

**Antioch CELEBRATION Message: "Strangely Saved"**

**Sermon Series: "Strange Things"**

**Dates: November 26-27, 2016**

What do you remember from your experiences with the childhood game of "Hide and Seek"?

**LEARN / live / love / lead**

Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them! So Jesus told them this story: "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' ***In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!*** Luke 15:1-7 (NLT)

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*Religion is "normal" – lost people attempting to find God.*

*Christianity is "strange" – God's choice to find lost people.*

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For the Son of Man (Jesus) came to seek and save those who are lost. **Luke 19:10 (NLT)**

Pastor John connected the game of "Hide and Seek" with Jesus coming to "seek and save the lost."

**learn / LIVE / love / lead**

QUESTION: why did Jesus eat with sinners? ANSWER: he didn't want to eat alone!

You may fall into the "religious" category. You may fall into the "notorious sinner" category. But two things are certain no matter what category you are in:

Without Jesus, you are hopelessly lost.

Despite your past, Jesus loves you more than you can know.

Take a look at this Scripture: where do you fit? Have you turned to God and received forgiveness?

Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." **Acts 2:37-38 (NLT)**

## learn / live / LOVE / lead

Once you have begun to wrestle with God's forgiveness for your sin, God's patience with your struggle, and God's power in your life: you are ready to pass these gifts on to others!

What is forgiveness? What should it be based on? Who do you need to forgive?

Who do you get to be patient with (and in doing so, participate in God's plan for their life)?

## learn / live / love / LEAD

Pastor John aptly pointed out that it is easy to hide. It is hard to be the one searching. You risk failure, ridicule, and frustration. Yet, isn't that what Jesus did for us? How was it hard for Jesus to "find" you?

Part of becoming like Jesus is participating in His program of prayer, patience, and persistence in finding other people who are lost spiritually. Those of you who have participated in Jesus' search for others—what have you learned?

## **Pray!**

Take time to thank God that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever!