

## You will need...

- 9 silver coins in a bag, perhaps cut out of card and covered with tin foil, or real coins.
- The 'lost' coin – give this to another mum in advance, and ask her to drop it under her chair at the right point in the story (to reduce the chances of it being 'found' before you want it to be!)
- Apron and headscarf, for a volunteer woman to dress up - this could be narrator.
- Torch for searching with.

## The story

Story	Actions
This term, all our stories are about how God cares for everyone. Today, we're hearing a story that Jesus told, to help us understand how much <b>God cares for people who don't know Him yet</b> . Jesus told three stories to help see this, about a lost sheep, a lost son and this one, about a lost coin.	
This story has lots of counting in it. Who can help me count? We need to count up to 10. Can you do that? 1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... 6 ... 7 ... 8 ... 9 ... 10.	
This is the story of a woman	Put on apron and headscarf or introduce the volunteer.
The woman had 10 precious silver coins. 1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... 6 ... 7 ... 8 ... 9 ... 10.	Get the children to count with you, holding up the coins, one at a time, as you do so. You will have to hold up one of the coins twice, to give the appearance of 10.
They were very precious to her, so she kept them very safe.	Hold up the coins and press them to your chest.

<p>One day she counted her coins. 1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... 6 ... 7 ... 8 ... 9</p>	<p>Get the children to count with you. Holding up one coin at a time.</p>
<p>Oh no! There are only 9 coins here. That's not right! Let's count again to make sure. 1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... 6 ... 7 ... 8 ... 9</p>	<p>Get the children to count with you. Holding up one coin at a time.</p>
<p>Still only 9. There's definitely one missing. I can't (or "She couldn't" and from here on) afford to lose it – I need to work for a whole day to earn a coin like this. I'd better look for it. I've got a torch to help me check in all the dark corners.</p>	<p>Search on the floor, under chairs in the circle.</p>
<p>I can't see it ... can you see it? Help me look!</p>	<p>Keep searching until you, or a child, spots the lost coin.</p>
<p>Here it is! Hurray! I'm so pleased I've found it. Look! Here's my lost coin.</p>	<p>Then rush to pick it up, and dash excitedly round telling everyone how happy you are to have found it.</p>
<p>Now I've got all my coins back. Let's count to make sure they are all here. 1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... 6 ... 7 ... 8 ... 9 ... 10.</p>	<p>Get the children to count with you. Holding up one coin at a time.</p>
<p>Jesus said that God is like the woman in the story, and we are like the coins. God cares for us, when we are far from him, he goes and looks for us. And he is really, really happy when we come safely back home to Him. <b>God cares for people who don't know him yet, just like the woman cared about finding the lost coin.</b></p>	
	<p>Sing - God's love is the best love</p>



## Top Tips

- Everything needs to be said with plenty of intonation, life, interest and volume to keep toddlers interested. It will sound odd!