

I am Important to God

Teacher Pep Talk: People need to know that they are important to God. The whole basis of the Christian faith rests on the reality that God cherishes us and cares for us. The facts that God knows who we are as individuals and that he cares about each and every one of us are very important to convey to children. You will do a great job of teaching this, I am sure! Be positive and encouraging!

Before teaching this lesson familiarize yourself with the following verses and the verses around them. John 3:16, Jesus' teaching on the Birds of the Air and the Lilies of the Valley in Luke 12:24-28, and the Parable of the Lost Sheep in Luke 15:4-7.

Major Points: God knows me.
God loves me.
God cares about me and for me
I am important as an individual to God.

Memory Verse: Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd...

Lesson:

God knows me.

- How many of you were here last week?
- Remember the hairbrush?
- God knows how many hairs are on our heads! (Luke 12:7)
- God knew us before we were born! (Psalm 139:13)

God loves me.

- Whom do you love?
- How do you show them your love?
- Do you take care of them when they're sick? Do you help feed them? Do you hug them?
- God loves you very much!

God cares about me and for me.

- Do you know who makes the flowers? (God) Who is it that created the birds? (God)
- It is God who makes the flowers so pretty. They don't work and yet God clothes them beautifully. (Luke 12:27-28)
- It is God who takes care of the birds. They don't farm and they don't have any barns, but God feeds them. (Luke 12:24)
- And God who cares so well for the birds and the flowers has said that He cares even more about you! Therefore He will surely take care of you and your needs!

I am important to God as an individual.

- How many of you have a pet?
- Do you take care of it?
- Long ago boys looked after herds of goats and sheep. They took care of them. They were called “shepherds.”
- Jesus told a story about a shepherd who was taking care of 100 sheep! One wandered off and got lost! The shepherd left the other 99 to go and find the lost one. When he found it he was happy and rejoiced!
- Jesus said that God cares about us that way!
- Our memory verse says that “The Lord is my shepherd”.
- God knows us, and loves us, and is taking care of each of us!

Let’s pray and thank God that we are each important to Him!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you care about each of us!
Thank you that we are important to you!
Thank you for loving us! We love you back! Amen.

Suggested Activities:

Cotton Ball Sheep

Draw the outline of a sheep on a piece of paper. Write the words “Thank you, God, for caring about each one of us.” at the top of the page. You may also want to add “The Parable of the Lost Sheep, Luke 15:4-7”. Copy the paper for each child. Provide cotton balls and glue. Allow the children to dip the cotton balls into a little bit of glue and then glue the cotton balls to the sheep picture. Allow to dry.

Play Hide and Sheep

NOTE: For fun hang some sheets or towels around the room on tables or chairs (to make better places to hide).

Have the children start sitting in a circle in the middle of the room. Have someone volunteer to be the Shepherd who will “search” for the lost sheep. Then have the other children go and hide around the room while Shepherd hides his/her eyes and counts to 10 (or higher). The sheep should occasionally make some “baa” sounds like sheep. The Shepherd goes to find the sheep and brings them safely back to the circle (or “pen”). The last sheep found becomes the new Shepherd.

Alternatively: Blindfold the Shepherd and have the sheep stand around the shepherd. When the shepherd calls out “sheep” the sheep answer “baa”. The Shepherd tries to touch a sheep, and the sheep try to escape. When someone is finally touched they switch places with the shepherd.

Thank you, God, for caring about each one of us!
The Parable of the Lost Sheep. Luke 15:4-7

