Listening Hearts 4

Session 3: Developing Awareness

Reminders

- Listen well
- Share discussion time
- Be kind and courteous
- Respect others' boundaries
- Limit distractions
- Maintain confidentiality

Silence Practice

“Uncover my eyes so that I may see the miraculous things in your teachings.”

Psalm 119:18 (GW)

Missional Focus: Sacred Pathways

Our personalities and gifts often make it easier to connecct with God in certain ways. Some have called those differences sacred pathways.

- *Naturalists* feel closest to God outdoors
- *Sensates* worship God experientially
- *Traditionalists* love God through ritual and symbol
- *Ascetics* love God in solitude and simplicity
- *Activists* love God by advocating for justice
- *Caregivers* love God by loving others
- *Enthusiasts* celebrate a miraculous God
- *Contemplatives* adore God
- *Intellectuals* love God with their minds

On one hand, we want to make best use of the pathway that suits how God has made us. On the other hand, sometimes it's good to try other paths to broaden our experience of God.

Missional Focus: Sacred Pathways

- Do you strongly identify with one of the Sacred Pathways?
- Can you suggest other examples that are not on the list?

SHARING PROCEDURE

- Read the question aloud.
- Let one person answer while the others listen without comment.
- The whole group pauses. Take a few deep breaths. Let what that person said sink in.
- Invite the next person to answer.
- Continue until everyone has had a chance to answer the question while the others listen, pausing briefly after each one.
- Repeat these steps for the next question.

THE QUESTIONS

- How was your experience of Sabbath over the last week?
- How could Sabbath inform your approach to one or more of your life roles?
- What are your observations of your church service? How would you describe your church's culture?
- Imagine someone comes to church for the first time in their life... and they choose yours.
  - What good things would they notice?
  - What might confuse them? What might make them feel uncomfortable?
  - What could you do to make them feel more comfortable and less confused?
  - Are there more effective ways to meet them where they are? Did you notice your church using language and patterns that they might not understand?

Pray Together

- Read James 2:1-9
- Pray for each other's churches. Pray for the experience new people will have there and invite God to impress upon our hearts a better idea of how to make them feel welcome and included.

Mission Assignment

- Research ethnocentrism. Consider how it might affect how we relate to those outside the church.