

## **Loving the Forsaken**

### **Reflection**

Spend some time with God reflecting on your wholeness journey. Journal, draw, color, discuss or just think about your response to the questions below. Open yourself up to God's spirit and God's still small voice this week.

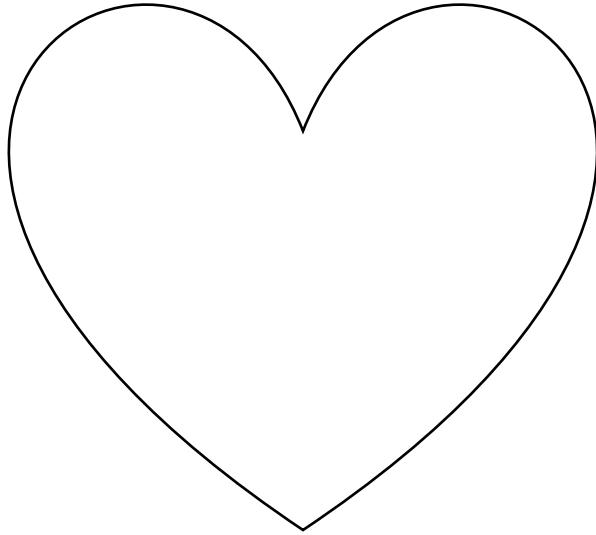
*Focus Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46 (CEB)*

<sup>31</sup> "Now when the Human One comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left. <sup>34</sup> "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. <sup>35</sup> I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me. '<sup>37</sup> "Then those who are righteous will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup> "Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.' <sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> I was hungry and you didn't give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn't give me anything to drink. <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you didn't welcome me. I was naked and you didn't give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me. '<sup>44</sup> "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't do anything to help you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer, 'I assure you that when you haven't done it for one of the least of these, you haven't done it for me.' <sup>46</sup> And they will go away into eternal punishment. But the righteous ones will go into eternal life.'

- 1) As you read this week's focus scripture what words or phrases stand out for you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) As you reflect on this scripture reading and/or your worship experience today, what do you feel God is saying to you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Who do you consider forsaken? What does forsaken mean to you? How can you love them?

### **Next Faith Step on Your Journey**

There are many opportunities to take that next step. If you were in worship, you wrote on a heart your "something" that you feel God is calling you to do. Transfer it now. If you weren't in worship, write it in the heart below.



We are not often able to do the things we want to do if we don't make a plan or break it down into steps. Write down three small things you need to do to start your "something."

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now, write down any barriers and how you might overcome those barriers.



#### **For Families**

Do the above activity together as a family. What is something that you can do together? *Remember to pick up your family devotion – Lent in a Bag!*

#### **Want to Go Deeper? Here are some resources you might want to check out:**



1. Get involved in our shower ministry. Contact Melissa Stephens at [mstephens@florencechristian.org](mailto:mstephens@florencechristian.org) to learn how you can help!
2. Read a Book, watch videos individually or with a group:  
*When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty by Hurting the Poor* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert