

Grounded: Home



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: Ezekiel 37:15-28

¹⁵ The word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁶ Mortal, take a stick and write on it, "For Judah, and the Israelites associated with it"; then take another stick and write on it, "For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with it"; ¹⁷ and join them together into one stick, so that they may become one in your hand. ¹⁸ And when your people say to you, "Will you not show us what you mean by these?" ¹⁹ say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am about to take the stick of Joseph (which is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with it; and I will put the stick of Judah upon it, and make them one stick, in order that they may be one in my hand. ²⁰ When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes, ²¹ then say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from every quarter, and bring them to their own land. ²² I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all. Never again shall they be two nations, and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms. ²³ They shall never again defile themselves with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. I will save them from all the apostasies into which they have fallen, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

²⁴ My servant David shall be king over them; and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall follow my ordinances and be careful to observe my statutes. ²⁵ They shall live in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, in which your ancestors lived; they and their children and their children's children shall live there forever; and my servant David shall be their prince forever. ²⁶ I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will bless them and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary among them forevermore. ²⁷ My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ²⁸ Then the nations shall know that I the LORD sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary is among them forevermore.

As you read this week's focus scripture what words or phrases stand out for you?

As you reflect on this scripture reading and/or your worship experience today, what do you feel God is saying to you?

Next Faith Step on Your Journey - Do this devotion using inspiration from *Grounded: A Devotional* by Diana Butler Bass.

"By the time I was eighteen, my family had lived in seven different houses in two states.... By the time I was thirty, I lived in seven more houses and four additional states.... Moving from place to place was hard. But

making a home was a spiritual work of inhabiting new places well and knowing how to open the door to strangers—something not easy to achieve, but necessary to fill the ache that dwells in human hearts to belong.” (Grounded, p. 165)

Scripture:

“My people will live in a peaceful habitation, and in secure dwellings and in undisturbed resting places.” (Isaiah 32:18)

Reflection:

There is a beautiful tension in Scripture between pilgrimage and dwelling. We are a pilgrim people; the Bible calls us “strangers,” “aliens,” and “wayfarers.” Yet one of the Bible’s greatest promises is that everyone will find a home in God. That dwelling, the habitation of the holy, is the source of peace, rest, and wholeness. About thirty years ago, two Christian theologians referred to this tension by saying that God’s people are “resident aliens,” trying to enfold the movement of pilgrimage with the promise of home. To live into this paradox is to understand and experience the spiritual transformation of being here—on this earth, where God dwells with us, our home.

Prayer:

May my life today be a harmony of movement and rest, of going out and coming home. And in both, God, let me be aware of you as the spirit of wandering and the spirit of dwelling. You are my home.



For Families

This Lent we have provided a weekly family devotion time with our “Lent in a Bag” resource. Pick up yours today in the Narthex!

Want to Go Deeper? Remember to pick up your copy of *Grounded* by Diana Butler Bass.

Consider these questions as you read chapter 5 “Home” (From Rev. Todd Weir, First Churches UCC/ABC in Northampton, Massachusetts.)

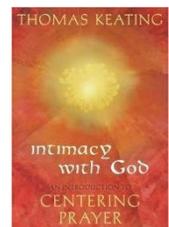
1. Share briefly together about what or where home is for you. How is this related to the question “Where is God?” that is so central to the book and our sermon series, “Grounded?”
2. How does “home” relate to “family”? How is they similar and yet different?
3. Discuss the importance of “habits” and how they relate to home life. What are your habits that make home real?

You can also explore more about Diana Butler Bass at <http://dianabutlerbass.com/> which includes tools, videos, podcasts, news articles and other resources about *Grounded* and her other work.

This Lent during the morning prayer we are practicing the spiritual discipline of silence. Some tools to help you include:



Teaches and supports how to do centering prayer (praying in silence). From Contemplative Outreach Ltd. Available on iOS and Android. FREE



Watch a video about Centering Prayer and how you do it found at <https://youtu.be/AZ3s9Stgt80>.

Read *Intimacy With God: An Introduction to Centering Prayer* by Thomas Keating, one of the premier teachers of silence and prayer.