



If we do not understand, or much less care to understand, the despair and gravity of being lost, we will never have any effect on the lost.

God has infinite resources at his command to make his message of salvation known. He could write it the sky, make his voice heard to everyone at the same moment, or send angels to every people group in the world. Instead, he makes his appeal through us.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20

For God, who said, Let light shine out of darkness, made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:5-6

In light of these passages, let's pray and then take a look at this short film "Lost at Sea".

Opening Prayer

Play Film 1 (12:00 min)

Connect to Question 1

Key Events and Dialogue

- The coastguard's frustration that a ship, loaded with lifeboats, refuses to respond.
- The reactions of the people in the stateroom when the crewman announces the urgency of the rescue effort.
- The statement by the maitre d': "There will be no rescue operation. The whole purpose of being inside a boat such as this is that it protects you from the outside."
- The stateroom conversation about studying the manual regarding proper lifeboat procedures.

Reference Points

- Romans 10:14: *How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?*
- 1 Peter 3:18: *For Christ died for sins once for all, to bring you to God.*
- Philippians 2:4: *Look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

Notes

Connect to Question 3

Compare the responses from your discussion with the situations described in Revelation 2-3:

The church in **Ephesus**:

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance ... but you have forsaken your first love. Revelation 2:2,4

The church in **Sardis**:

I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die. Revelation 3:1-2

The church in **Philadelphia**:

I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. Revelation 3:8

The church in **Laodicea**:

So because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing. Revelation 3:16-17

Connect to large Picture

Go round to each person in your group and ask them to share who they related to most in this film.

Connect to "The Gospel in your World"

Read aloud "The Gospel in your World" questions on the left. Encourage participants to reflect on their answers this week.

Next Time

An exploration of God's matchless message and our role as messengers of his love.

Closing Prayer

Film **1** **Lost at Sea**



The film you are about to watch is a modern-day allegory presented with a storm as the backdrop to an intense conflict. As the story progresses, note the various characters, their points of view, and the reasoning behind each.

The Church of Jesus Christ is not a pleasure boat, but a lifeboat for saving souls ...

1. In what way does this story unfold as you expected? Were there moments that surprised you? What did you find most uncomfortable or disturbing about the film?



What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost. Matthew 18:12+14

2. Consider the conflict aboard the cruise ship in light of this scripture.

3. Recall the challenge of the man in the shadows to Jack, the young crewman. "You are about to enter the valley of decision. What takes precedent: a vessel's facilities or its overall purpose? Our purpose should be quite clear ... Are you content to go or to study about going?" Who does this mysterious character represent? How do his questions relate to the church today?



4. Do you recognise in these characters something you have said, done, or thought? Which character's viewpoint most closely reflects your own?

Rescue the perishing, duty demands it – Strength for thy labour the Lord will provide ...

Fanny J Crosby



The Gospel in the World

Following the December 2004 cataclysmic tsunami that struck coasts along the Indian Ocean, the world acted quickly. Within a week of the disaster, an estimated \$2 billion in relief aid had been committed worldwide.

The Gospel in your World

Who has been most like a lifesaver in your life? Recall specific details about these situations. Also, think of times in which you have responded to others in this manner. Did you *count the cost* (Luke 14:28) before taking action? How did you feel after such an experience? This week, observe those who are followers of Jesus and those who are not. What would it take for them to become followers of Jesus Christ?



... and every hand is needed on deck.