

- *Family service; All Age Service manual, vol.3, p.113...*

Lost #1

- Lost property stories:
 - plus some facts...
 - longest time someone has had something lost and then found it again?
 - Transport for London - 156,000 pieces of lost property a year!
 - **Try and draw out things about how hard we looked for things:**
 - did we spend longer looking for things that were valuable?
 - did we spend longer looking for things that has sentimental value?
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Lost #2

- Lost sheep story retold - then check against the Bible reading that immediately follows:
 - 1. here is a farmer. He has one hundred sheep. He is counting them.
 - 2. one of his sheep is missing. Oh dear! Where has it gone?
 - 3. Is it in the hen-house? No.
 - 4. Is it behind the hay-stack? No.
 - 5. Is it under the hedge? No, it is lost.
 - 6. All day the farmer looks for his sheep. He climbs up hills and scrambles over rocks.
 - 7. He crawls through bramble bushes. The thorns scratch him. But he will not give up.
 - 8. He is tired and hungry. His feet ache. But he will not give up.
 - 9. At last, the farmer sees his sheep. It has fallen in the river.
 - 10. The farmer dives into the water. Splosh! He rescues the sheep.
 - 11. Hooray! The farmer has found his sheep.
 - 12. Let's all have a party!
 - 13. Jesus says, "God is like the farmer. He loves us just like the farmer loves his sheep."
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Lost #3

- *Lost objects round the church - phone, coin, torch, brush*
- Recap on second story - lost coin
- Get help to look for some things I've mislaid:
 - for each section, get a search going...

God cares about anyone who is lost

- *Image: coin*
- Talk of story, woman seeking lost coin even though she still had nine
 - Jesus making clear that God cares about people who are lost...
 - **lost equals anyone who does not belong to God, in his family, in relationship with him, out of touch...**
- Can be "good" or "bad", successful or not, everyone is lost until they are found by God

- In Deuteronomy Moses reminds God's people that they are **God's treasured possession (Deut 7:6)**

God makes a huge effort to find anyone who is lost

- *Images: brush then torch*
- Torch and brush are energetic, active tools to help look for something...
 - God is energetic and active in looking for us
 - came to earth to live and die
 - modelled the kingdom, at great person cost
 - showed his concern for those who were not normally found in the way he treated people...

God celebrates when he finds someone who is lost

- *Image: mobile phone*
- Phone to call someone and share some good news...
- God is delighted when we come first into relationship with him
 - delighted too when we turn again into his way of living...
 - when we forgive someone, or reconcile with them
 - when we say sorry for something we've done, when we seek help to break a pattern of behaviour that is unhealthy...

Application

- Thankful for God caring for us in our lostness, we care for others in their lostness
- Conscious of the huge effort God puts in to finding us, we don't give up on seeking others who are lost
- Celebrate our own foundness, and celebrate with those who God finds around us!