

Study Guide

Destined

SESSION GOALS

The point of every session is a main idea with the goal of informing our knowing, feeling, and doing.

MAIN IDEA: In Jesus, we go from lost and alone to found and at home.

Head Change: To know that our Heavenly Father knows where we are and what we need, even if we don't.

Heart Change: To celebrate that whether we're lost in the world or even lost in church, God finds us.

Life Change: To receive the love of the Father and take the next right step on the path of discipleship.

OPEN

Who is the person in your family or group of friends who loses their keys most often?

Can you remember the first time you lost something precious to you (like a toy, pet, or friend) and then found it again?

We all know what it's like to lose things. We forget to back up our files to the cloud. We leave coats on trains. We even lose people. But perhaps we don't consider often enough how we were once lost and needed finding. It's possible you've realised you're still lost. You feel alone. And you've no idea how to make your way home to the Father. In this powerful, practical, six-part series, Anthony Delaney lights up a pathway of discipleship, demonstrating how God finds us no matter how far away we've wandered, and reminding us of God's abundant love that's free for the taking.

Horizontal lines for writing.

VIEW

As you watch, write down how Anthony answers these questions.

Which three stories does Jesus tell, back-to-back?

What do the ring, the robe, and the sandals signify?

What three things does the father give to the older son who stayed home with him?

How does Anthony define discipleship?

Show SESSION #1: *Destined* (6 minutes)

Lined area for writing answers.

REVIEW

Anthony opens this session by asking, ‘What if, when God came to Earth, He decided to show who really mattered to Him?’ **How do you show people they matter to you? Did everyone in Jesus’ day approve of the people He spent time with? If not, why not? Which parables did Jesus tell to counter His critics?**

Luke 15 tells the story of two lost sons. **Why do you think we tend to focus on the younger (prodigal) son in our reading of this parable? If you feel comfortable doing so, share about a time when you took advantage of your parents’ love or mismanaged the responsibility they’d given you.**

Once the younger son has squandered his inheritance, which he disrespectfully demanded even though his dad was still alive, he heads home, having run out of options. **Why does he expect his father to take him back only as a slave? How does his father respond when he sees his son approaching?**

Anthony makes the point that the father doesn’t give his wayward son what he deserves. He gives him what he needs: a ring, a robe, and a pair of sandals. **What do these three items represent? Why does the son, who has been lost in the world, need these symbols of acceptance and homecoming? How did coming to know Jesus alter your sense of authority, identity, and destiny?**

Anthony reminds us that there’s another son in the story who is also lost. Ironically, he’s been at home, in the father’s house, all along. **Since the older son hasn’t gone off wasting his inheritance on debauchery, do you think he’s guilty of any sin? Why, or why not? If the older son knew where he was all the time, and his father knew where he was, why might we still describe him as lost? Have you ever sulked because someone seemingly less deserving was celebrated, or received favour and honour, instead of you?**

To the older son, the father gives identity, inheritance, and intimacy (Luke 15:31). **Why does the father affirm his two sons in different ways? Do you agree that learning to accept these free gifts from God is what makes us His disciples? When God found you, would you say you**

Lined writing area with 20 horizontal lines for notes.

were 'lost in the world', or 'lost in the house'? Was it hard for you to accept God's love? If so, why?

Anthony says, 'Discipleship means I'm learning to be loved... It means I'm growing... I am living in the Father's love, and I'm becoming like Jesus along the way.' **Share a story of someone you know whose life has been radically transformed by learning to be loved and becoming more like Jesus along the way. Are you able to trace the ways in which you're more like Jesus now than when you first became a Christian? How would you explain this transformation to a friend or co-worker who isn't yet a follower of Jesus?**

BIBLE EXPLORATION

In Acts 10 we read about the culturally unlikely exchange between Peter and Cornelius. Acts 10:34 reads, 'Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism..."' **How and why did God deal differently with Cornelius than He did with Peter? How did His work in each of their lives point to their destiny as Jesus' disciples?**

John 3 recounts the story of Nicodemus meeting Jesus. Luke 19 tells the story of Zacchaeus meeting Jesus. **Which one was lost in the world and which one was lost in the house? How can you tell? What was Jesus' message to each of these men? How did each one's life trajectory change after his encounter with Jesus?**

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus says, 'Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.' The fact that Jesus finds us wherever we are lost in the world, saves us, and sends us back into the world to make disciples is beautifully ironic. **How has this truth played out practically in your life? Do you feel God has called you to reach the lost in places or circumstances in which you were once lost too?**

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LAST WORD

As we continue to explore what it means to set out on a path of discipleship, let's celebrate that although we were once lost and alone, we are now found and at home in the Father's love. Let's pray that God would help us to receive His abundant love as we remember that 'there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus' (Romans 8:1).

DEEPER WALK

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

Read: Spend some time meditating on Titus 3:3. What is God saying to you? Are there areas of your life – 'in the world' or 'in the house' – where you are wrestling with any of these sinful desires or tendencies?

Write: Write your personal lost-and-found story. Where did God find you? Did you realise at the time how lost you were? When God welcomed you home, how did He instil within you a sense of destiny?

Pray: Pray for someone you know who is lost in the world and someone you know who may be lost in the church. Pray that they would see the Father running towards them, ready to meet their every need.
