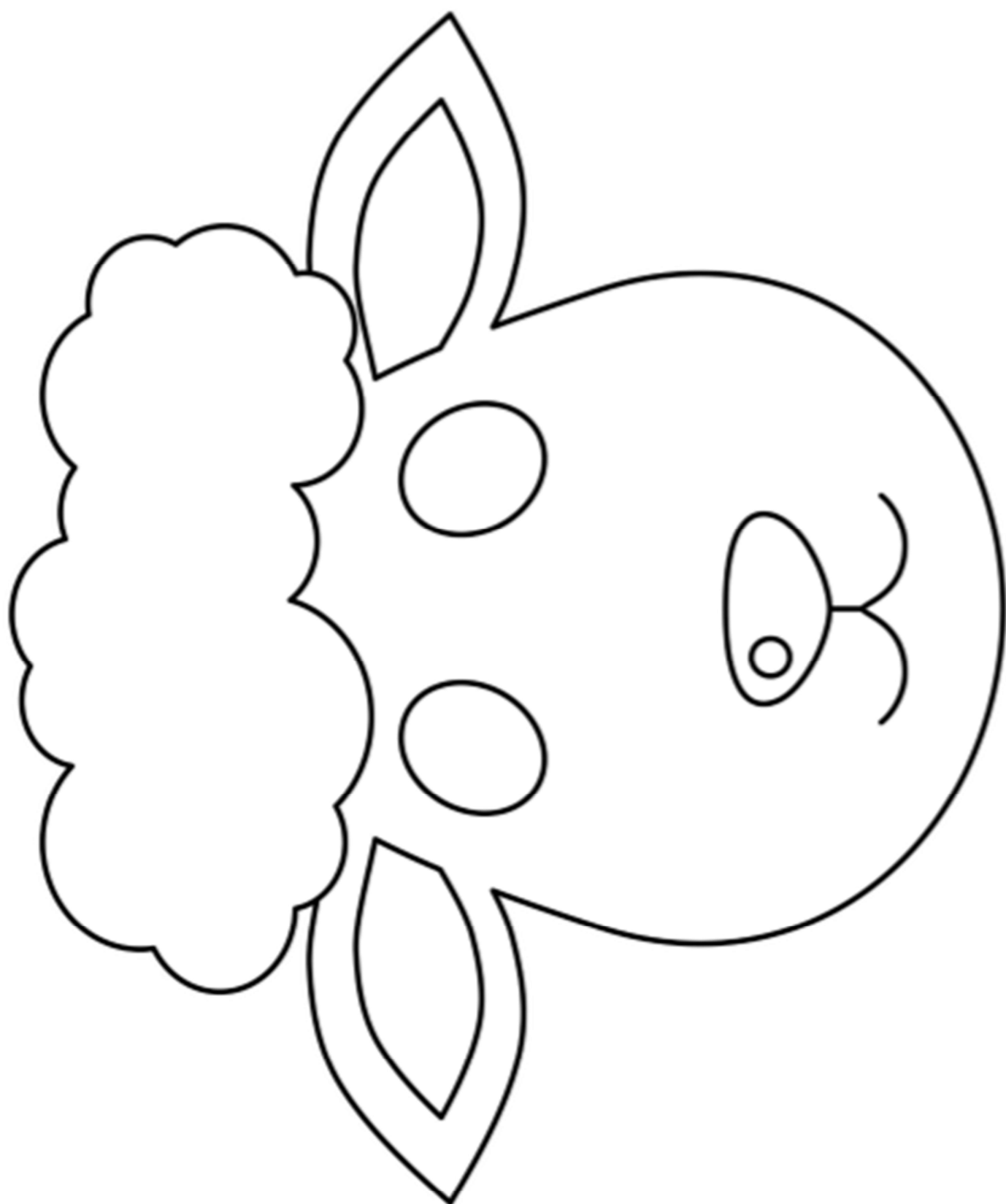
Take it in turns to tun over a bush and see who can be the first to find the sheep!

