

Growth Group Homework

Reading the week of October 10-16, 2021

Discussing the week of October 10th

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Did you enjoy playing hide and seek as a child? Which did you like more hiding or seeking?

2. Where or what is the most deserted place you can think of?

GOING DEEPER

1. When have you felt most alone?

2. Have you ever felt distant from God?

Reread Job 23:1-7, What are Job's desires?

23 Then Job spoke again: ² "My complaint today is still a bitter one, and I try hard not to groan aloud. ³ If only I knew where to find God, I would go to his court. ⁴ I would lay out my case and present my arguments. ⁵ Then I would listen to his reply and understand what he says to me. ⁶ Would he use his great power to argue with me? No, he would give me a fair hearing. ⁷ Honest people can reason with him, so I would be forever acquitted by my judge.

If you could ask God any question, what would it be?

Which word(s) best describe your relationship with God?

- Disoriented
- Deserted
- Shame
- Fearful
- Peaceful
- Grateful
- Other

- How is it possible that we affirm that God constantly desires to draw us closer in relationship and that God seems to hide from us?
- Who do you know who might feel alone (and/or is full of bitter complaints)? How might you reach out to them (and be present without being preachy)?
- Many saints of the church, including Mother Teresa of Calcutta and St. John of the Cross, have attested to long periods of feeling deserted by God.
 - Have you had a similar experience?
 - What can be gained by such times?
- Allow participants to write their own laments. After everyone has finished (or at the appropriate time), place the laments in the center of the table or room or hold them up symbolically. Offer one or more prayers over the laments. Allow time for silent prayer before ending

Prayer Requests:



Covenant God, sometimes we are tempted to believe because of our pain and suffering that we are alone. During such times, help us to recognize your abiding presence. Give us discerning eyes and ears to notice when others feel alone or are in pain. In Jesus precious and glorious name, we pray. Amen



Growth Group Community Service Project

We ask every group to take on at least one service project a year (the ideal is two) and to have at least one social gathering (potluck) per half a year. Please consider with your group members of what community service you'd like to participate in. There is a project list made by our church that you can join in and outside the church.
