



DISCUSSION GUIDE

PART 1: Finding Joy

DATE: 12-03-2023

START

The Christmas season brings joy, memories, and fun events. Sometimes though that joy can disappear or seem to fade depending on what is going on in our lives when Christmas arrives.

- What brings you the most joy during Christmas?
- When has your joy seemed to diminish?
- What do you do when your joy disappears?

READ

[Luke 15:4-6](#) (NIV)

“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’”

THINK

We all have list of “those people”. Those people who steal our joy, those people who make life difficult for us, those people who don’t act or think like me. We can easily write off “those people”. When we write them off we find that our joy in life and for what God is doing can start to diminish.

- Who do you normally classify as “those people”?
- How does marginlizing others diminish our joy?

Jesus tells a parable of a lost sheep about a sheep getting lost and the shepherd leaving the rest behind and searching for the one that is lost. When the lost sheep is found the shepherd rejoices and invited others to share in his joy.

- What truth does this parable tell us about God’s kingdom?
- How does inviting others to share in your joy promote more joy?
- What do you need to do to find joy this Christmas season?

PRAY

d, when my joy is diminishing, remind me of how you sought after me and found me. Let that joy continue to rease and help me to invite people into my joy.

ACT

This week, take some time to reflect on the fact that Jesus was born into humanity to find us. To bring joy into the world and to begin to establish his kingdom on earth. Invite someone into your life to share in your joy.

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