

Conversation Starter *For the week of April 20 to 26, 2008*

This Week's Theme: Finding God
Reading #1: 1 Peter 2:9-10
Reading #2: John 14:1-11

Back in the mid-1990s a song that was popular among youth began with these words:

*Well I hear they're singing in the streets that "Jesus is alive"
And all creation shouts aloud that "Jesus is alive"
Now surely we can all be changed 'cos Jesus is alive
And everybody here can know that Jesus is alive.*

*And I will live for all my days to raise a banner of truth and light. To sing about my Saviour's love,
and the best thing that happened: It was the day I met you.*

I've found Jesus ... I've found Jesus ... I've found Jesus ... I've found Jesus.

[Words by Martin Smith, Curious?Music UK, 1995.]

People who have already found Jesus know that they've also found God as well. And why? Because finding Jesus gives us the privilege of becoming children of God. As written by the apostle John in his gospel: *Yet to all who received Jesus, to those who believed in His name, God gave the right to become His children. (John 1:12)* Finding Jesus means finding God because when He is our Lord and Saviour we become people who belong to God. Listen to these words written by the apostle Peter: *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God... Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God... (1 Peter 2:9,10)* And according to this morning's gospel reading finding Jesus is the key or the way, and the only way, to finding God. Jesus made this very clear from these words spoken by Him: *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)* Jesus said this in response to a question asked by Thomas, one of His disciples: *Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way? (John 14:5)* What a gift people are offered: finding Jesus also means finding God. And if you've already found Jesus, then rejoice because you've been given a friendship with God as well.

1. Describe what finding Jesus and finding God has meant to you. How has your life changed as a result of finding them?
2. In what ways has your participation in the life of the church enabled you to get to know God/Jesus more?
3. How should we pray for those who have not yet found God yet are seeking for something more or for some great meaning and purpose in life?
4. How should we pray for those who have no interest in finding God because they don't believe that God exists?
5. What are some reasons people give to inform others that finding God is a waste of time?
6. If applicable, share with you group a time in your life when you felt that finding God, knowing Jesus or being a Christian wasn't worth it.

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