

SESSION 7: THE LIVING WORD

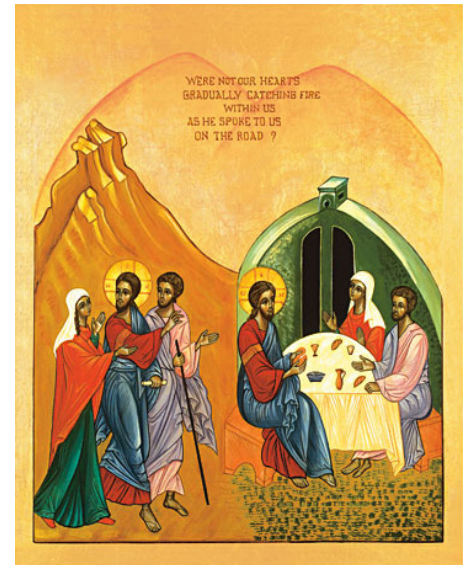
SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

PRAYER

Take some time this week to pray with the story of the Prodigal Son:

Then he said, "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."' So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

(Luke 15:11-32)



NOTES

QUESTIONS

1. What is one takeaway from last week's lesson on the Prophets that you could attempt to apply to your life?

NOTES

2. Read **Luke 1:26-38**. This is the story of the Annunciation. Mary concludes her conversation with the angel Gabriel by saying, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.” In what ways is God asking you to serve Him? Are you willing, like Mary, to say, “let it be done to me according to your word?” Why or why not?

3. Read the story of Jesus’ birth in **Luke 2:1-20**. What is your favorite part of this story? Do you see any signs in this account that would point to His future mission and passion?

4. The story of Jesus feeding the 5000 is found in all four Gospels. The Gospel of John, Chapter 6, includes many extra details, and is referred to as “The Bread of Life Discourse.” Read **John 6:1-15 and 6: 47-59**. What role has the Eucharist played in your life?

5. Read **Luke 22:14-20 and 22:39-46**. These are the accounts of the “Last Supper” and the “Agony in the Garden.” Share an example of a time when you or someone you know has prayed like Jesus, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done.”

6. Read **Luke 23:1-25**. What part or parts of Jesus’ trial strike you? Explain.

7. Read **Luke 23:44-56**. Note the different way people react to Jesus’ death. Place yourself in the scene as a spectator. Describe your thoughts and emotions.