



Discussion Plan

Phil Selveratnam

Theme

Celebrate



God **searches** for us.



Opener (5 minutes)

Discuss: Can you think of a time when you lost something that was important to you? Where did you look and how long did it take you to find it?

Think about: When you eventually found the thing that you had lost, how did you feel?

Video (3 minutes)

Watch Phil's video on [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) or [Vimeo](#).



Table Talk (10 minutes)

In today's video, Phil shares a story of when he lost his keys and how he searched everywhere for them! The longer they were lost the more anxious and worried he became, and he was nearly ready to give up searching. It was a huge relief when he eventually found them, and he celebrated the discovery! In the Bible, Jesus tells a story of how God actively searches for us, never giving up, leaving, or abandoning us, and in fact we are so precious to him that he even celebrates over us with singing.

Around your table at home, church or in school, with the person next to you discuss these themes that came up in the video.

1

The parable that Phil mentions is called the Lost Sheep and Jesus tells this story in Luke 15: 3-7. In the parable, the shepherd goes off in search of the one lost sheep and then celebrates with his neighbours when the sheep is safely found. Jesus is described as the Good Shepherd who God sent into the world to actively search for us and show us the love of God. Ponder this story for a moment.

Question - How does it make you feel that God, the creator of the universe, actively searches for you?

2

It can be hard to feel like celebrating, especially after this last year. Phil shares that God celebrates and rejoices over us with singing, even when we don't feel like celebrating or know that there is something to celebrate (Zeph 3: 17). God rejoices when we turn to him, when we give him our struggles and anxieties, and he always delights in us.

Question - Did you know that God rejoices and celebrates over you with singing? What do you imagine the words of that celebration song might be?

Action (7 minutes)

Celebration doesn't always need to be a big party – in fact at the moment because of all the restrictions it can't be. But there are still lots of things to celebrate, and the knowledge that God actively searches for us, delights in and sings over us, is definitely worth celebrating!

Discuss: Phil suggests a few simple ways that you could celebrate this week, but what might this look like for you?

- What does celebration mean to you?
- Share a time when you recently celebrated with friends. What was the reason and what did you do?
- How might you choose to celebrate this week, giving thanks to God that he delights in you and rejoices over you with singing?



Think about your five: Think about your five friends that you committed to praying for at the beginning of these sessions. How could you celebrate with one or two of them today? Is there some good news that you could share together? A gift or interest that you both have which you could enjoy and celebrate with one another? Or maybe you could give one of them a call and say 'thank you' for being a good friend?

Prayer (5 minutes)



Prayer at Home

Take a moment to think of one or two things that you love to celebrate (music, sports, birthdays). Now imagine you are writing a birthday card to Jesus, to celebrate him. What might you say? What is it about him that you would like to celebrate? If you like, have a go at writing that card.

With your family, chat about ways in which you might be able to celebrate when the restrictions are lifted later this year. What could you do and who could you invite to join in the celebrations?

Dear God, thank you that you **promise** to never leave or abandon me and that you sent Jesus to show me your **love**. It is amazing to know that you delight in me and **rejoice** over me with singing! I choose to celebrate you today and thank you for your faithful love.

Amen.

Prayer at School

Take a moment to think of one or two things that you love to celebrate (music, sports, birthdays). Now imagine you are writing a birthday card to Jesus, to celebrate him. What might you say? What is it about him that you would like to celebrate? If you like, have a go at writing that card.

With the person next to you, chat about any plans you are making to celebrate when the restrictions are lifted later this year. What could you do and who could you invite to join in the celebrations? How might you be able to celebrate together as a school too?

Dear God, thank you that you **promise** to never leave or abandon me and that you sent Jesus to show me your **love**. It is amazing to know that you delight in me and **rejoice** over me with singing! I choose to celebrate you today and thank you for your faithful love.

Amen.

Prayer at Youth Groups

Take a moment to think of one or two things that you love to celebrate (music, sports, birthdays). Now imagine you are writing a birthday card to Jesus, to celebrate him. What might you say? What is it about him that you would like to celebrate? If you like, have a go at writing that card.

With your youth group, chat about any plans you are making to celebrate when the restrictions are lifted later this year. What could you do and who could you invite to join in the celebrations? How might you be able to celebrate together as a church too?

Dear God, thank you that you **promise** to never leave or abandon me and that you sent Jesus to show me your **love**. It is amazing to know that you delight in me and **rejoice** over me with singing! I choose to celebrate you today and thank you for your faithful love.

Amen.