

Movie Synopsis:

The true story of Saroo Brierly who grew up in an impoverished village in India. While his mother and older brother work in the night, five-year-old Saroo accidentally ends up on a train that takes him 1,000 miles away from his home to Calcutta. Totally lost in an alien urban environment, Saroo must survive the streets with no knowledge of his home or even his mother's name. After several weeks of struggles, he is picked up by an orphanage that places him in the loving home of John and Sue Brierly in Australia. While he cares deeply for their generosity, the burning love for his home never departs, causing him to depart in search of his family and homeland twenty five years later.

Redemptive Analogy:

Everyone is searching for something. Life can be hard and we are left with a longing for something more, a better home that seems beyond our reach. This story uncovers the hardships of an endless search for the home that is only a shadow in Saroo's mind. He deals with doubt and hopelessness, but he finds a caring home with his adoptive family. Then ultimately he discovers the family he had lost. God has created a longing in us – a desire to search for Him. He wants us, like lost sheep, to come home.

INTRO before showing the movie:

This story encapsulates Saroo Brierley's 25-year search for his home. In his tireless search, he faces every difficulty and doubt. Watch and see how his efforts are rewarded, how he finds the true meaning of family and home. Many of us are searching for something – meaning in our daily lives, a way out of unfulfilling jobs, or restoration in marriage. Whatever it is, the movie *Lion* illustrates the common longing for home, the search we all go through, and the fruit that is borne during the hours of searching.

TO SHARE AFTER THE MOVIE:

Searching and Struggling:

- Why would anyone so diligently search for something?
- When was the last time you lost something? How did it feel searching for it and not finding it?

Just as Saroo finds himself lost and struggling to survive in Calcutta, some of us feel that struggle in everyday life. Maybe it's a job you can't stand – or you're struggling to stay in a marriage that's in bad shape – maybe you're battling a diagnosis that has you afraid – or maybe you're buckling under the weight of anxiety and you're searching for anything – an answer – a way out. The Bible says in the Psalms,

I am exhausted from crying for help; my throat is parched. My eyes are swollen with weeping, waiting for my God to help me.

Psalms 69:3

In other words – I'm getting tired of the search. No matter how hard I search, I still can't find what I need. I think there are many people who are realizing that there must be more to life. I think there may be some of you today who have said, "Surely there must be a God, but how do I know what to believe? I mean, how do I know who He really is? And if there is a God, how do I even find Him?" Well the good news is that God says,

Those who search will surely find me.

Proverbs 8:17

Perseverance In the Search:

- What keeps you going in your search even when there is so much doubt?

Despite all the doubt from the people around him, Saroo estimates he spent close to 10,000 hours searching for the family he had lost. And here's the key to everyone who feels lost in some kind of way – Saroo searched and searched and searched – and he never gave up. That reminds us of what God says in the book of Isaiah in the Bible,

You grew weary in your search, but you never gave up. Desire gave you renewed strength, and you did not grow weary.

Isaiah 57:10

If you're searching today, take this encouragement to keep searching. If you're searching for peace – don't give up. If you're searching for healing – don't stop, don't let anything cause you to give in. Why? Because God sees your desire and He's here today to strengthen you.

God is Searching for You:

- Was there ever a time you lost someone?
- Was there ever a time you were lost and someone came to find you?

In the New Testament, in Luke 15, Jesus tells three stories about people searching. In one of the stories a woman has ten coins and then loses one. She looks high and low, searching for that one lost coin. Then Jesus tells the story of a shepherd who has a hundred sheep and loses one. The shepherd leaves the 99 just to go search for one lost sheep. The third story is about a father who has two sons and one of the sons leaves home – the father waits and watches every day for that son to come home – and when the son decides to return home, the father throws the biggest party you've ever seen because his lost son is now found.

Each story represents a diligent search and each reflects how God feels about us – He's searching for us. For those of you who are on a spiritual search, think about this – what if the God you're searching for is searching for you? You need to know that God says in Ezekiel 34:16,

I will search for my lost ones who strayed away, and I will bring them safely home again. I will bandage the injured and strengthen the weak.

What if the God you're searching for is inviting you to come to Him? Inviting you to come home. If you're hurting today, you need to know He'll bandage you because He offers healing. If you're tired, God wants to strengthen you today.

When you feel lost, He is searching for you. God promises if you search for Him you will find Him. In fact, Jeremiah 29:13 says,

'If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you,' says the LORD.

We're All Searching for 'Someone':

- What are you searching for today?

Some of you realize you've been searching – maybe for a long time. You have tried to fill the void in your life with other things – only to realize it wasn't what you were really looking for. Your search can end today, because you aren't searching for something, you are searching for someone. You're searching for Jesus. Jesus said about himself,

I am the way, the truth and the life.

John 14:6

God, in his goodness, knew that we couldn't make it home on our own, so he sent a rescuer. He sent his only Son, Jesus, to show what it looks like to live a life found in God. Jesus removed the barrier of sin and death by going to the cross. Jesus gave his life so we could truly live. You are invited to come home today and find true life in the rescue and love of God. For those of you who are worn out by the search and the weight of what you're going through, open your hearts and your hands to God and say, "Yes, I need Your help right now."