



Christmas at The Cove

WEEK TWO: WORTH FINDING – Study Guide

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Sometimes my wife and I lose something we wish we could find—like those special Christmas ornaments we made last year. We knew they were at the exact place we put them, but they just weren't there anymore. Another time, my wife and I lost not something, but someone, while we were on vacation—our son. We searched everywhere for him, and we did not stop searching until we found him. The thought of not searching for him until we found him didn't even register in our minds. We were going to find him, and thankfully 20 minutes later we did. At the heart of this lesson, we will learn and discuss how Jesus searches and seeks the lost and how He goes to great lengths to find us.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Have you ever lost something that really mattered to you? What lengths did you go to in order to find what you were looking for?

Into the Bible

- 2) **Read Luke 15:1-10.** What kind of value does the shepherd place on a sheep and the woman on a coin? Why are sheep a good analogy to people?

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- 3) Now go back and **re-read Luke 15:6-7 and 9-10**. What kind of invitation is Jesus calling us to join Him in? What scene do these verses describe when the lost is found?

- 4) **Read John 10:11-16**. We read in these verses that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we are His sheep. What kind of relationship does Jesus have with us? How have you heard God's voice calling you?

- 5) **Read Luke 19:1-10**. In this story of Zacchaeus, Jesus lays out the specifics of why He came to Earth. What does He say His mission was? How did He accomplish His mission in this story?

How Does This Apply?

- 6) The Pharisees ridiculed Jesus for hanging out with sinners. There's a big difference between having effective relationships with non-believers and allowing those relationships to affect you. When is a good time to say no, and are there times when you say yes? Share an example of a time when you used discernment.

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- 7) We continue to learn that Jesus places a high value on people. He's still searching and seeking the lost on a daily basis, and He's using us. How do you allow God to use you in order to share the Gospel? What are some ways you and your Life Group can interact with lost people?

- 8) Parables are stories filled with everyday examples that people can relate to. Like Jesus did in His time, are there some modern day comparisons you could use to help explain the Gospel better to non-believers?

- 9) "Rejoice with me" is an invitation to something greater than just us. God rejoices when a sinner comes to faith in Him and He welcomes us to join Him. Has your Life Group ever rejoiced together over a salvation?

- 10) Like last weekend, we were again challenged to reach the people around us—to invite those who are not yet Jesus followers to a service during Christmas. You may already have a story of how you got creative with your invitations. Share your story with your Life Group.

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Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

11) As humans, so many times we want to do things on our own terms. Even as Jesus followers, we want to maintain our relationship with God by measuring up to something other than what saved us in the first place, which is a simple faith in Christ.

Read Galatians 3:1-5. Why does Paul seem so frustrated with the people at Galatia? How do we sometimes try to measure up to the wrong thing?

12) **Read John 14:26 and John 16:13-15.** What do these verses tell us the Holy Spirit will do for us?