

No LONGER LOST



How do we find our place?

We are all trying to find our place. As young people become more independent, they face new opportunities and decisions. But sometimes young people can question where they belong in this new, unknown environment. Young people need to be connected to their community and culture to feel safe and accepted. **How can we support young people to find their place in the world?**

When young people can't find their place, they can feel lost. When young people don't know where they belong, they feel alone in the world. They can worry about the future. If young people don't feel heard, they can stop contributing to conversations and miss out on getting the support they need. Young people can feel unworthy, hopeless, and lost to the world.

The Good News is that our place is with Jesus. **When we feel alone, anxious, invisible, or insignificant, we know that God sees us.** We know that God loves us and that we belong in His family.

The following narrative is a way we can share this Good News message, a vision, and a declaration for all of us as we come alongside young people in 2024:

We are all trying to find our place. As we get older, we face new opportunities and decisions. Having more independence to do what we want is exciting. **But not knowing what the future will be like can be scary.** We start depending less on family or the people we live with and more on the people at school. But finding where we fit in amongst so many people can be challenging. We can start

questioning who we are and how we fit into this new environment. Who will be our friends? If we can't connect with others, we might not feel safe. We can feel alone, anxious, and that we don't matter. We might feel lost.

When we feel lost, it can be challenging to find our place. When we are lost and alone, we can disconnect or withdraw from others and ourselves. When we are lost and anxious, we can feel trapped by our fears of the unknown, unable to experience life. When we are lost and insignificant, we can feel like we don't have anything valuable to contribute. When we feel lost, we can close ourselves off from connecting with the people around us and withdraw from the world.

The Good News is that we can find our place with Jesus. When we feel alone, anxious, invisible, or insignificant, we know that God sees us. Even if we feel lost, something is only lost if another person misses it. We know that God loves us, cares about us, and values us for who we are. We are no longer lost because we are significant to God. **As we find our place with Jesus, we have a place to belong, where we feel connected, secure, and empowered.**

Jesus can help us connect with people who love us and find places where we are accepted. Jesus is always there with us and supports us. Jesus gives us the confidence to ask questions and brings supportive people into our lives who listen to us and value what we bring to the world. We find our purpose when we take our place with Jesus. He listens to us and brings meaning to our lives.

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No longer lost.