

God's Story Our Story

August 16, 2015

Faith 5 – A pattern for shaping a life of faith



Share:

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Read: Reflect on the parables from Sunday's reading.

Matthew 13:24-35

Talk:

- Consider the good seed and the weeds parable: what do you consider a "weed" in your life that you think oughtta get picked? Why do you think it's there? What do you think God thinks about it?
- What small seed of faith can you point to that is alive and well and making itself seen and heard in your life now?
- Consider the parable of the mustard seed: what thing in your life did you underestimate and then see God make something completely new out of it?

Pray:

Creative God, you always use the smallest, weirdest things to show your love in the world. Thank you for surprising us. Amen.

Bless:

May God forever surprise you with what can do with YOU.

"Pray Ground Experiment"

We gathered together a group of families with small children and talked about what it is like to come to worship at River of Hope with wiggly ones. For the month of August, we decided to experiment with an in-worship nursery area for small ones so that parents can keep a watchful eye and still be present in worship.

Because River of Hope actively involves children of all ages in worship leadership, this seems to fit with our M.O. Kids soak in all kinds of things as they are with the worshiping body. Prayers and song, sitting and standing, bread and wine are all embodied activities that these young ones embody with us in their own way.

Parents are invited and encouraged to use the "Crying and Gnashing of Teeth Outer Darkness" area for when things aren't going well. (Back in the Senior Center with the comfortable couches so at least one of you is comfortable.)

1. The Pray Ground is for kids not yet in kindergarten and younger.
2. Parents, please keep an eye on your little one and intervene if things get too rowdy.
3. Worshipers, please continue to show your empathy and solidarity with parents who are practicing this critical part of faith with their children.

Give your feedback throughout the month of August. Is it too disruptive? What do you like about it? What are your ideas?