

Reflections – Life that Looks Like Jesus



The season after Easter Sunday is often referred to as "The Great 50 Days" because Easter is a 50-day season of the Church year. These are fifty days for the church to practice living resurrection. During this season at Faith United we are turning our attention to a series titled: Reflections - Life that Looks Like Jesus.

In this series we will explore what it means for those who follow Christ, to live a life that looks like Christ.

Spend some time reflecting on this week's scriptures and engaging in the reflection questions. Record your thoughts in a journal and refer back to them as you journey through 1 John.

Questions for Reflection:

- How do you think the world defines love? What is the definition of love according to verses 16-18 in this week's scripture reading?
- What happens when people truly love others?
- How have you experienced love in action? What does it mean to love with boldness?
- What can you do to practice Jesus-like love this week? In what ways, actions, will you share Jesus' love?
- What inspires you to continue to grow in faith and live as a reflection of Jesus?
- How are you carrying the five Christian practices explored during the January The Walk series into the Easter season?

Spiritual Practice: Care of the Earth

Caring for the earth is an expression of God's delight in his wondrous creation. When we engage in the loving care of the earth, the environment, plants and animals, we are honoring and celebrating the gifts, treasures and wonders of our Creator God. Noticing, appreciating, and respecting God's creation lead to greater understanding of the importance of and our individual and communal responsibility in caring for creation. Creation is God's gift to us. Nurturing and maintaining God's creation with love and care is our gift to God. Barbara Brown Taylor writes, *"The land that gives us our food, our water, these trees that clean up the air for us to breathe, all these green and growing things that bless our bodies with their beauty – these are not resources. They are fellow creatures, with their own rights and responsibilities before God. They have their own sacred duties to perform, if only we will let them."*

The practice of creation care includes any of the following:

- Protecting the earth's natural resources.
- Being concerned for future generations and what they will inherit.
- Working to prevent and overcome pollution of air, water and land.
- Treating animals humanely.
- Using energy supplies wisely.
- Recycling.
- Learning about God's amazing creation.
- Honoring God and celebrating God's gifts.
- Contributing to the beauty of and mending the brokenness of this planet.
- Sharing God's earth, our harvest, the beauty we find and nurture with others.
- Witnessing to Christ through wise stewardship of our ecological resources.
- Growing in the realization that all created things belong to God.



What can you do this week to practice caring for the earth?

How will your desire to care for the earth bring glory and honor to God?

Adapted from *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook* by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun