The Lost-and-Found Box

The Lost-and-Found Box — VBS Skit for Kids (15 min)

WHAT

A kid loses their favorite stuffed animal somewhere in the church building during opening worship. Everyone tells them to give up — there are 99 other things to do at VBS. One volunteer refuses. The two of them search every closet, sound booth, kitchen drawer, and choir loft until they find it. Then the volunteer turns to the audience and says, "Now flip it. That's how God looks for you." It is the parable of the lost sheep retold inside the church building it was first preached in front of.

THEME

He doesn't stop searching.

WHO

HARPER — The kid. Eight years old. Has had her stuffed lamb since she was four.

MS. KAY — The volunteer. The one adult in the building who refuses to leave a kid behind.

DOOR 1 KID — Holds a cardboard door. Hides a missing sock behind it.

DOOR 2 KID — Holds a cardboard door. Hides an ancient communion bulletin.

DOOR 3 KID — Holds a cardboard door. Hides a forgotten hymnal.

DOOR 4 KID — Holds a cardboard door. Hides a dust bunny taped to a pencil.

DOOR 5 KID — Holds a cardboard door. Hides Pastor Greg sitting in a closet, holding a coffee.

DOOR 6 KID — Holds a cardboard door. Hides a toy sheep — close, but not Harper's.

DOOR 7 KID — Holds the seventh door. Behind it — Harper's lamb.

NARRATOR — Steps in at the very end. The voice of every shepherd who ever counted to ninety-nine.

HOW (STYLE / TONE)

Slow build. Establish the lamb in scene one as something Harper cannot live without. The seven doors are a procession — each one a little funnier, each one a little more wrong. Door five (Pastor Greg in the closet) is the laugh ceiling. Door six (the wrong sheep) is the heartbreak. Door seven is the redemption. Don't let the kids rush. The point is the not-stopping.

PROPS

- A small stuffed lamb (the original)
- A second stuffed sheep, similar but visibly different (for door six)
- Seven cardboard doors, identical, painted plain

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- A single dirty sock
- An old church bulletin, yellowed
- A hymnal, oversized for visibility
- A dust bunny taped to a pencil
- A coffee cup for Pastor Greg

TIME
15 minutes

Scene 1 — The Lamb

(Stage is a wide-open church atrium. HARPER sits cross-legged on the floor down center, holding a stuffed lamb in her lap. She is alone except for MS. KAY, who is wiping down a folding table upstage left.)

HARPER (to the lamb)
Today is gonna be a good day, Lambie. We are gonna sing the loud songs. We are gonna get the lemon cookies. We are gonna come back here at lunch and you are gonna sit right here in my hoodie pocket. Okay.

(She tucks the lamb into the front pouch of her hoodie. Pats it. Stands up. Walks offstage left. Ms. Kay looks up, watches her go, smiles, and goes back to wiping the table.)

NARRATOR: Some kids bring a backpack to VBS. Some kids bring a juice box. Harper brought a lamb she has had since she was four years old. The lamb has been to the dentist. The lamb has been to a wedding. The lamb does not get left behind. Today is the first day at this church.

(Time jump. Lights flicker briefly to indicate the passage of opening worship. Harper runs back on, hood over her head, hands in her pouch. She freezes. Her hands feel around. Her face changes.)

HARPER
Lambie?

(She pulls her hands out. Empty. She pats herself everywhere. She turns out the pocket. She drops to her knees and looks under nothing in particular. She stands up. She is not crying yet but she is one breath away.)

HARPER (louder)
Lambie?

MS. KAY (looking up from the table)
Harper. Sweetheart. What did you lose.

HARPER
Lambie. My lamb. He was in my pocket. He was in my pocket through the whole song. He was in my pocket and now he is not in my pocket and I do not

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know where he is and I do not know where he is and I do not know where he is.

MS. KAY (already moving)
Okay. Okay. Breathe. We are gonna find him.

HARPER
Everybody is at snack.

MS. KAY
I am not at snack. I am here. We are gonna find him.

