



## ***Encountering God in Scripture***

**March 27, 2022**

*Psalm 130*

### **Connect**

- Spending time in Scripture can go from the *hunt and peck* trusting of God to randomly inspire and surprise us to an intentional three year method of getting all the way through the Bible in patterned organization. It can be done alone or in group study. What has been your practice or hope for opening the Bible? Has there been an Encounter with God that you have known as quite personal as you pondered or recognized a text that has *followed you* off the pages?

### **Engage**

- Read ***Psalm 130***. ***It is included here so that you can mark it with this exercise.*** Try to practice a ***Lectio Divina*** method of reading. Read the passage 3 times. The first time just let your mind be curious. The second time, note any questions that arise for you. You might circle or mark the text. The last time, note how you are feeling. Question why these responses arise in you; everything from wonder to tension. Share with one another any insights that you find intriguing.

A Song of Ascents.

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

<sup>2</sup> Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplications!

<sup>3</sup> If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you may be revered.

<sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;

<sup>6</sup> my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the LORD!  
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.

<sup>8</sup> It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.

- Like the Psalms are known to do, this one fills the Psalmist's voice with despair and hope in short order. There is a thread of forgiveness that comes through. What else resonates with you?
- Do you more often go to the scriptures as a sacred- text book or love letter? Can you think of what you have sought out as an example of each? Discuss.
- There are many ways to regard the meaning of *sacred text* in regard to the Bible. How have you experienced the Bible being-written, re-written, translated, interpreted, shielded, wielded, understood, misunderstood, used for proof, information, or certainty of our own faith and defending it to others?
- Is there room in our faith and the honoring of the beliefs of others to hold all of these actions in sacred regard? Are there many other ways we could describe the Bible as having played an active role in your life or witness? Can you relay an experience you have had.
- What does it mean to you to know, that the very nature of God is forgiveness. How does that inform and empower your life and faith? What about for others? King David's life continued with purpose and peril. Was that in his equation anyway? Or was there a Divine or moral cost/consequence for his crimes?
- Can you name a mystery of scriptural Encounter in your own life? Did it give you a fresh, even redeeming perspective? How was it transformative for you?

### **Next Steps**

- How might reading or ruminating on scripture become part of your sacred rhythm? What time of day might this be possible for you? What would be the strengths of varied options?

### **Pray**

*"Author of Life, Thank you for entering into the world in spirit and in flesh. Thank you for living a human story and for pointing out rising actions of heart, mind and spirit that are all around us. May we be a living testament to your intentions for each of us to be loved, forgiven and redeemed. Amen."*