

## God and your Family of Origin

1. What would it be like to invite the Spirit into your Family of Origin history?
2. Rather than construct an interpretation—respond to the Spirit?
3. Confess the interpretation that you currently have
  - a. I have perpetuated this
  - b. I have fossilized this
4. Can you create a new narrative by going back into your story and imagining God there
  - a. What is God's invitation to you there—to hold you? To comfort you? To invite you not to believe certain things about yourself?
  - b. Isaiah 46:3-4

"Listen to me, O house of Jacob,  
all you who remain of the house of Israel,  
you whom I have upheld since you were conceived,  
and have carried since your birth.

Even to your old age and gray hairs  
I am he, I am he who will sustain you.  
I have made you and I will carry you;  
I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

- c. God has a different response to loss than we generally have—he comes close. He knocks on the door of disengagement and invites us to refuge. He invites us to change our response from fear-flight as the sole definition of how to cope with our family history.
- d. The challenge now is how to define yourself
  - i. Don't define yourself solely by family history
  - ii. Don't define yourself solely by loss
  - iii. Define yourself by the presence of God in your story. (cf. 2 Cor. 4)
    1. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup> We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. <sup>12</sup> So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.
    2. You treat it as a wilderness experience (cf. the great wilderness stories of the Bible)