

## **life groups' sermon guide**

### **extreme moves – desperate existence**



***Life Groups exist at Kingsway to provide authentic relationships for the life application of the Core 4 elements of worship, grow, serve, and share.***

*The soul which has no fixed purpose in life is lost; to be everywhere, is to be nowhere.*

**Michel de Montaigne**

*The way to love anything is to realize that it may be lost.*

**Gilbert K. Chesterton**

*Forgiveness is the remission of sins. For it is by this that what has been lost, and was found, is saved from being lost again.*

**Saint Augustine**

### **Conversations**

As a kid, most of us have probably been lost in a department store or at some large event. Notorious for refusing to ask for directions, most men have been lost at one time or another too. Share with the group an “I’m lost!” story.

Remember Tom Hank’s character, Chuck Noland, in Castaway? There in a scene in the movie where Chuck is talking Wilson, the soccer ball, as he calculates the search area where he is located. After his calculations he confesses to Wilson that the search area is twice the size of Texas and that they might never be found.

Chuck takes matters into his own hands and makes a plan to build a raft to escape the island. His plan works and he eventually runs into a ship that rescues him.

Read the parable of the Lost Sheep from Luke 15:3-7.

Q :: Who are the lost sheep (people) around me? What are they getting lost in?

Q :: How does their lost-ness connect to the Michel de Montaigne quote?

### **Cultivation**

Q :: Who was the responsible for the lost sheep? Who is the rescuer?

Q :: What are your thoughts and reactions to the Chesterton quote?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20, Luke 19:11-26, and James 1:27 and 2:14-25 and Matthew 5:13-16.

Q :: The above Scriptures refer to believers as ambassadors, servants, and followers. What responsibility is implicit to these titles and roles as it relates to the God’s will and work?

In short, not only is God responsible for the lost sheep, but \_\_\_\_\_.

Read Mark 12:30-31.

A neighbor is defined as a fellow human being and someone nearby in your sphere of existence.

Q :: Where are your neighbors? Share places you live and go.

Q :: What are the needs of these neighbors? How might you serve them?

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

Q :: Are those we call neighbors the same we are called to share Christ?

Q :: Are you Christ to your neighbors? Do you serve them in Christ? Do you share Christ with them? Why not? What are your difficulties and struggles?

### Application

In John 16:18, Jesus says, "As I have been sent by the Father, I am now sending you." There is no excuse for not being an ambassador for Christ and a searcher and rescuer of lost sheep. It is what we are called to do. It is an expression of our love and gratitude toward God for His searching for and rescuing of us when we were "lost."

A :: Pray that God gives you and the church a heart and concern for the lost and that we will respond.

A :: Make a list of your "neighbors." Next to each name write down their greatest need. Make plans to meet that need.

A :: Invite your "neighbors" to Summer FX, especially those with kids.

### Closing Thought

We read earlier in Matthew 5:13-16 that believers are called to be salt and light in the world. Salt loses its purpose if it stays in the shaker and light is diminished if a basket is placed over it. Yes, the world is a scary place, and it is really easy to want to stay safe and secure within the church's four walls, sequestered from all that is lost and broken. My fear is that the church's four walls are a hindrance to the spread of salt and has become the basket over the light of the Gospel to the lost and broken. We have to move out because you and I have a responsibility for the lost sheep outside the church.

Leaving the stable and all my sheep to search for, find, and rescue the lost ones.