



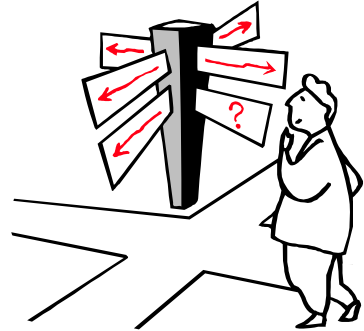
Lost and Found

Have you ever been lost in your life?

I have been lost a few times!

The first time was when we were visiting the Penguin Parade in Phillip Island when I was a young boy. We were all sitting together as a family, but I wanted to go a few rows closer to get a better look at the penguins. I went closer, but after a while I turned around to go back and I couldn't see my parents in the crowd! I went looking for them everywhere, and became scared because I couldn't find them. My parents even had an announcement made over the P.A. system, but I couldn't hear it or understand it. I ended up going to the car-park and trying to find our car, but couldn't find it either. Eventually, one of my dad's friends found me at the car-park, and the ordeal was over. I had only moved down a few rows

Another time when I was 7 years old we were on holidays in Germany visiting our relatives. We went on a group outing to climb a small mountain to visit a castle, when my



brother and my cousin decided to run ahead up a mountain short-cut to get there quicker. I stayed behind with the group at first, but after a while I wanted to 'run ahead' as well and catch up with them. I went off on my own, trying to find them, but I couldn't. And there was no clear path. I was alone, and I became scared. I was lost again! I started running down the mountain yelling "Papa, Papa", and at one point I had to jump down off a ledge. I did, but I broke my leg upon landing. An exciting holiday became a hospital visit and a leg in plaster

In the Bible, Jesus tells us another story about a son who got lost, but in a different way. Listen:

"There was once a man who had two sons. The younger one said to him, 'Father, give me my share of the property now.' So the man divided his property between his two sons. After a few days the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with

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the money. He went to a country far

I went off on my own ...

away, where he wasted his money in reckless living. He spent everything he had. Then a severe famine spread over that country, and he was left without a thing. So he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him out to his farm to take care of the pigs. He wished he could fill himself with the bean pods the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything to eat. At last he came to his senses and said, 'All my father's hired workers have more than they can eat, and here I am about to starve! I will get up and go to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired workers."' So he got up and started back to his father.

"He was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms around his son, and kissed him. 'Father,' the son said, 'I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.' But

A London newspaper offered a prize to the person who could come up with the best definition for money. The winning answer was:

"Money is a means by which you can buy everything besides happiness, and by which you can pay for trips anywhere except to heaven."

the father called to his servants. 'Hurry!' he said. 'Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Then go and get the prize calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast! For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.'" (Luke 15:11-24a)



This is one of my most favourite stories in the Bible. Why? Because Jesus used this story to show us a lot about what we are like, but even more about what God is like. In a nutshell, Jesus was saying that although we become "lost from God" through following our own selfish, wild, and sinful ways, when we realise what we are doing wrong and turn back to God and say 'Sorry, I want to start all over,' God REJOICES and is so GLAD we've come BACK HOME! God doesn't yell at us and abuse us; God throws a party for us!! WOW! This seems unbelievable, but it is true!!

The whole message of the Bible is that God loves you so much that even if you have sinned real bad, if you turn back to God He forgives you. Did you read that? HE FORGIVES YOU!! And what's more - He's HAPPY that you're back!! WOW! God is so good!

Are you lost from God at the moment?
Are you "living in sin"? Turn back to
God right now. Tell God you're sorry.
He won't abuse you. He won't destroy
you. He wants to tell you that you are
now safe. He wants to say 'Welcome
home.'

Come back to God today. I'm sure you
will experience His love and joy over
you when you do. I have. You can,
too!

Let us pray:

*Dear God,
I'm so unworthy to even talk to You,
but I am so thankful for the story that
Jesus told.
I am so sorry for the wrong I have done in
my life,
and I just want to say thank you so much
for forgiving me and giving me a new
start again.
I was lost, but now I am found!
You are the best. There is no one like You.
Thank you so much for Your love.
And I want to show Your love now to all
other people I meet, especially those
who have sinned against me.
In Jesus' name I pray,
Amen.*



You were on the run

You were on the run
Money used your power
Looking for the life
Taken by the hour

*And you know,
Sure as sure can be,
Love will set you free.*

People never came
You would only use them
When they needed you
You would just refuse them

*And you know,
Sure as sure can be,
Love will set you free.*

Now you're on your own
In your own confusion
Without any doubt
You are in seclusion

*And you know,
Sure as sure can be,
Love will set you free.*

So the story goes
Life is full of glory
None of it for you
That's another story

*And you know,
Sure as sure can be,
Love will set you free.*

by Leah

Summary of last month's church service

"Making Friends"

Remember, making friends follows a 4 step process:

Acquaintance (based on occasional contacts)

Casual Friends (common interests)

Close Friends (common spirit & goal in life)

Intimate Friends (sharing everything to help each other grow in character)

And when it comes to romance, don't jump to level 4 too soon!

Remember how to make a pavlova: first the base (the spirit – having a common faith); second the cream (the soul – sharing your plans, dreams, & emotions); third the passionfruit (the body). Don't let your pavlova be a flop!

News & Events

You're invited to our next

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

*a Community Church
Service for everyone!!*

Topic:

The Good Life!



- **Sunday November 21st**
(the 3rd Sunday of the month)

- **5pm - 6.15pm**
(followed by supper!)



- **Preston Nth East
Primary School Hall**

Bring your whole family!



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A ministry supported by Regent Baptist Church
and LinC Northern Region



**Wow, that
was great!**



**Yeh, exactly
what I needed.**