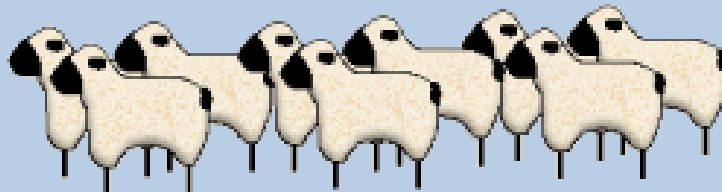
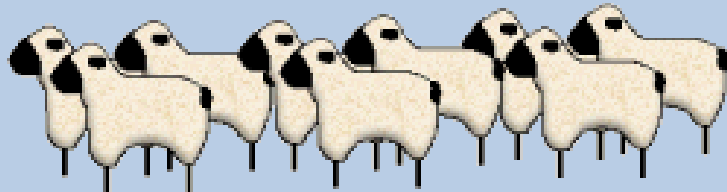
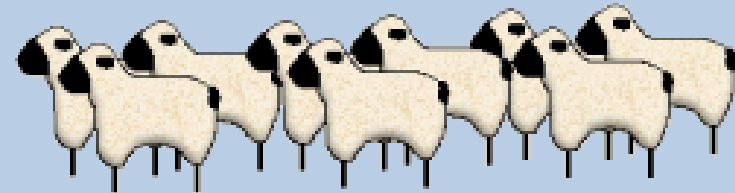
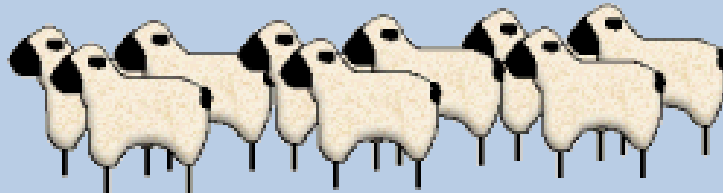
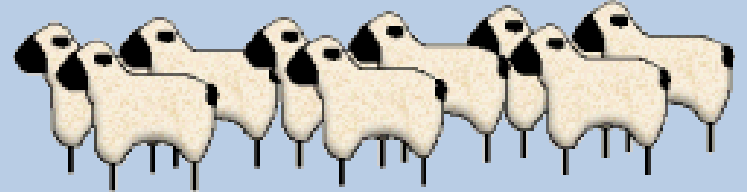
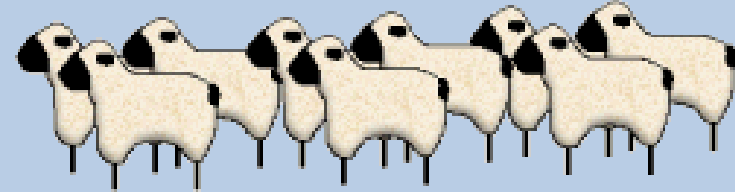
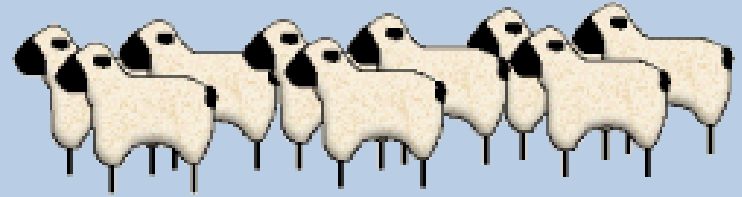


The Parable of the Lost Sheep



A parable is a story that Jesus told to teach a lesson.





Jesus started by telling the story to men called tax collectors and Pharisees. These were men who weren't very nice and thought they were more important than everyone else. In fact, they didn't think they had to repent or say sorry to God for their mistakes.

