

WEEK 17: PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

HIGH SCHOOL

GOALS

Who are the sheep and who is the shepherd?
Christ came for our salvation. What does this mean?

LESSON

Materials Needed: Bible

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pgs 239-250

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew by Blessed Theophylact, pgs 153-160

The Holy Angels by Mother Alexandra

Shepherd Life: The Care of Sheep and Goats

<https://www.ancient-hebrew.org/manners/shepherd-life-the-care-of-sheep-and-goats.htm>

PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

Read Matthew 18:10-14

St. Theophylact explains to us that the 100 sheep in this parable are angels and men, while the shepherd is Christ. The angels were created by God, just as we were created by Him, thus we are all His sheep. Christ leaves behind the angels in heaven and comes to save the (1) fallen human nature - and more specifically each and every one of us.

9 CHOIRS OF ANGELS

There are three hierarchies of angels:

- Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones - who show unending love and praise of God
- Dominions, Virtues, and Powers - who look after space and the stars
- Principalities, Archangels, and Angels - who look after this earth

We separate ourselves from God whenever we choose anything or anyone over Him. Christ came to reunite us with Him as He healed, taught, and conquered death for our benefit. Everything Christ did was done out of love for His lost sheep.

ICON OF CHRIST: THE GOOD SHEPHERD

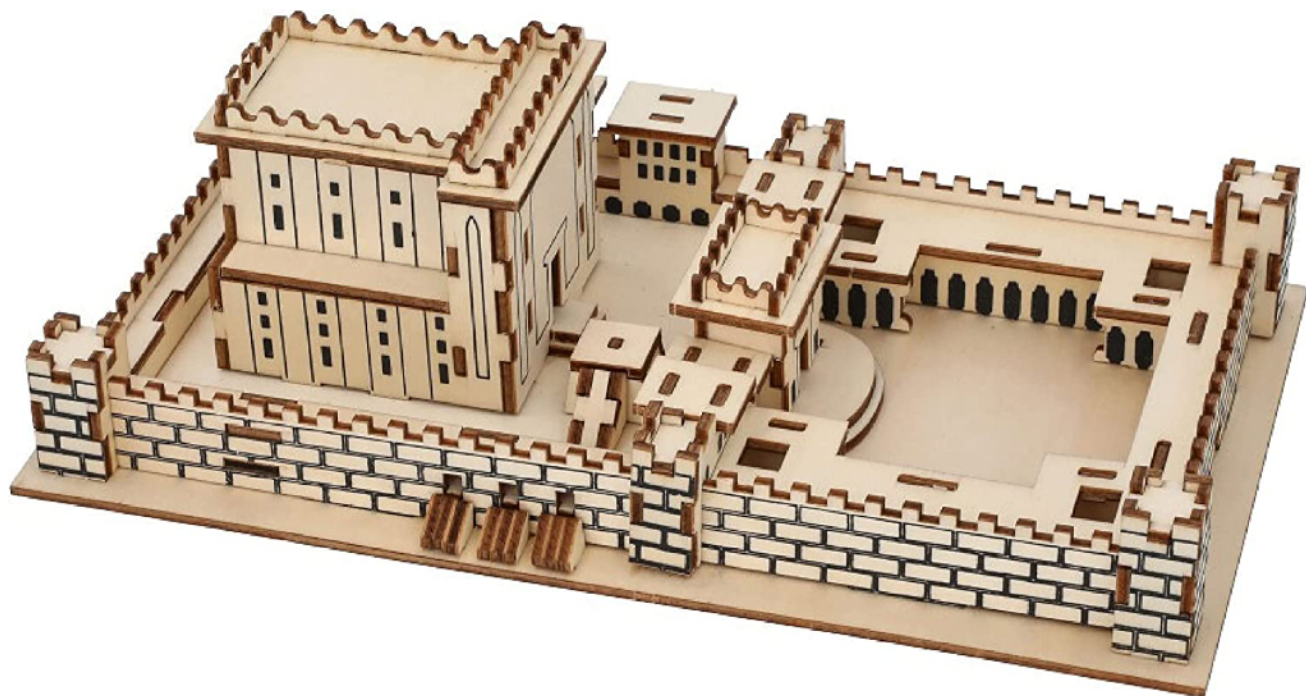
Christ is carrying a lamb on His shoulders. This lamb represents each and every one of us and that Jesus came looking to find us when we were lost. Shepherds will carry a lamb on their shoulders to protect them - from the cold, a fire in the field, wild animals, or to bring them back to safety after they have wandered off.

