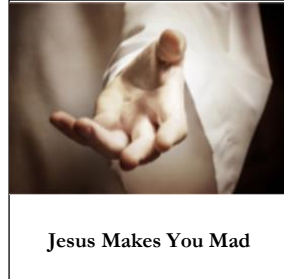


God's Story Our Story



August 9, 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 key verses from Sunday's reading.

Luke 15:11-32: "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!"

Talk:

- Have you ever felt like the older son – a little under appreciated? When? How have you voiced your frustration?
- What is the good news in this story? Do you think the oldest son believes it?
- When do we deserve grace?

Pray:

Faithful God, sometimes we stamp our feet and feel under appreciated and our hearts go cold. Surprise us with your grace again and again. We don't deserve it, yet it's yours to give. Thank you. We love you. Amen.

Bless:

May God surprise you with grace.

"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 worshipping 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?