

“Presence” Resources

Read: Exodus 3:1-12 (If you are with a group, read aloud)

Then...

Reflect: If you like, spend some time practicing God’s presence with this passage through doing a “lectio divina” (ie contemplative Bible reading). Read slowly the following passage three times. If you are with others, read aloud, with several different readers, briefly pausing in between. The first time you read, listen for a word or phrase that jumps out at you. During the second reading, consider how that word or phrase relates to your life. During the third reading, listen for the invitation God wants to offer you through that word or phrase. Take some time to share your insights and experience with one another.

Exodus 3: 7-12

⁷The Lord said, ‘I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey – the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.’

¹¹ But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’

¹² And God said, ‘I will be with you.’

And/Or:

Discuss (Use any or all of the following):

- Where in your own life are you experiencing God’s absence? How can you invite God to be more fully present to you in that place?
- Are there places in your life where you feel called to be more fully present? How might you be able to begin practicing “presence”?
- How might “Presence” be an antidote for the distraction, disconnection and emphasis on productivity in our world? Can you imagine ways God is calling our community to be God’s presence in the world?