

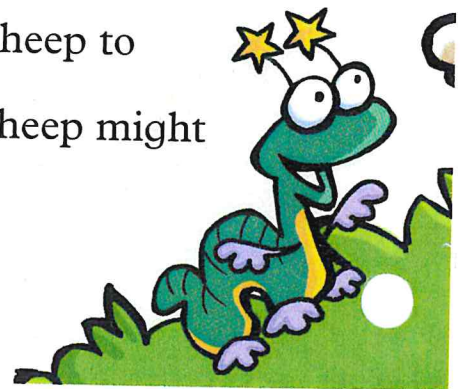
The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin

Telling stories was Jesus' favorite way to teach people about God.

"Once there was a shepherd who had 100 sheep," Jesus said. "He loved them all—the big ones and the little ones, the good ones and the naughty ones. They were his sheep and he loved them.

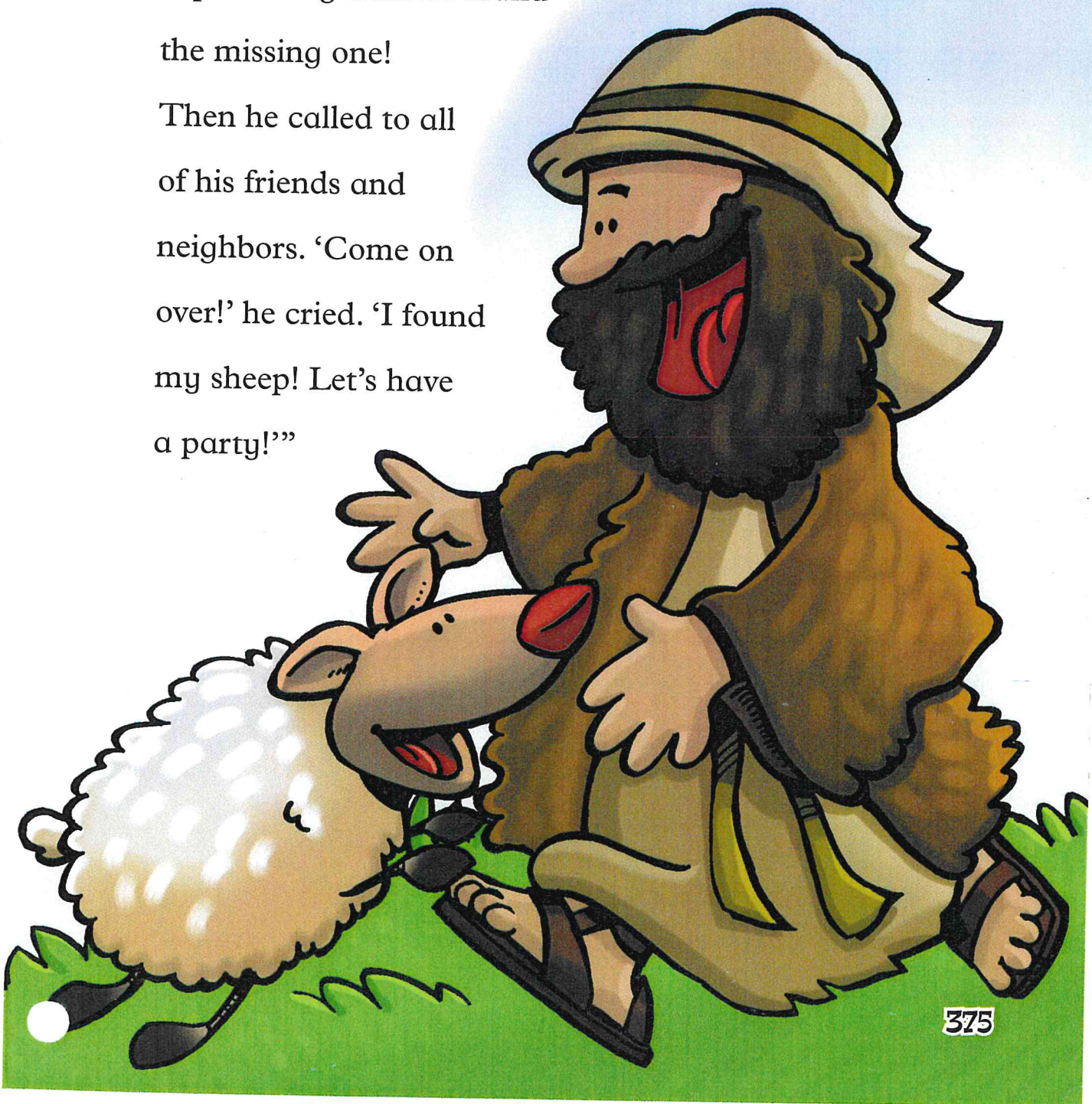
"Every day this shepherd counted his sheep to make sure they were all safe. One day he counted only 99 sheep! Oh no! One was missing! Right away, the shepherd left the 99 sheep together and went to look for the one that was lost.

"The shepherd listened for the lost sheep to 'B-a-a.' He looked in all the places that sheep might



get stuck or in trouble. It took awhile, but the shepherd kept looking until he found the missing one!

Then he called to all of his friends and neighbors. 'Come on over!' he cried. 'I found my sheep! Let's have a party!'"



Jesus loved telling people stories like this about something being lost and then found.

“I have another story,” Jesus said. “Once there was a woman who had saved up 10 little silver coins. One day when she was counting them, she discovered that she had lost one. What do you think she did? Did she think to herself ‘Oh well—I’ve still got nine, so who cares if one is lost?’



"No, she did not! She lit her lamp and swept the house from top to bottom. She looked under and over and around *everything* in her house until she found that lost coin! Oh, she was so happy she had a party to celebrate.

"God is like this shepherd and this woman, you know," Jesus said. "God would never stop looking for someone who was lost."

★ How would you feel if you were lost and then found?

