



## Elf

July 23, 2023 Message Notes

*TEXT: 1 PETER 2:10*

Today's featured film never mentions Jesus or the love of God that we experience through Christmas, but the story intersects our lives in some deeply spiritual ways.



## NOTES

Though this film never mentions Jesus or the love of God that we experience through Christmas, it can intersect our lives in some deeply spiritual ways.

We all long to belong:

- we want to be known
- we want to be loved
- we want to be part of helping our world

We want to be known for who we truly are. One way the Bible's story shows us that is in the names people are given.

- **Jacob:** one who overreaches
- **Israel:** one who triumphantly wrestles with God

Mary and Joseph were told - "You are to give him the name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins."

*Matthew 1:21*

Buddy wanted to love and be loved by his real dad. We do, too.

"Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

*Matthew 10:30*

"God **so** loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son..."

*John 3:16*

Buddy got thrown out by his dad; even told in another scene that he wanted him out of his life.

Counselors who work with men call this the 'father wound', which is an emotional injury that comes through the emotional and verbal absence or abuse of a father.

Buddy wanted to be loved and so do we.

"Three things will last forever – faith, hope and love - and the greatest of these is love."

*1 Corinthians 13:13*

"You must love... This is the first and greatest commandment."

*Matthew 22:37-38*



Buddy made it his business to be helpful.

“Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children.”

*Mark 10:14 NLT*

“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.”

*Matthew 18:6*

“There is no guile in Him.”

*John 1:47 KJV*

When Buddy first realizes he doesn't really belong with the elves, it's unnerving for him. Where does he belong?

Has he been living lost to the life he was meant for his whole life?

Jesus spoke of people being lost - like a sheep to their flock, a coin to its value, a son to his father – in Luke 15.

### **How to Find Your Real Father:**

#### **Be willing to seek.**

Narwahl says to Elf: *“hope you find your dad.”*

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

*Jeremiah 29:13*

“Seek and you will find.”

*Matthew 7:7*

#### **Come as a child.**

Buddy does everything like a child, with childlike faith. He's humble, curious, willing to learn and expectant.



“The Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.”

*Mark 10:14-15*

### **Join the mission.**

For Elf, it’s the ‘Christmas Spirit’ mission and getting his dad off of Santa’s ‘naughty list.’

“The one who has seen me has seen the Father ... As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

*John 14:9, 20:21*

### **We find the Father as we follow Jesus and join the mission.**

#### **Give voice to your faith**

Elf Rule - The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loudly for all to hear.

- He believes and lets others hear about it.

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

*Romans 10:9-10*

You'll be part of God's family with God as your true Father.

When we put our trust in Jesus Christ, we become God's chosen people so we can show others the goodness of God.

“Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God’s people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God’s mercy.”

*1 Peter 2:10*

Now you belong! You are known. You are loved. You are part of helping your world - with your true spiritual family - in the love of your Heavenly Father.

