

09-11-22 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Jesus understands that those on the fringe of the community are integral to what the community in all its fullness should be. Until they return, the community is incomplete...When one in our community goes missing, we are all affected. When one is restored, we are all better off for it. That is how it is in the household of God.”

- Helen Montgomery DeBevoise



Luke 15:1-10

Questions for Reflection —

- In what aspects of your life have you ever felt lost? In what ways have you sometimes wandered away from the path of Christian discipleship and/or lost your sense of priorities? In the course of your spiritual journey whether closer to or further away from God, what has it meant to you to be part of the household of God, to experience fellowship and caring among siblings in Christ? What helped you to know and experience the unconditional love and acceptance of God?

- From whom in your life—family member, friend—do you presently feel distanced or estranged? What will enable you to reach out to express concern for that person? How can you demonstrate God’s love and compassion to them? Who is presently missing from our congregation? What folks have we not seen in a while? What would it mean for us to seek them out, to let them know they are missed? How can we best reach out to those who may never have been part of a church community, to those who might feel condemned or judged by the institutional church?

- What people do you consider to be among God’s “lost sheep” in our society? Who are the overlooked in our neighborhoods? What populations are on the margins? What are the opportunities for our congregation for mission and ministry to the lost, the marginalized, the vulnerable? How do we as a congregation carry out God’s work of seeking and finding? What would it look like for us to extend radical welcome and full acceptance into the life of our congregation to those on the fringes?

Daily Household Prayer

O God, you seek the lost and bring home the found. Touch our hearts with grateful wonder at the tenderness of your forbearing love. Grant us delight in the mercy that has found us, and bring us all to rejoice at the feast of forgiveness. We ask this through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.