Christ has a staff secured against Him with His arm. Shepherds would use a staff while walking in the fields and watching their sheep. It would be used to stabilize themselves just like a walking stick would be used when you go for a hike. It was not always completely flat where the sheep were grazing. The staff was also used to protect the sheep or guide them where they needed to go.

Finally, we see the cross of Christ's crucifixion behind Him. Not only did Christ take the wandering sheep upon His shoulders, but He also bore the wood of the cross on His shoulders as well; and having borne it, brought it back to the life above, and having brought it back, numbered it among those who never strayed. (St. Gregory the Theologian, Second Oration on Pascha)

JEWISH TEMPLE MODEL

*Note: The other two classes had a frenzy of children taking the pieces of their model out of the package. Before opening, ask the students to have a short discussion on how they want to approach assembling their model.





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MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOALS

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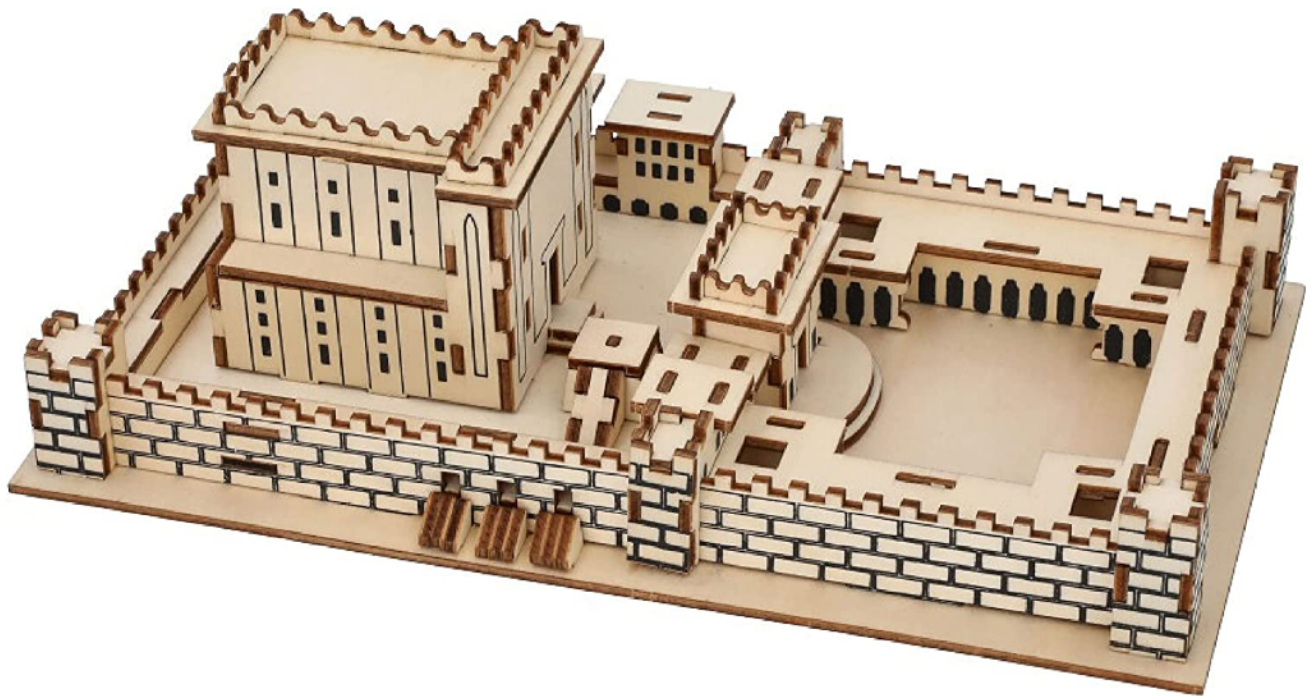
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JEWISH TEMPLE MODEL

