



Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way

September 15, 2019

Exodus 31:7-14
 Psalm 51:1-10
 1 Timothy 1:12-17
 Luke 15:1-10



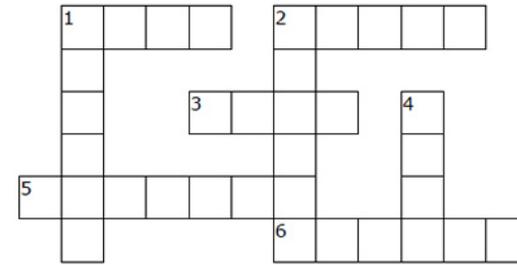
14th Sunday Aft

Good morning! One of my favorite games to play is hide-and-go-seek. Have you ever played before? Have you ever played so well that you've hidden and then after a while, because the person can't find you, you actually start to make noise to make it easier for the person to find you? Let's pretend that you are playing hide and go seek with your family and you find that perfect spot where NOBODY can find you. They call your name for you to come out and you don't answer because you've fallen asleep because it took so long! Do you think they'd just give up and go out for ice cream without you or do you think they would keep looking? See, all along, you know where you are - so, it's not like you are lost - but you are separated from your family. Which means you're not with the people you're supposed to be with and that's why you would be thought of as "lost" in this "you are super-good at hiding in hide-and-go-seek" story.

In our gospel lesson from Luke this morning, Jesus talks about a lost coin and a lost sheep. The coin and the sheep are not with the person to whom they belong. The woman and the shepherd keep trying to fix that; they continue to look. They don't give up. And, once the woman and shepherd are successful in getting the coin and sheep back with them, there is great rejoicing. This same thing sometimes happens to us with God. We sometimes we stop paying attention to God because we are paying attention to something else. Then we forget that we belong to God; that is how we get separated from God and "lost." But here's the good news... when we're feeling separated from God, God doesn't ever forget about us or lose sight of us. One way that God continues to tell us that we belong to God is through each other. That's one of the reasons we gather in worship every week, to remind each other that we are not lost - that we belong to God. Then, when we remember that we belong to God and start paying attention to God again, there is great rejoicing! ALL of us belong to God, everyone one of us is God's beloved child. *adapted from rfour.org*

Loving God, thank you for finding us when we feel lost. Help us to always remember that we belong to you. Amen.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- The place where a person lives
- A wooly farm animal related to the goat
- To locate something that was lost
- To express great happiness and joy
- To turn away from sin

DOWN

- The place where God and angels live
- A person who breaks God's law
- To no longer have something because you don't know where it is

REJOICE	SINNER	HEAVEN	SHEEP
REPENT	LOSE	FIND	HOME

Activity: There are many of us who have friends and family who have forgotten who God is. This week, let's make a prayer list and pray for them during our meal time prayers. Take a piece of construction paper and write Prayer List at the top in bright colors. List the names of all those for whom you would like to pray. Decorate your list with stickers, glitter, or drawings.

Discussion Question: What's the most important thing you've ever misplaced? How did that make you feel? How did you feel when you found it? Were you relieved? Did it make your heart happy? That's what it's like for God. When we turn away and stop focusing on God, God is still there, waiting for us to come back, and when we do, God's heart is full of joy!

Family Table Prayer for September:

- For back to school
- New friends to meet
- For books and teachers, too
- For family time and meals together
- LORD, we thank YOU!

September Memory Verse: Isaiah 30:21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Coloring Page



The Parable of the Lost Sheep