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It is an important problem to examine whether a given Lie group admit distinguished left-invariant metrics, such as Einstein or Ricci soliton metrics. In this talk, I will explain our approach from submanifold geometry. In particular, for three-dimensional solvable Lie groups, the existence and nonexistence of left-invariant Ricci soliton metrics have a nice correspondence with the geometry of cohomogeneity one actions on some noncompact symmetric space. I will also mention some higher-dimensional examples and a pseudo-Riemannian version. (Received August 31, 2014)