

## SOUTH MAIN SUNDAY NIGHT ACTIVITY – JUNE 10, 2018

**Lesson Title:** Get Ready!

**Text:** Luke 15:3-7

**Learning Objectives:** After this lesson...

- Participants should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the love and priority that God places upon those who are lost.
- Participants should realize their lostness without Jesus Christ and desire to be rescued by Him. They should demonstrate the realization that this readies them for service to God.

**Items Needed:**

- The Bible. Turn to Luke 15:3-7 and be familiar with these verses beforehand to be able to explain this passage to others.
- Visual Aids. A picture of a sheep!

**Explanation:** Use this lesson to teach participants that we are hopeless and lost without Jesus Christ as our Shepherd. Help them to understand the joy in heaven when one lost person repents and is rescued by the Lord.

**Hook:** (Show picture of a domestic sheep). In the Bible, Jesus is referred to as the Good Shepherd and we His people are the sheep of His flock. But why are sheep used to refer to people in relationship to God? Why not lions, or gazelles, or some other animal with a bit more “flair” than sheep! If you do a bit of reading you will discover that sheep are not “survivors.” They are not strong and independent creatures, not proud hunters or fierce predators. They are totally dependent upon a shepherd for protection and care.

- The first reason sheep need a shepherd: because sheep are dumb. Many stories are told of hundreds of sheep wandering off a cliff, just because the first sheep did. Bottom line is, they are not the smartest animals in the world!
- A second reason sheep need a shepherd is because they are directionless. Sheep are prone to wander. Even if you put them in a perfect environment with everything they need (things like green pastures and still waters), sooner or later they will just wander off. If a shepherd doesn’t manage them, they will be lost.
- Finally, sheep are also defenseless. Left to themselves, sheep will not and cannot last very long. Put a sheep in the wild and you’ve just given nature a snack. They can’t fight, and they are too slow to run away!

**Book:** (Read Luke 15:3-7). When God says that we are sheep who need a shepherd, he doesn’t mean it as a compliment to us. It is just a very realistic assessment of who we are and what we need. We are sheep who are completely dependent upon a shepherd. In Luke 15:3-7 tells of a shepherd leaving 99 safely sheltered sheep to go out to find the one who is lost, and rejoicing when it is found. In the same way, God is our shepherd and stoops down to care for poor, lost, not-so-smart sheep like you and me.

**Look:** Why is it important for you to ask Jesus to be your Lord and Savior? (Like dumb sheep we are lost, and He wants to save us). What does the Lord provide to us as our shepherd? (Our daily needs, protection, forgiveness, direction, eternal life).

**Prayer:** Father, thank you for seeking us and calling us to be saved. Help us to answer and call upon your Name to save us. This gets us ready for everything else in our life and eternal life. Now that we are ready, help us to serve you faithfully all the days of our lives. In Jesus name, Amen.