

**Sunday, December 26, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church
First Sunday after Christmas**

**Bible Study – 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 & Luke 2:41-52
“Lost at Home”**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes) In pairs or groups of three, have participants share a story about when their parents/guardians had to search for them or when they had to search for a child or friend (or something else precious that was lost and then found).

Read 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 & Luke 2:41-52

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn't make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Read 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 & Luke 2:41-52 again.

Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

- How would you have felt if you had been Mary or Joseph searching for Jesus?
 - Scared
 - Fearful
 - Assured
 - Confused
 - Other
- What do we learn about Jesus and his family from this passage?
- What might this story suggest about Jesus' views of family bonds?
- How has this Advent and the preparations for Christmas helped us to desire being at home with God? What did you learn that will help you be a better disciple going forward?
- How might we notice how and when God searches for us? How might we be more concerned for the things of God?
- What habit (or habits) would help you more diligently search for God?

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:
I ask God for....
I thank God for.....

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

At the right time, you sent your Son into the world. Many sought after the Messiah then, and we continue to do so today. As we search, help us to realize more diligent than our search, God searches us out to bless us through the abundance of God's grace. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven
 hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
 and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.