Continue working on assembling your Temple model





WEEK 17: PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

3RD & 4TH GRADE

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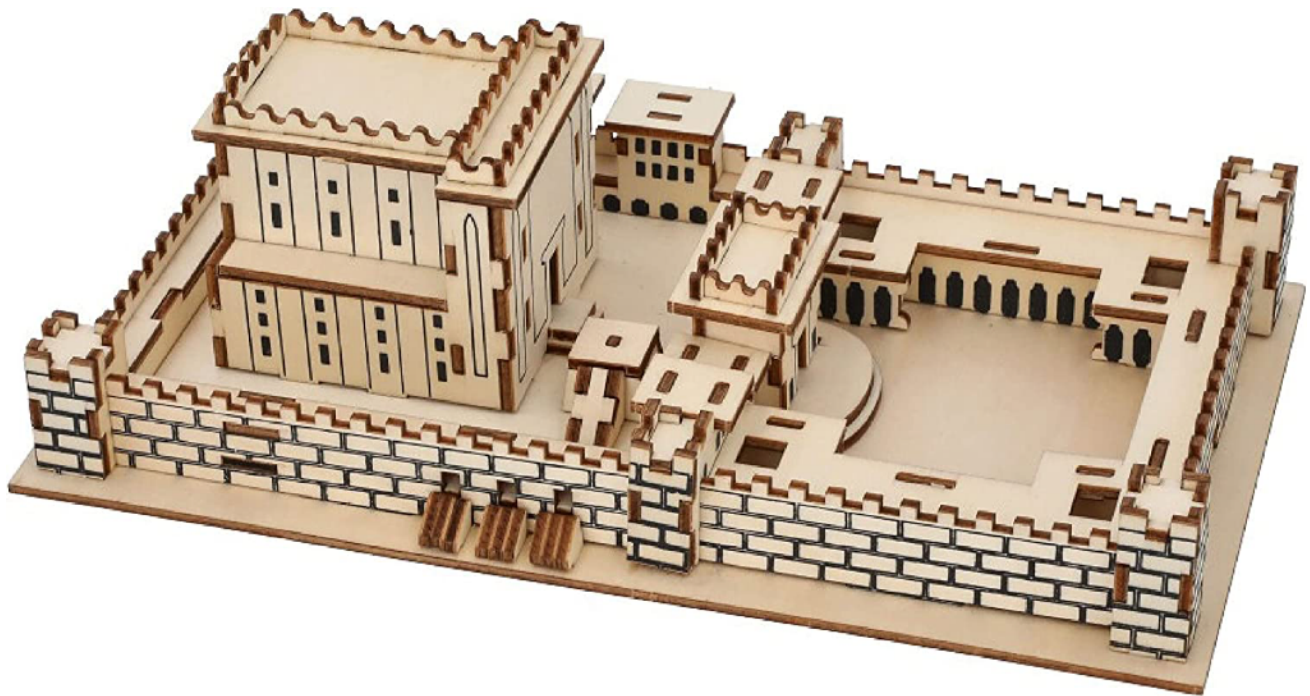
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JEWISH TEMPLE MODEL

Continue working on assembling your Temple model





WEEK 17: PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

1ST & 2ND GRADE

GOALS

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CLASS ROUTINE

Continue routine - move photo, light candle, venerate icon, prayer

PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

Read “The Lost Sheep” on page 204 of the Orthodox Children’s Bible Reader

What would happen if your mom and dad couldn’t find you? Do you think they would search everywhere for you? Of course they would! They would be so relieved and happy when they found you and would probably shower you with hugs and kisses!!!

The same is true of God. He wanted to make sure all of us had the opportunity to be in Heaven with Him. He came down to earth to look for all the “lost sheep” and bring them back to God.

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Finally, we see the cross of Christ's crucifixion behind Him. Jesus died and then rose from the dead so that we could be in heaven with Him! What is the name of our feast day when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead? (Pascha)

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Continue practice singing, "Lord, have mercy" in multiple languages

*If there is time remaining at the end of any class period, you can always review some of the icons we've studied from the Gospel of Matthew. The kids will be more likely to remember these events if they are asked to recall and retell the stories they heard in class.



