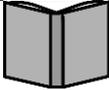




Small Group/ Reflection Notes

14-05-2023		Joel: Lost & found	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you/ have you ever had any pets? What are/ were they like?		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> When have you felt <i>lost</i> ? Have you ever felt like you've 'lost your way' in life or just felt 'lost'? <input type="checkbox"/> On one occasion, Lola was rocked by a sudden thunderclap & bolted. Lost. Has a dramatic life event ever rocked your world, causing you to bolt/ leave? e.g. loss of employment, a diagnosis, break-up, mental health crisis... <input type="checkbox"/> On another occasion, Lola became distracted, 'fractionally 'off the pace' & gradually over time, little by little, she drifted away – until too far gone. Lost. How do you relate to this?		
 Read	Joel 2:12-16	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch
 Explore	<input type="checkbox"/> v.12 : "We don't know/ feel that we're 'lost' until we're 'found'. It's only then that we realise, 'I once was lost, but now I'm found.'" Do you agree? <input type="checkbox"/> v.13 : Why are outward gestures often neither necessary nor effective in conveying our sorrow/ remorse? When happens when we are 'cut to the heart'? <input type="checkbox"/> v.13 : Return to the LORD 'El Shaddai' (in Hebrew, either 'God, the Destroyer' or 'God, the Almighty') We can inherit unhelpful/ inaccurate portrayals of God as 'the Destroyer': harsh, judgmental, to be feared... One wrong step & smite! Where does this come from? How does it cause such damage? Why can it be so hard to shift? Instead, why is 'God, the Almighty' so gracious & compassionate? Why is God slow to anger, abounding in love, and yet we slow to love and abounding in anger? <input type="checkbox"/> Read Luke 15:11-24. How was the younger son 'lost'? How does this father model God?		
 Go further	<input type="checkbox"/> v.13: God relents. God <i>repents</i> . Greek philosophy portrayed God as 'immutable' (fixed, unchangeable, unmoveable, in control...) Yet the Bible reveals a dynamic relationship between us and God - that changes us BOTH! For example: Genesis 6:6; Exodus 32:12-14; Psalm 106:45, Amos 7:3... Why do we sometimes struggle with the idea of God relenting/repenting? If not in control, does that make God weaker or stronger?		
 Reflect	<input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? <input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> To what extent do you need to 'come home to God'?		

 Do	<input type="checkbox"/> Walk a dog! Either your own or someone else's! Think as you walk about being lost and found. What is God saying to you?
 Pray	
 My questions:	

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
 Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk.