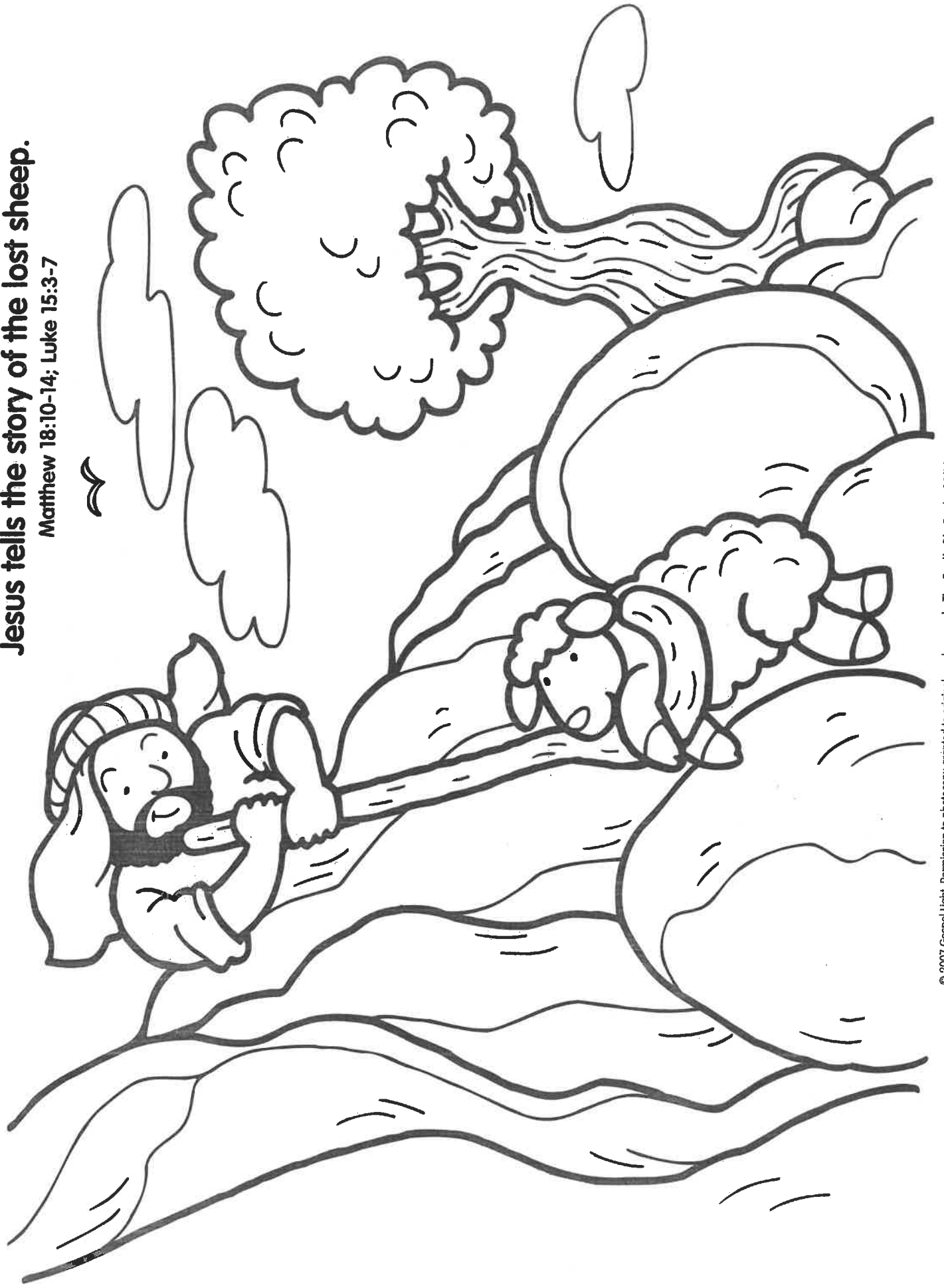


**Jesus tells the story of the lost sheep.**

Matthew 18:10-14; Luke 15:3-7



## Jesus tells the story of the lost sheep.

Matthew 18:10-14; Luke 15:3-7

Jesus told a story about a shepherd who had 100 sheep.

"This shepherd loved his sheep and took good care of them. The shepherd carried a long stick called a staff. If a sheep would start to walk too far away, the shepherd tapped the sheep with his staff, so it would come back. Sometimes the shepherd used the staff to help a sheep get up after it had fallen.

"Every day, the shepherd counted his sheep as he let them out of the fold. He counted all 100 sheep and made sure they were there. Then he led his sheep out to the hillsides so that they could eat green grass. The sheep drank cool water, too. The shepherd made sure the sheep had enough to eat and drink.

"One day, the shepherd counted his sheep, but he only counted 99! One of the sheep was gone! The shepherd hurried off to find his lost sheep. He looked all over! Then the shepherd heard a little 'Baaa!' He heard it again and looked some more. 'BAAAA!' Then he saw the lost sheep.

"The shepherd reached down and gently lifted the sheep up from where it was stuck. The shepherd laid the sheep across his shoulders. He carried the sheep back to where the other sheep were. The good shepherd was very glad he had found his lost sheep! And the sheep was glad to be back with the good shepherd who always loved and cared for it.

"God loves us like that," Jesus said. "He is glad when we accept His love and obey Him."