



## LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 8th December 2024



### Connecting@Christmas Searching

#### Warm Up

Describe a time you lost something and searched for it. Did you find it? How did it feel?

#### Background and context

Human beings are always looking for something to satisfy them. Money, friendships, sex, fame and a career! But all these are disappointing and will let you down. Ecclesiastes says that "God has placed eternity in the human heart." God wants us to search for contentment and satisfaction and He knows we will only find it with Him. God is on the lookout for us too. He wants us to come to Him and celebrates when we do! In the Christmas story, two groups of people searched for Jesus. The Shepherds and Magi to worship Him and Herod's soldiers to kill Him. Searching can be positive or negative. Are we looking for the right things that bring life or the bad things that bring destruction?

#### Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



1. Read Ecclesiastes 3:11. What do you think it means? Does God want us to search for Him without finding Him?
2. What kind of things do people do in their search for happiness and contentment? Why are these things ultimately a disappointment?
3. Read Matthew 2. Which two groups of people were searching for Jesus?
4. What were their reasons for searching? Can you see evidence of these types of people in the world today?
5. Read Luke 2: 8-15. What is different about the shepherd's search?
6. Does God still act in this way today? Can you give examples?
7. Read Luke 15. These are famous parables. Where do we see God in these parables? Where are we?
8. What do we learn about God from these parables?
9. Why might people not want to be found by God? How does that make you feel?

#### Discipleship and Application



10. What can you do as an individual to help others in their search for God?
11. How does the church sometimes hinder a person's search? How can we avoid being a hindrance?

#### Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.