Find the template at the bottom of the following webpage

<https://craftingthewordofgod.com/tag/lost-sheep/>

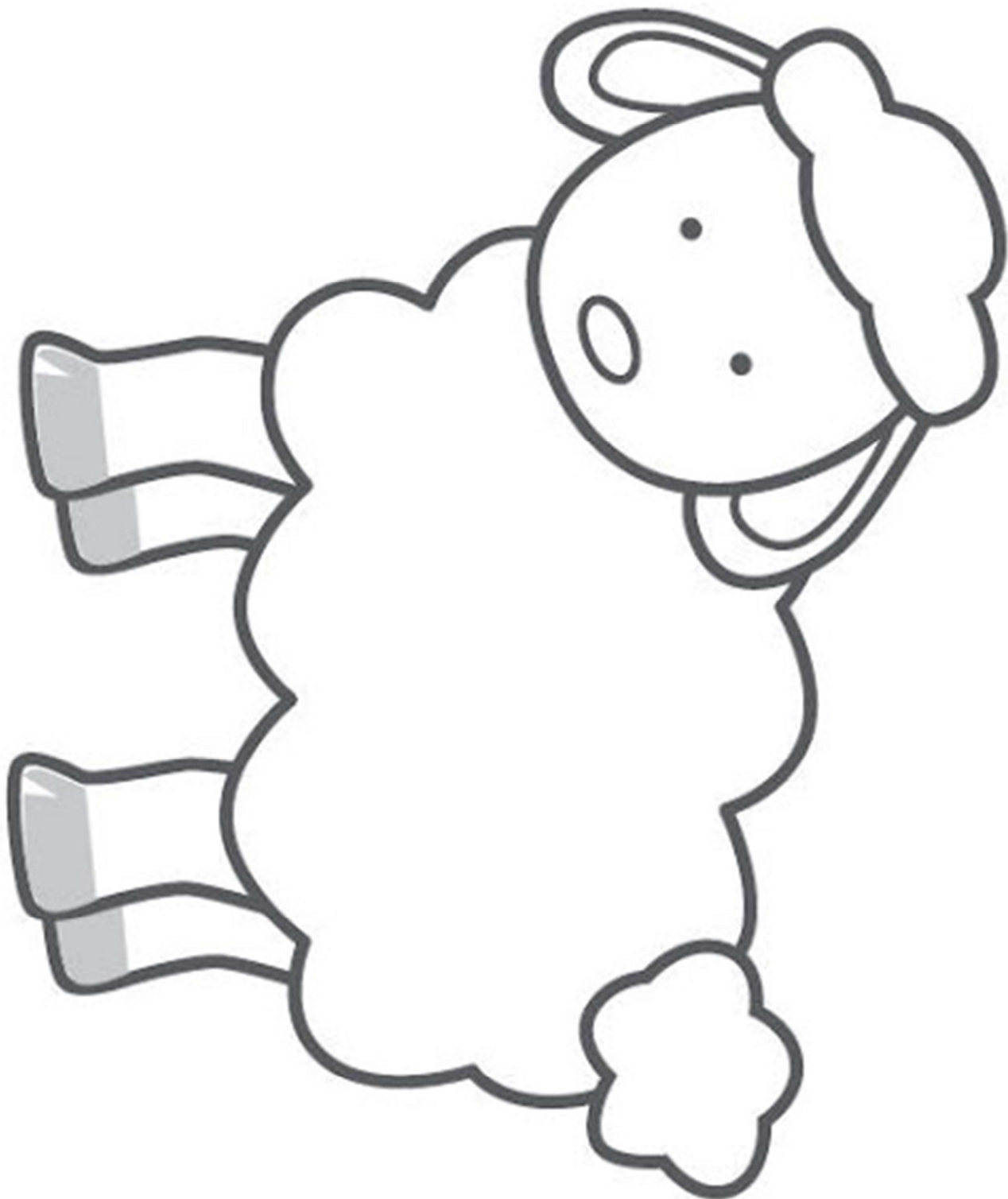


Make a sheep mask

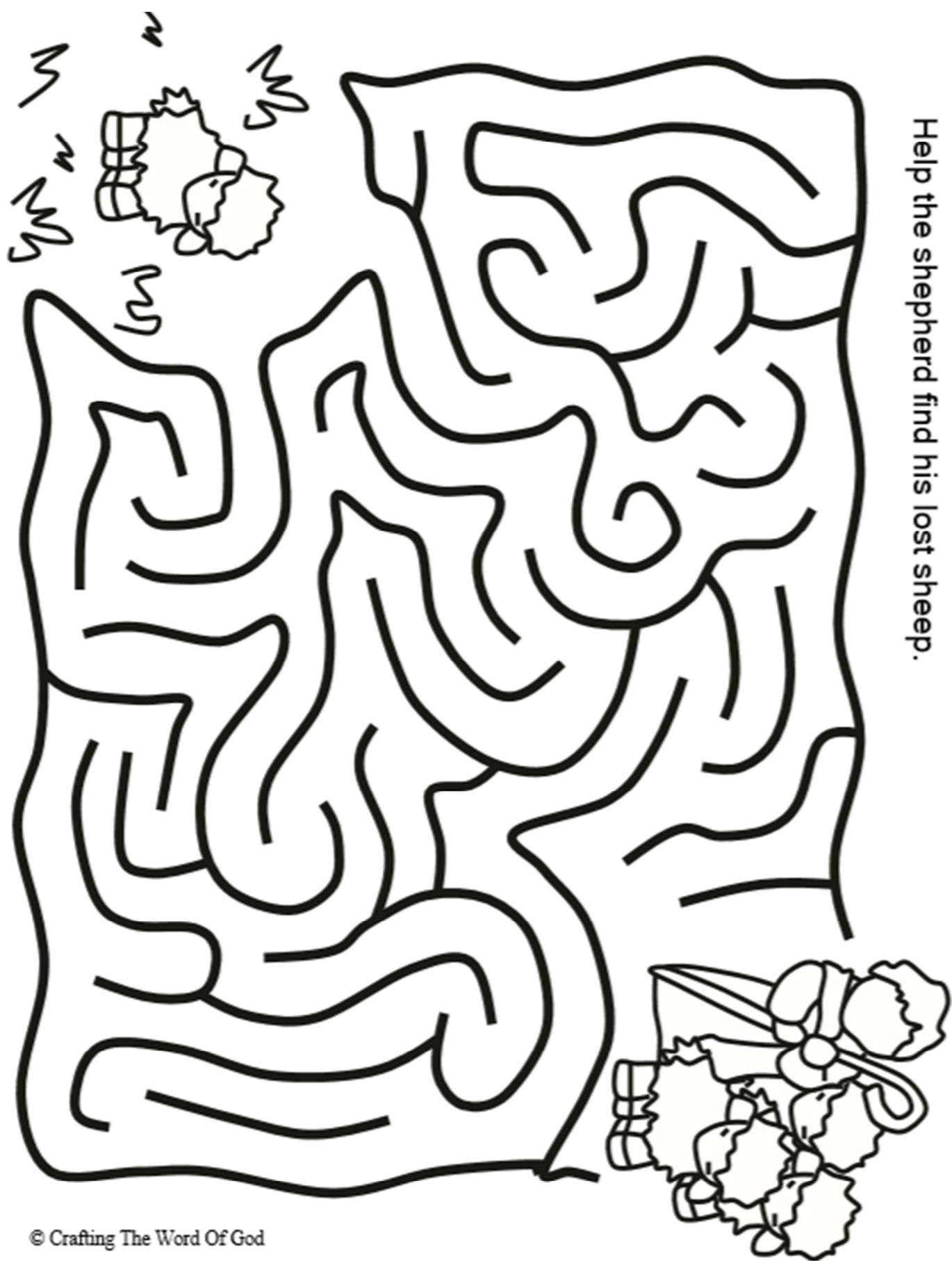


Make a fluffy sheep!

Print the template and decorate with anything fluffy - cotton wool, popcorn, scrunched up tissue etc.



Help the shepherd find his lost sheep.





The Lost Sheep



Make all words
fit into this
crossword



Hundred
Country
Finds
Joyfully
Home
Friends
Neighbors
Found
Heaven
Sinner
Righteous

