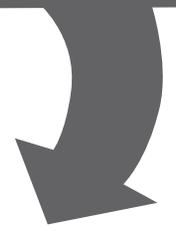


Lost Lambs



“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?” (Luke 15:4).

- Are you willing to leave your flock in order to reach out to one lost lamb?
- What’s it like to introduce a child to Jesus for the first time?

▼ Training Session

Teaching *about* Jesus is important. But leading children to a relationship with Jesus makes your teaching eternally important!

You’re in the life-changing business. So are you changing lives? Are you reaching out to kids who don’t *know* Jesus? As a life-changer, that’s part of your mission: to reach out to lost children and change their lives. Jesus’ ministry was marked by compassion: He went after the lost with love and an invitation to follow him.

Everything you teach—and each relationship you build—must have a compassion focus. What does compassion look like in your ministry?

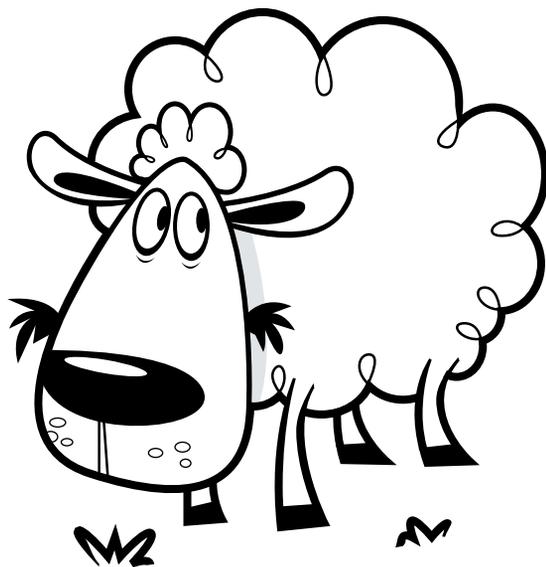
Is it lavishly loving every child who walks in your door?

Is it plain tolerance, saying, “I’m just glad these kids are here,” then thinking, *Now get off the ceiling fan and quit jamming paper in your ears?*

Is it an action—doing everything in your power to reach every child—or is it an emotion—sensing the need of lost children?

The good news: Compassion can be any and all of these. Simply put, it’s loving the lost.

No doubt you’re compassionate about children. What teacher isn’t? But translating that compassion into action can become a sticking point for many teachers. Here are some tips for weaving compassion into your classroom.



- **Accept everyone.** When a child enters your room in tattered, faded clothes, clearly in need of a shower, do you back away? Or do you put your arm around the child, saying, “I’m so glad you’re here!”—and mean it? Send the message that you *are* glad they’re here.
- **Strive to meet all needs.** This opens up a welcome environment for everyone. Ask kids what they need from you. They’re usually able to tell you. Also ask parents what *they* believe their kids need. Then take steps—one at a time—to meet those needs. You’ll send a message of compassion quickly.
- **Meet kids where they’re at.** Your kids fall along a spectrum: Some are being raised in Christian homes, others are experiencing their first day in a church. All of them are on a journey. And they need you to walk with them—wherever they are.
- **Model Christ.** Show kids what it means to live in relationship with Jesus. This sends the strongest message of all.

Compassion is the first step in changing lives. We can’t *make* kids have a relationship with Jesus. But we *can* motivate them to want one!

Love the lambs.



Take this training deeper as you think over these questions:

- How do you know when a child has a friendship with Jesus?
- Do you know which children in your class now might not *know* Jesus?
- How do you currently show compassion in your classroom? What's another step you can take?

▼ Journal

*The feeling of compassion results from your thoughts about your own emotions!
How does it make you feel when you think
one of your students might not know Jesus personally?*

Thank you for your compassion for children. Thank you for walking with them on their journey. May God guide you as you partner with children in faith.

▼ Application

This week do something new to show each child who walks through your door an act of love. If you've never given children a few moments of individual attention, give that a try. If you don't usually tell kids how glad you are they're here, say it. You could even give each child a personalized welcome card.

Practice compassion for everyone. Physically meeting kids at the door will send a message that you're excited to spiritually meet and walk with them.