WEEK 17: PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

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PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

Tell them about the story of “The Lost Sheep” on page 204 of the Orthodox Children’s Bible Reader

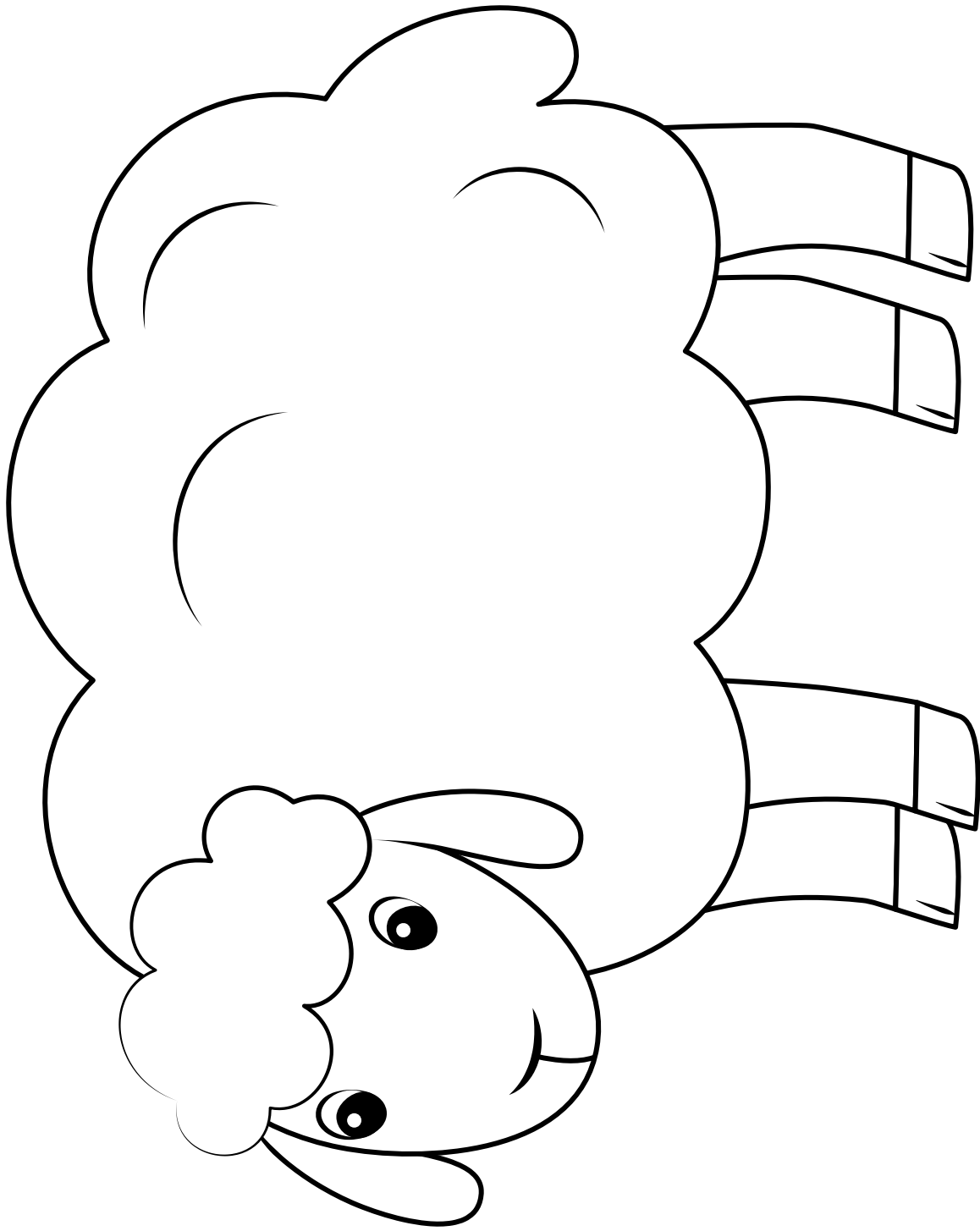
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