Scene 2 — The Other Adults

(Two more adult volunteers (offstage voices, or two extra cast members in passing crosses) walk through. Each gives an opinion on the way.)

VOLUNTEER ONE (passing through)
Harper, sweetie, you can get a new lamb at the gift shop. They have a whole bin of them by the welcome desk.

HARPER (small)
I don't want a new one.

VOLUNTEER ONE
Sweetie, the new ones are very nice. They have one with a heart on its hoof. The bin was twenty dollars.

HARPER
I don't want the bin lamb. I want my lamb. He has a hole in his ear from when I sneezed on him in nineteen — when I was four. He smells like my house. The new one doesn't smell like anything.

VOLUNTEER TWO (passing the other way)
Harper. Honey. You are missing the craft. They are gluing googly eyes onto rocks. The craft is once a year. The lamb is gonna turn up.

HARPER
I want to look for him.

VOLUNTEER TWO
Sweetie, you can come back after.

HARPER
I am not going to glue eyes onto a rock while my lamb is somewhere alone in this building.

MS. KAY (firmly)

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She is gonna look for him. I am looking with her. The craft can wait. The googly eyes can wait. We are gonna find him.

HARPER

What if we don't.

MS. KAY

Harper. Listen to me. There is a kind of grown-up who tells a kid to give up. I am not that kind of grown-up. I am the kind of grown-up who has stayed in church basements until two in the morning looking for a kid's pacifier. I am gonna look for that lamb until we find that lamb. The lamb is in this building somewhere. We are gonna find the place he is in.

HARPER

Okay.

MS. KAY

We are gonna start at the door of every room you walked into today. Every door. One at a time. Until we find him.

Scene 3 — The Seven Doors

(Across the back of the stage, seven cardboard doors are now in a row. Each one is held by a different DOOR KID. Ms. Kay walks Harper to the first door. Door 1 Kid steps forward, opens the door slowly.)

DOOR 1 KID

Behind door one — a single dirty sock.

(Door 1 Kid holds up the sock. Harper shakes her head. Ms. Kay nods seriously.)

MS. KAY

Wrong door. Next one.

DOOR 2 KID

Behind door two — a church bulletin from two thousand and three.

(Harper takes the bulletin. Looks at it. Hands it back.)

HARPER

It's a wedding announcement.

DOOR 2 KID

It is.

HARPER

From two thousand and three.

DOOR 2 KID

Yes.

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MS. KAY
Wrong door. Next one.

DOOR 3 KID
Behind door three — a hymnal nobody has touched in eleven years.

(The hymnal is comically oversized. Harper opens it. A puff of fake dust. She closes it.)

HARPER
Why is this still here.

DOOR 3 KID
Nobody knows.

MS. KAY
Wrong door. Next one.

DOOR 4 KID
Behind door four — a dust bunny.

(Door 4 Kid holds out a pencil with a giant cotton ball taped to the end. Harper laughs in spite of herself.)

HARPER
That's a dust bunny on a pencil.

DOOR 4 KID
It is.

MS. KAY
Wrong door. Next one.

(Door 5 Kid steps forward. Behind him, in the cardboard frame, sits PASTOR GREG on a folding stool, holding a coffee cup. He looks up, surprised but unbothered.)

DOOR 5 KID
Behind door five — Pastor Greg.

PASTOR GREG
Harper. Hi, sweetheart.

HARPER
Pastor Greg, why are you in a closet.

PASTOR GREG
It is the only quiet place in the building during VBS, baby.

MS. KAY
Pastor. Have you seen a small stuffed lamb.

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PASTOR GREG (kindly)
I have not, Kay. But I am gonna pray for you both right now while you keep looking. Off you go.

(Pastor Greg bows his head briefly. Lifts his coffee cup like a tiny salute. Door 5 Kid pulls the door closed.)

HARPER (to Ms. Kay)
Pastor Greg was in a closet.

MS. KAY
Yes.

HARPER
With a coffee.

MS. KAY
Yes, baby.

HARPER
Is that — is that allowed.

MS. KAY
Pastors are allowed coffee, Harper. The closet part is between Pastor Greg and the Lord.

