


















The Story of Lost and Found

Action	Picture	Script	Bible Reference	Barnabas Bible story
<p><i>Open up a Bible and then lay it down to your side.</i></p>		<p>God has given us the stories in his book to show us what God is like and how much God loves us.</p>		
<p><i>Lay down the first jigsaw felt piece.</i></p>		<p>I wonder if you have ever done a jigsaw and then discovered that there was a piece missing?</p>		
<p><i>Lay down a second piece to the edge of your story area.</i></p>		<p>Not knowing where the missing piece is can be so frustrating! You can't complete the picture. You can't finish the puzzle.</p>		
<p><i>And a third piece on the side.</i></p>		<p>Did you try looking for it in every possible place and even a few impossible ones, too? Do you remember how you felt?</p>		
<p><i>And a fourth... And fifth.</i></p>		<p>If this has happened to you, then you will know something of what God feels like. Throughout the stories of his book, God is also searching.</p>		

<p><i>And a sixth...</i></p>		<p>God is looking for what has been lost. God is looking high and low to find the people he created...</p>		
<p><i>And the final piece.</i></p>		<p>... because God knows that on our own we are lost and incomplete.</p>		
<p><i>Lay out the red circle of felt in the centre.</i></p> <p><i>Trace the circle.</i></p>		<p>God has never given up this search, because God's love never ends.</p>		
<p><i>Lay down the dark green piece at the top of the circle nearest to the storyteller.</i></p> <p><i>And then the two trees.</i></p>		<p>At the beginning, in the beautiful garden, the God who lets us choose came looking for Adam and Eve. They were hiding, ashamed of what they had done. But God came looking and found them.</p>	<p>Genesis 3</p>	<p>Adam and Eve are sent away Story 4, page 14</p>
<p><i>Connect the orange piece.</i></p> <p><i>Then the mirror and bucket.</i></p>		<p>In the loneliness of the desert, the God who sees came looking for Hagar. She had had to run away, because of what others had done to her. But God came looking and found her.</p>	<p>Genesis 16</p>	<p>Sarai's maidservant Story 22, page 22</p>

<p><i>Connect the grey piece...</i></p> <p><i>Then the rock.</i></p>		<p>High on the rocky mountaintop among the caves, the God of the still small voice came looking for the prophet Elijah. He had hidden there in fear and was depressed because of how bad things seemed to be. But God came looking and found him.</p>	<p>1 Kings 19</p>	<p>Earthquake, fire and whisper Story 169, page 151</p>
<p><i>Connect the blue piece...</i></p> <p><i>And then the boat.</i></p>		<p>Out among the waves of the storm-tossed ocean, the God who forgives his enemies came looking for Jonah. He had run away from God's voice and the work he was meant to do. But God came looking and found him.</p>	<p>Jonah 1-2</p>	<p>Jonah runs away Story 186, page 165</p>
		<p>God is always looking and searching for his people. Finally, God sent Jesus, who said: 'I have come to look for and to rescue the lost.' Jesus came to open the way for us all to be found by God.</p>	<p>Luke 19:10</p>	
<p><i>Connect the brown piece...</i></p> <p><i>And then the city wall.</i></p>		<p>Once in the narrow streets of Jerusalem, even Jesus was lost and Mary came looking. He wasn't with the pilgrims returning to Nazareth. Mary found him. But, strangely, she discovered that Jesus wasn't really lost; he was already at home with God his Father in the temple.</p>	<p>Luke 2: 41-52</p>	<p>Lost in Jerusalem Story 253, page 222</p>

<p><i>Connect the light green piece...</i></p> <p><i>And then the sheep.</i></p>		<p>Jesus told the story of a poor sheep, which was out on the hills, far away from the safety of the fold. It had wandered off and got lost. But Jesus said that the shepherd came looking and found it.</p>	<p>Matthew 18:12-14</p>	<p>The good shepherd Story 281, page 248</p>
<p><i>Connect the light purple piece...</i></p> <p><i>And the opened chain and padlock.</i></p>		<p>In a prison cell and far from home, the God of true freedom came looking for a useless slave. Onesimus had run away from his master. But God came looking and found him.</p>	<p>Philemon</p>	<p>The runaway slave Story 358, page 310</p>
<p><i>Trace the shape of the cross.</i></p>		<p>God has never given up looking for his people. God has never stopped searching for the lost. Why? Because God longs to bring everyone back to where they belong, safe in his everlasting arms.</p>	<p>Deut. 33:27</p>	
		<p>I wonder if you have ever lost something that was important to you? Maybe it was something very special? And if you have, did you go searching to find it? Do you remember how you felt? I wonder what it feels like to be lost? I wonder what it feels like to be found?</p>		

		<p>I wonder why the people in this story became lost?</p> <p>I wonder why they ended up far from God?</p> <p>I wonder why God came to find them?</p> <p>I wonder which 'lost and found' story you like the best?</p> <p>I wonder which 'lost and found' story is the most important for you?</p> <p>I wonder where you are in this story?</p>		
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