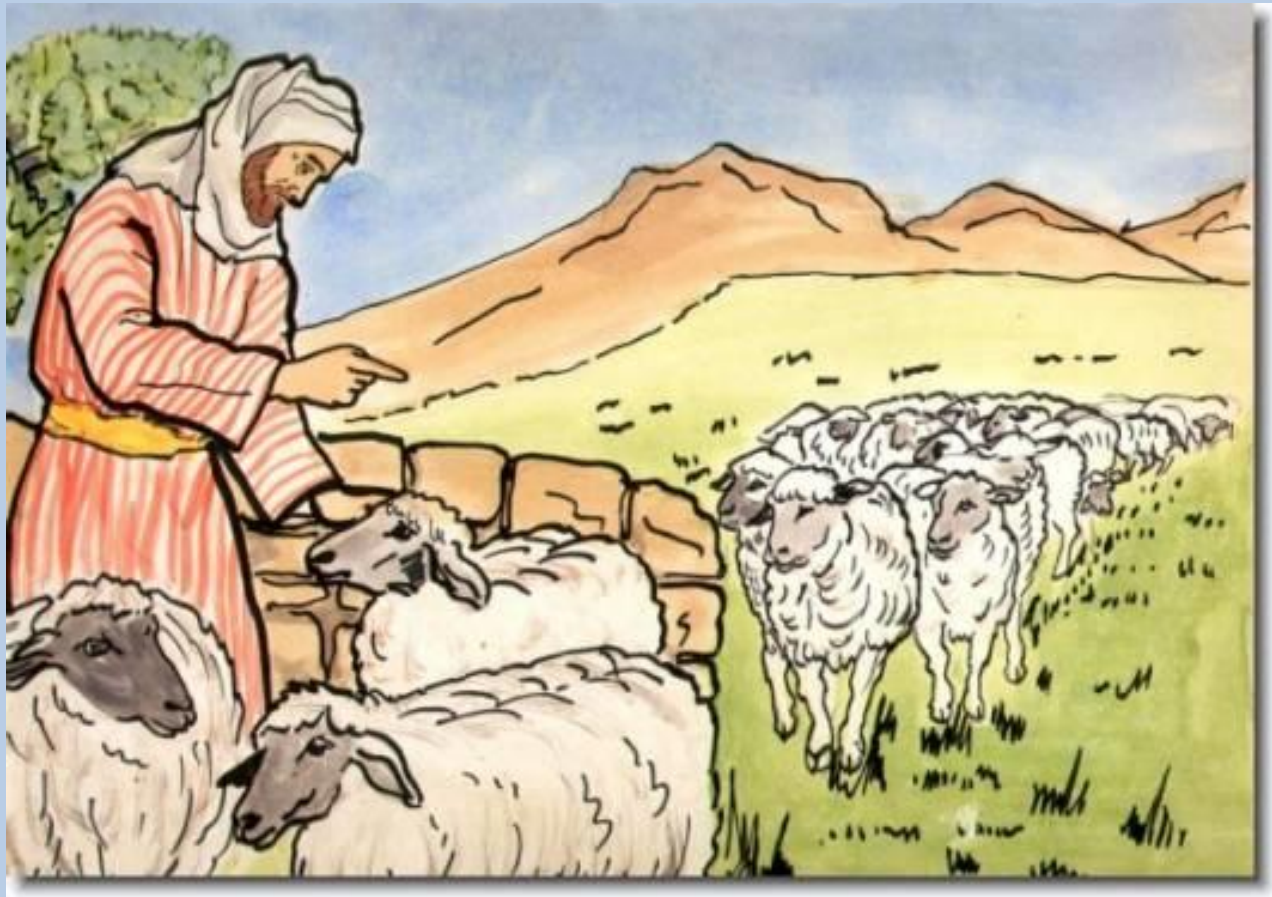
It's funny they would think that because we all are sinners, we all do things we shouldn't. We all need to ask God for forgiveness from our sins.



Of course Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he told them a story about a shepherd who lost a sheep.



There was a shepherd who cared for one hundred sheep. He loved them, fed them, and at the end of every day he would count his flock to make sure that all of his sheep were safe in his care... 97, 98, 99, ...



Oh, no... there is one sheep missing from his flock. Oh where, oh where, could the missing sheep be? The shepherd loved all of his sheep and that is why he knew he must leave the 99 sheep to go find the one that was lost.



The shepherd left his flock to go find the lost sheep. Searching high and low, the shepherd finally found his missing sheep.



The shepherd was so excited that he carried the sheep all the way back to the grassy hill on his shoulders. He was so overjoyed to bring the lost sheep back to the flock that he celebrated with a party.



Jesus then explains to the men what the parable meant:



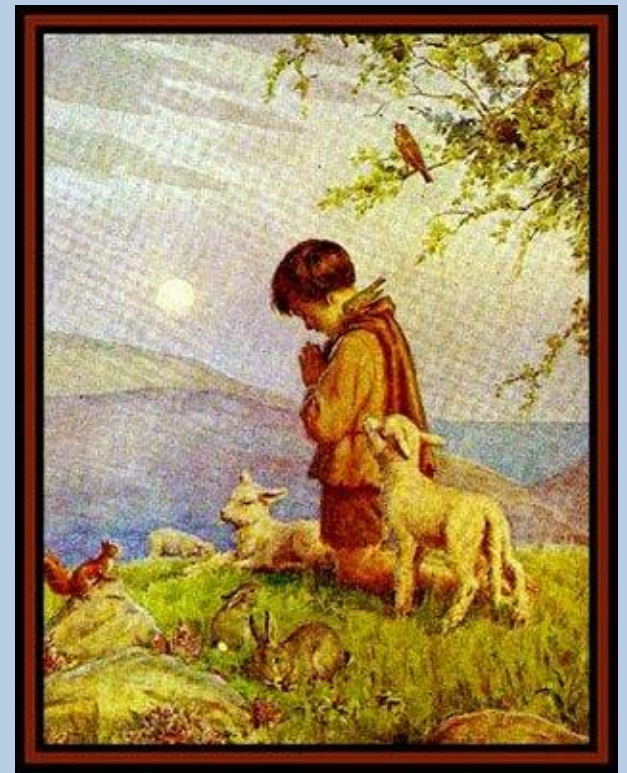
Just like there was a big party for the one lost sheep that was found, there will be a big party in heaven over just one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine people who think they are perfect and don't need to repent.



Just imagine, when you say "your sorry" to God all of heaven has a big party just for what you've done! God is much more excited when we say we're sorry than when we act like nothing has happened and don't think we need to repent at all.



No one is perfect (except Jesus of course). It's very important that when we sin, we admit we have done something wrong and tell Jesus we're sorry. It isn't hard to do. Just pray to Jesus and tell him that you are sorry for the wrong thing you did. Ask Jesus to forgive you. You can talk to Jesus anytime of day and anywhere you are. He wants you to talk to Him. When you ask Jesus to forgive you, He does. Jesus will be so happy when you repent and you will feel better too!





The
LORD
is my shepherd,
I shall not want.

Psalm 23:1

Luke 15: 1-7

King James Version (KJV)

Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

² And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

³ And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

⁴ What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

⁵ And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

⁶ And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

⁷ I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.