

WKND YOUTH  
CAMPS

# SPEAKER BRIEF 1

Message:

“With Jesus, we  
are no longer lost.”

## Lived-experience of young people:

- Young people can feel lonely. They may find it challenging to connect with and make friends, struggle to find people they can trust, and experience bullying. This can leave young people feeling lost and alone.
- Unknown environments and situations can cause young people to feel stressed and overwhelmed. Specifically, at camp, young people may meet new people, sleep in a strange environment, or feel separated from their support networks like friends and family. When young people are unsure of their environment, they can feel lost and anxious.
- Young people can feel like they don't matter. Adults can dismiss them, think they don't know anything, and ignore their suggestions. This can leave young people feeling like no one is on their side like they are insignificant. This feeling can increase at camp because it is a heavily structured environment, and young people can feel bossed around by adults.
- When young people feel alone, anxious, and insignificant, they can feel like there is no place for them. They can feel lost.

## Personal reflection questions:

- As a teenager, did you ever attend a camp? How did you feel when you first arrived?
- Have you ever struggled to connect with other people? How did you feel?
- Did you ever feel lost as a teenager? What helped you find your place?

## Scripture: Matthew 18:11-14

<sup>11</sup>“The Son of Man came to save lost people.”

<sup>12</sup>“If a man has 100 sheep, but one of the sheep is lost, what will he do?

He will leave the other 99 sheep on the hill and go look for the lost sheep. Right?”

<sup>13</sup>And if he finds the lost sheep, he is happier about that one sheep than about the 99 sheep that were never lost. I can assure you,

<sup>14</sup>in the same way your Father in heaven does not want any of these little children to be lost.”

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## Scripture points:

- This passage is part of Jesus teaching about the importance of young people. Jesus honours young people and describes them as an example of what it means to be a part of the Kingdom of God.
- Jesus expresses that his purpose in the world is to come and save lost people. Jesus chooses to highlight the importance of young people being found.
- In the parable, Jesus is not satisfied with anyone being lost. If one sheep is lost, Jesus will still leave the ninety-nine so that no one is lost.
- Jesus celebrates whenever someone is no longer lost. There is a place for everybody with Jesus.

## Personal reflection questions:

- Have you ever been lost and had no one there to help you? How did you feel?
- How do you feel knowing that Jesus searches for us when we feel lost?
- How has following Jesus helped you find your place?

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## The Good News message:

"Sometimes young people can struggle to find their place in the world. They can feel alone with no one on their side, anxious about the future, and like they don't matter. When young people can't find their place, they can feel lost. **The Good News is that Jesus came to save the lost.** When we feel like we don't have a place, Jesus searches for us and celebrates when we are found. With Jesus we are no longer lost."

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## Personal reflection questions:

- For young people who aren't followers of Jesus, this message is an invitation. Jesus cares about them. If they feel lost or alone, there is someone who will search for them, celebrate them, and help them find their place with others.
- For young people who are followers of Jesus and may be struggling, this is a message of encouragement and an invitation to find their place with Jesus. No matter how many times you may wander away from 'the flock' he will always be there for them. When they feel lost, they can find their place again.
- For young people who may not feel lost or alone, this message is a reminder that they probably have friends who are. They can be like Jesus for their friends and seek out the lost. When they notice others who are lost, they can help them to find their place by caring for them and celebrating them.

## Discussion Questions:

- Have you ever been lost and had no one there to help you? How did you feel?
- How do you feel knowing that Jesus searches for us when we feel lost?
- How has following Jesus helped you find your place?

