

REALLIFE STUDY GROUP

“Finding the Gift”

ICEBREAKER: Try to describe what Christmas was like when you were growing up in just one word, and how has it changed for you as you have grown older? (Exciting, Magical, Disappointing, Uneventful, Miraculous, Lacking, Satisfied, Hungry, Cold, Wonderful, Astonishing, Exhausting, Receiving, Giving, Amazing, Expensive, Marvelous....)

CONFESSION: This Christmas I choose to find or see God in every situation or circumstance of my life.

When I find God I will find myself.

When I find God I will understand my destiny.

When I find God I will be energized like I have never been energized.

When I find God I will rejoice like I have never rejoiced.

When I find God I will love like I have never loved.

When I find God I will realize what I have never realized.

When I find God I will see what I have always longed to see.

When I find God I will feel what I have always longed to feel.

When I find God I will hear what I have always longed to hear.

When I find God it will change everything.

DEFINITION: Find: (Greek) Heurisko

- 1) to come upon, hit upon, to meet with, after searching, to find a thing sought
- 2) to find by enquiry, thought, examination, scrutiny, observation, to find out by practice and experience
 - a. to see, learn, discover, understand
- 3) to find out for one's self, to acquire, get, obtain, procure

OUTLINE: Things We Are Encouraged to Find

Find FAVOR & GOOD UNDERSTANDING

Proverbs 3:4 - So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Find KNOWLEDGE

Proverbs 2:5 - Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

Find THE GOOD

Proverbs 19:8 - He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

Proverbs 16:20 - He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy [is] he.

Find FAITHFUL MEN

Proverbs 20:6 - Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

Find REST

Matthew 11:29 - Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Find a MATE

Proverbs 31:10 - Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price [is] far above rubies.

Proverbs 18:22 - [Whoso] findeth a wife findeth a good [thing], and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

Find GRACE

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Find WISDOM

Proverbs 3:13 - Happy [is] the man [that] findeth wisdom, and the man [that] getteth understanding.

Find LIFE

Proverbs 8:35 - For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.

Find GOD

Isaiah 55:6 - Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.

Proverbs 8:17 - I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

Jeremiah 29:13 - And ye shall seek me, and find [me], when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

TEXT: Luke 2:1-20

STUDY GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. The God of creation loves us so much He has left us clues everywhere. God longs to be found. Fill in the blank. When I look at _____ in nature, the human body, or outer space I know there is a God.
2. As a group, identify at least six clues that the angel gave the shepherds so they could find Jesus. (Hint: Luke 2:9-12)
3. Name a roadblock, difficulty, or hardship the shepherds may have encountered or had to endure as they searched to find Jesus.
4. Finding God: Changes your perceptions, changes your focus, changes your vision or purpose, and causes you to see God, people and life in a different light. Name one practical or specific thing that should change, has changed or is changing as you become a serious seeker of Jesus Christ.
5. One of the greatest events in all of human history occurred on Christmas night. The Savior of the world was born. After hundreds of years of prophetic silence God suddenly appeared. However it would be another thirty-three years before Jesus' greatest assignment of His death, burial and resurrection would be accomplished. The next day after an angelic visitation and finding the Christ child, the shepherds had to go back to business as usual. How do you deal with things when you know something great has happened, but it doesn't feel like anything has changed yet?
6. Anywhere from 500 to 2400 years before the coming of Messiah, prophetic clues were given concerning his birth. (Isaiah 7:14 [the virgin birth]; Micah 5:1-2 [His birthplace]; Genesis 49:10 [His Tribe]; Jeremiah 23:5 [Descendent of King David]; etc....) Look at how meticulous and precise God plans to be found. Jeremiah 29:11-14 spells it out pretty clear. What are you looking for under your tree this year?
7. Mary and Joseph lost Jesus when he was 12 years old. You think you got problems? How do you tell God you lost His kid? Have you ever felt like you lost your connection with Jesus? How do you find Him and get it back?

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS:

ACTION POINT: I am one of God's best kept secrets. I choose to give the gift of _____ this year, more than ever before.

"Finders keepers, seekers reapers"

Music of the Christmas Season

F D O Y O U H E A R W H A T I H E A R Q V I Q O Q S
 L Q E J W F Y R M D J O Y T O T H E W O R L D F G Y
 J U T C Y E D R M W H S B I T G B O L D Q Q H Q N Y
 J V N U K V A P V T P O T E S U O H E H T N O P U O
 T H G I N T N E L I S F L L E O N T S R I F E H T B
 D U R N X Q H U O V Z R J H D R X H T K N K P Q T R
 M E H E L H T E B F O N W O T E L T T I L O T B I E
 X A W C V M F L H B D H F X O P X H B F Z M I A N M
 Q N Y B A B A T N A S M A D A D I V A N Z I L E F M
 S K X V B C Y R A C L E E R T S A M T S I R H C O U
 G N I S S L E G N A D L A R E H E H T K R A H J R R
 F F S I L V E R B E L L S L L E B E L G N I J E C D
 H D O F K N L L F W K Y V Z T J R J P S Y Y H U H E
 O Q R M D N A L R E D N O W R E T N I W F Q O Z R L
 W E W I S H Y O U A M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S I T
 G O D R E S T Y E M E R R Y G E N T L E M E N R S T
 R A E L C T H G I N D I M E H T N O P U E M A C T I
 S A N T A C L A U S I S C O M I N G T O T O W N M L
 A M R O A V Z B O M F R O S T Y T H E S N O W M A N
 J X A W A Y I N A M A N G E R E D I R H G I E L S C

Away in a Manger

Up On the Housetop

Silent Night

Silver Bells

God Rest Ye Merry

O Christmas Tree

Jingle Bells

Gentlemen

Joy to the World

Do You Hear What I Hear?

The First Noel

Little Drummer Boy

Feliz Navidad

It Came Upon the
Midnight Clear

Sleigh Ride

Frosty the Snowman

O Little Town of
Bethlehem

We Wish You a Merry
Christmas

Santa Claus Is Coming to
Town

Deck the Halls

Nuttin' for Christmas

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Santa Baby

To find the answer to the trivia question, look for a word or phrase that is hidden in the puzzle, but not in the word list

Trivia: In what Christmas song would you sing about Parson Brown,
a circus clown, a bluebird, and a new bird?

Answer: _____