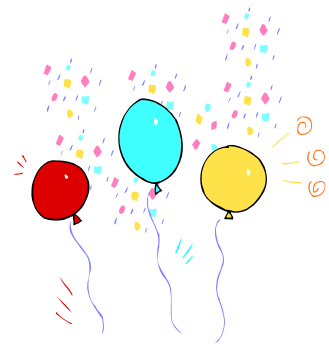


## New Year's Parable Praise Party



(Contributed by Brenda Carpenter)

Everyone loves a party! Take a moment and think of your favorite celebration. Was there ever a time that you were so happy about something that you could not wait to tell someone about it? Maybe you lost something and when you found it you sang and clapped your hands or even did a little dance? Well, there is a story in the Bible about a shepherd who did just that. Jesus tells us that there was a shepherd who had 100 sheep, but when he went to count them he only had 99.

Take this time to read out of the Bible the story in Luke about the lost sheep or use one of Mary's Parable Praise Party books, "Safe in the Fold," to read to your child(ren)

### Game Time

This game time will help emphasize the Bible story today. So be sure to set aside some time today to play a game of "Hide and Go Seek" in a little different way.

To start, find 5-10 different items and place them on the floor or on a table. (Keep the amount small so younger children can help count.) Count the items together and make sure they are all there. Then have the child hide his eyes while you remove one item. When the child comes back, count the items again and see what is missing. Once you have decided one is missing, go on a hunt to find it and bring it back to the table. Do a "Happy Dance" and clap that you have found the lost one. Be sure to take turns so the child can be the "hider" and you the "seeker." Have fun!



## Arts and Crafts

### ~ Party Hats ~



You can't have a party without all the party decorations.  
Provide the following so you can make party hats.

Paper cut into a half circle  
Glue / Tape / Stapler  
Scissors  
Markers / Crayons  
Feathers and other items to decorate with.

Allow your child to decorate his hat anyway he would like. When done decorating, attach the flat ends of the paper together to make a cone style hat. Save your hats to wear during a snack time party.

### ~ Going on a Hunt Binoculars ~

The shepherd did not stop looking for his lost sheep, just like Jesus does not stop loving us when we do something wrong. Today we are going to make binoculars to help us look for things while we go for a walk outside.

Have available the following:

2 toilet paper tubes per child  
Markers / Crayons  
Stickers  
Yarn  
Hole Punch

Allow your child(ren) to decorate their binoculars how they wish. Once they are done, punch a hole in the top and bottom of each tube and tie them together. What a fun thing to take with you on a walk around the block. Look at all the wonderful things God has created for us to enjoy.

Play and sing the song from Mary's album "Come On Home"

## Farmer and the Sheep

(Words and Music by Mary Rice Hopkins)

The farmer is looking for his sheep  
He can't find him and he can't sleep  
He looks high he looks low  
And he looks to the mountains  
And the rivers below.

### CHORUS

Oh no he can't sleep  
Until he finds his little lost sheep  
Oh no he can't sleep  
Until he finds his sheep

The sheep could be the only one  
Through the briars through the meadows  
He calls him to come  
He looks up he looks down  
And he keeps on looking until he is found

He can't sleep a wink  
No he can't eat  
Cause he missed  
His little lost sheep

### (REPEAT)

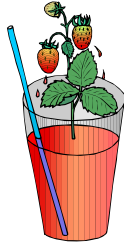
When he comes back to the fold  
The farmer celebrates  
With the young and old  
He thanks God for he's found  
And he has a big party and invites the town

### (LAST CHORUS)

Oh yea now he can sleep  
But he wants to stay awake  
And party with the sheep  
Oh yea now he can sleep  
But he wants to party with the sheep

### (REPEAT)

Celebrating with the sheep  
He wants to party with the sheep



## Party Refreshments



You can't have a celebration party without some refreshments. So get out the party hats, party plates, special tablecloths, and let's have a party.

Provide some cupcakes, juice, balloons, and party favors. It says in the Bible that when one sinner is found, the angels have a party. (Luke 15:7 and 10)



Resources for this devotion: Parable Praise Party book "Safe in the Fold" by Cook Communications Ministries, "Simple Stories" by Group Publishing, and Mary's album "Come On Home"

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