

Know Your Story

July 22, 2018

Romans 10:9-15

OPENING PRAYER:

Come, Great Spirit, be here with us. Fill us with strength and courage. Renew our faith and restore to us confidence and faith. As we study the living God, we remember those who have gone before us and served the Church faithfully and fully. Amen.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree/disagree with the LifeTalk this week?
- What is your favorite character from a movie, television or book? Why?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

God can and wants to use everything about us. This week we look at our stories and how they shape us. Read Romans 1:1-7.

- What jumps out at you in this scripture?
- Paul introduces himself to the Christians in Rome, how does he describe himself?
- What do you learn about Paul's calling in this passage? How has God used Paul's story?
- Paul was bold about his faith. When have you been in a situation where as a Christian, you felt like you 'stuck out'? Were you bold or embarrassed?
- How would you describe your relationship to Jesus Christ right now?
- Who was the Paul in your life who encouraged you in the early days of your Christian faith?
- Share your story with the group?

Read Romans 10:9-15. -- What jumps out at you in this scripture?

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Who am I? This or the other?

Am I one person today and tomorrow another?

Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,

And before myself a contemptibly woebegone weakling?

Or is something within me still like a beaten army,

Fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?

Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine.

Whoever I am, Thou knowest, O God, I am Thine!

--Excerpt from poem, "Who Am I?" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, July 18, 1944.

- What speaks to you in this poem?
- Bonhoeffer wrote this poem while jailed by the Nazi's, awaiting execution. How does knowing that Bonhoeffer was awaiting death for his faith affect your reading of the poem?
- Is there something in you that flees from Jesus and his victory already achieved?
- If you were to write your story, who would you say that you are?

CLOSING POSSIBILITIES & ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK:

- How will your life be different based upon what you have learned in this week's scripture, lesson and/or LifeTalk?
- How can the group pray for you this week?
- Sit down and write your faith story. In writing it down, we spend time with God, thinking about it which makes it easier to talk about it with others.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Gracious and loving God, open my life to you this day. Enter into my heart, that I may know the truth of the gospel, and live it with faith and purpose. Give me the tools to build a life of faith on the bedrock of your Word and way. Amen.