

# Safe Haven Sunday Year Three Homily Sample

## Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

**September 10-11, 2022**

The story of salvation can be understood as a dramatic tale of lost and found. We hear all about it in the readings this weekend. God wants us to be like Him, and with Him. We tend to be unlike Him, and move away from Him. His endeavor is always to come find us, wherever we are, so that we can be with Him again, and become like Him.

That's what it was for the people in Exodus, moving away from God to do things unlike Him. That's the story that Paul shared with Timothy: "I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and arrogant, but I have been mercifully treated ... Indeed, the grace of our Lord has been abundant." It's also the story that Jesus shared in three forms in Luke 15. A lost sheep, found, restored, and celebrated. A lost coin, found, restored, and celebrated. A lost son, found, restored, and celebrated. God wants us to be like Him, and with Him. Again, St. Paul: "This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these I am the foremost ... that in me, as the foremost, Christ Jesus might display all his patience as an example for those who would come to believe in him for everlasting life." He was lost, and has been found.

God wants connection with us, and we want connection with God and others. But it doesn't always work out so well on our end. This weekend, we want to draw attention to this reality of connection and relationship, especially as it is manifested within family life. You want connection. Your kids want connection. We all want connection. A resource we are sharing with you this weekend is simply called exactly that: **"Connected." In it, there is a quote from the popular social researcher Brene Brown which simply states: "a deep sense of love and belonging is an irresistible need of all people."**

We are making the book "Connected" available to everyone in the parish because it focuses on how to develop connection and relationship within the home. **In a world increasingly dominated by technology, people are experiencing connection more than ever. At the same time, it seems to be the case that the kind of connection**

**found through technology is leaving people less fulfilled and more disconnected from deeper connection.** Many people have experienced this full on due to the pandemic. Everything virtual. A person is left longing for 'real' connection. So, it is imperative that we reconnect, or learn to connect deeply, maybe for the first time. The book "Connected" will be distributed after Mass today, as a small help for all of us. You can also get this and other free books from Covenant Eyes at [covenanteyes.com/e-books](http://covenanteyes.com/e-books).

**In a particular way, "Connected" weighs in on how to form deep connection and relationship within the home, since there are so many pseudo forms of connection or relationship proposed through technology, especially on the dark side of the internet. The book highlights how we can embrace and imitate the kind of love and relationship God reveals to us, as well as how to connect within our families, with our spouses, with our kids. There are many practical examples of how to form an environment of connection in the home, ways of speaking within families, and how to avoid common pitfalls in family life. It is meant to bridge the gap between technology and relationship.**

The family is the primary place for the development and experience of love, connection, forgiveness, acceptance, and this resource is meant to be of help to you.

We all experience what is laid out for us in the Scriptures this weekend, the human drama of being lost and being found. The beauty of Christianity is that it is meant to be a place to experience being found by God and others. The beauty of the home is that it is meant, as well, to be a place to experience being found, by God and by others. We don't need to learn how to be lost, we seem to have mastered that on our own. But we do need help to learn and experience being found, or being found again, and again, and again.

The Gospel message brings light and truth throughout every age of humanity. In our age, where technology and society present various forms of connection both helpful and harmful, the Gospel message remains the same, is only helpful, and never harmful. This weekend we are reminded that we all experience the feeling of being lost or disconnected. And we hear the good news, that whenever we feel that, our God is there, seeking to find, seeking to restore, and seeking to celebrate.