

Feast of Holy Family – Year C

I. **Have you ever been lost – I was about 5**

Lost in the city I ended up at the police station with ice cream
Incredible relief and joy of my mother
I was missing HOURS – Jesus was missing 3 DAYS

Imagine Mary and Joseph:

- Mary has experienced Annunciation, with the promise of the angel.
- Joseph has taken Jesus as his own son – because of a dream.
- Together they have lived through
 - o the birth – angels, shepherds, Magi
 - o exile into Egypt
 - o Joseph gets ANOTHER dream and they return to Nazareth
 - o Settled in the quiet peaceful family life in Nazareth – 12 YEARS
 - o JESUS IS 12 – Almost Bar Mitzvah – give him some freedom
 - o AND NOW HE IS LOST
 - Put yourself in Joseph & Mary's shoes
 - FEAR Searching the Caravan
 - ANXIETY Going Back – the stores, shops, inns
 - PRAYER *But they didn't give up until they found Him*
 - Neither does God give up on us!*

II. We are all children of God

- As God's children, imagine the anxiety of God after the fall – our fall
 - o When we were lost – Adam, where are you? Hiding from Him.
 - o He wants to be with his Children
 - o SO - He enters covenant with **Abraham**
 - o He sends **Moses** and the **Prophets** - covenant with **David**
 - o Finally He sends **His Son**
 - o Jesus brings us back to His Father
 - o And NOW – redeemed:
 - We ALL have God as father
 - We are ALL Children of God
 - As Children of God, we are family

III. As family, we can be blind to the goodness in each other

- This feast invites us to 'be astonished' at goodness of each other
 - Its tough – so close – we see each others faults every day.
 - Mike at restaurant – (behave) *I knew how he acted – its all I saw.*
 - Spills his water – fear. *That wasn't what I wanted from Mike.*
 - So I spilled my water too *(then his brothers spill theirs)*
 - Funny family memory – you have yours –
 - Its rooted in my love for Mike
- Look around – see your Brothers and Sisters WE are family too
Just like I wanted Mike to know my love – despite the spill
Our heavenly Father wants us to His love – despite our sin
Gospel says Jesus grew in wisdom and grace - So can we
Because we were lost, but now we are found