MS. KAY
Wrong door. Thank you, Pastor. Next one.

Scene 4 — The Sixth Door

(Door 6 Kid steps forward. Holds up a stuffed sheep. It is bigger than Harper's lamb. It is the wrong color. It is a sheep, not a lamb. Harper takes it. Her face falls.)

DOOR 6 KID
Behind door six — a sheep.

HARPER (quiet)
It's not him.

DOOR 6 KID
It is a sheep.

HARPER
Yeah. But it's not Lambie.

MS. KAY (gently)
Harper. Sweetheart. Some people would take this one. Some people would say a sheep is a sheep.

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HARPER
I don't want a sheep that is a sheep. I want my lamb.

MS. KAY
Then we keep going.

HARPER
Are you tired.

MS. KAY
Harper. I am not tired. I am not gonna be tired until we find him. The craft is over. The cookies are gone. There is one door left. We are gonna open the door.

HARPER (small)
What if door seven is empty.

MS. KAY
Then we go back to door one and we look again. And then we look in the kitchen drawers. And then we look in the choir loft. And then we look in the parking lot if we have to. The lamb is in this building somewhere. Sweetheart, I am not in a hurry. The lamb is not in a hurry. We are gonna find him. The craft has rocks for tomorrow.

HARPER
Okay, Ms. Kay.

MS. KAY
Okay, baby. Door seven.

Scene 5 — The Seventh Door

(Door 7 Kid steps forward. Slowly. Reverently. Opens the door. Behind it — Harper's stuffed lamb, sitting on a small folded blanket, lit by a single warm light.)

DOOR 7 KID (quietly)
Behind door seven — Lambie.

(Long beat. Harper does not move. Then she crosses to the door, picks up the lamb, holds it to her chest with both hands. She does not speak. Ms. Kay does not speak either. The other Door Kids step back.)

HARPER (whispering, to the lamb)
Hi.

HARPER
You were behind a door this whole time. I was so scared. I am sorry.

(She turns to Ms. Kay. Her face is wet.)

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HARPER
You stayed.

MS. KAY
I stayed, baby.

HARPER
Everybody else said get a new one.

MS. KAY
Everybody else was wrong.

HARPER
Why didn't you give up.

MS. KAY
Because you didn't want a different lamb. You wanted your lamb. And the only kind of grown-up worth being is the kind that knows the difference.

(Harper hugs Ms. Kay around the waist. Ms. Kay turns slowly to face the audience, one hand still on Harper's back. Now flip it.)

Final Moment — Now Flip It

MS. KAY (to the audience, simply)
Now flip it.

MS. KAY
I am the kid. The lamb is me. The lost thing is me. And there is Somebody who has been opening doors in this building for two thousand years, looking for me. He doesn't quit at door six. He doesn't say go home and grab a new one. He doesn't sit down in a closet and let somebody else handle it.

NARRATOR: Jesus told a story about a shepherd who left ninety-nine sheep to find one. He told it because He wanted everybody in the room to know — He is the shepherd. You are the one. He doesn't stop at the sock. He doesn't stop at the bulletin. He doesn't stop at the wrong sheep. The good news of Jesus Christ is — He doesn't stop searching.

NARRATOR: Kids. If today you feel a little bit like the lamb that got dropped out of somebody's pocket — listen. The shepherd is still walking. The doors are still being opened. The seventh door is still ahead. And He is gonna find you.

NARRATOR: And here is the part of the story Harper already knows. When the shepherd in Jesus' parable finally found that one sheep, He did not come back grumbling. The Bible says He laid it on His shoulders, rejoicing. He went home and He called His friends and He said, rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost. The party in heaven is for one. The party is because the door opened. The

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party is because somebody refused to walk away from the kid in the empty pocket. That somebody is Jesus. That somebody is also every Ms. Kay who has ever stayed past snack to look one more time.

(Harper holds the lamb. Ms. Kay holds Harper. The seven Door Kids stand in a line behind them. Lights fade. Hold the dark.)

(END)

END

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