

## 09-10-23 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“The church is not fundamentally an institution or a denomination, but any place where two or three or more people live together in mutual interdependence. This requires casting off the yoke of individualism...into a profound trust of and commitment to people different from ourselves. This means there will be conflict, but it is precisely through conflict that we model for the world how to bind and loose one another appropriately.”

- *Jin S. Kim*



Matthew 18:15-20

### Questions for Reflection —

- How is being in fellowship and community with other followers of Jesus important to your life of faith? When have you experienced the reality of Jesus' presence in gathering with others? What holy moments have you experienced in Christian fellowship? What does it mean for your spiritual growth to engage in mutual interdependence with folks who are different from you? How can we as a congregation foster community across differences?
  
- What does it look like for you to share your whole self with others? What parts of you do you sometimes hide? What do you need in order to be your most authentic self within the life of our congregation? How can we better support one another in being vulnerable about the challenges and struggles of our spiritual journeys? What might accountability in living into God's kin-dom values look like in the context of supportive Christian community?
  
- Where do you see a need for reconciliation in your own life? In the life of our congregation? In the wider church? How can we more fully and openly acknowledge that disagreement and differences of opinion are realities in congregational life, especially in a congregation as diverse as ours? What can we as a congregation do to ensure that as we work out any differences or conflicts we do so in light of God's reconciling love? How can we as a congregation embody and demonstrate God's reconciling love not only to and for one another but as a model for the wider community?

### Daily Household Prayer

Lord, make our hearts places of peace and our minds harbors of tranquility.

Sow in our souls true love for you and for one another; and root deeply within us friendship and unity, and concord with reverence.

So may we give peace to each other sincerely and receive it beautifully. Amen.