

Small Group & Affinity Space



Monday, October 31

4:30pm (Eastern)

Items Needed: Bible, pen and envelope for this session from your retreat box or bag

1 *Open with the prayer below, from “8 Habits of Evangelism,” on Justice (5 min)*

God tells us to spread the good news on the mountains, over the valleys, in the “hood,” on street corners, in sanctuaries, in our homes, everywhere. We go in faith and joy to tell the good news of God’s unconditional love for all people. God calls us to be in covenant relationships and covenant ministries: To love and care, to share and clothe, to feed and nurture, to counsel and teach, to be committed to the health and well-being of our communities. We are called to be the living church in the world. The Church is the body of Christ, beyond these walls. We go in faith to minister in hospitals, prisons, schools, high rises, business centers, city centers, rural and urban spaces, in places where people are gathered or scattered we go. Amen.*

하나님께서 산 위에서, 골짜기에서, 동네에서, 길거리에 서, 성소에서, 가정에서, 모든 곳에서 복음을 전하라고 우리에게 말씀하셨습니다. 우리는 믿음과 기쁨으로 만인을 위한 주님의 무조건적인 사랑을 전하러 갑니다. 하나님은 우리와 언약을 통해 관계를 맺고 사역을 하도록 부르십니다. 사랑하고, 돌보고, 나누고, 서로 입히고, 먹을 것을 주고, 양육하고, 조언하고, 가르치고, 공동체의 건강과 웰빙에 관심을 가지도록 말입니다. 우리는 세상 속에서 살아있는 교회가 되라고 부르심을 받았습니다. 교회는 건물이 아니라 그리스도의 몸입니다. 그러므로 병원, 감옥, 학교, 고층 건물, 비즈니스 센터, 시내, 교외, 사람들이 모이고 흩어지는 곳에 가서 신실하게 전도하겠습니다. 아멘.*

Dios nos dice que difundamos las buenas nuevas en las montañas, en los valles, en el barrio, en las esquinas, en los santuarios, en nuestros hogares, en todas partes. Vamos con fe y gozo a contar las buenas nuevas del amor incondicional de Dios por todas las personas. Dios nos llama a tener relaciones y ministerios de pacto: Amar y cuidar, compartir y vestir, alimentar y nutrir, aconsejar y enseñar, estar comprometidas con la salud y el bienestar de nuestras comunidades. Estamos llamados a ser la iglesia viva en el mundo. La Iglesia es el cuerpo de Cristo, más allá de estos muros. Con fe, vamos a ministrar en hospitales, cárceles, escuelas, rascacielos, centros de negocios, centros urbanos, espacios rurales y urbanos, en los lugares donde la gente se reúne o dispersa vamos. Amén.*

* “Litany for Urban Ministry” by Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, adapt. from African American Heritage Hymnal (Chicago, Illinois: GIA Publications, 2001), p. 78.

2

Sharing (10 min)

What have you noticed so far in the conference that has challenged, inspired or encouraged you in working for justice as part of our discipleship and evangelism? Are there places where you wish there had been more attention given to a justice lens?

3

Scriptural study (20 min)

Read the passage three times (may choose to use different languages or versions of the Bible)

Jesus and the little children

Matthew 19:13-15

Discuss these questions as a group:

- What is the core message of this scripture?
- Identify the conflict in the narrative.
- In what ways does this scripture impact you/reflect your own experiences?

4

Activity (15 min)

Consider how we need to address our own trauma, invisibility, harm, exclusion—as individuals and as communities—in order to heal and move forward in hope. How can we address our own wounds, so we are in a better place to then provide a true and radical welcome to others? Can we settle our bodies, acknowledge our experiences of hurt or exclusion, and at some level and in some ways, give them over to God?

Hold the stone from the retreat box in your hand. Breathe into any feelings that emerge in your heart and body. In your imagination, or with the provided marker, write on the rock the experiences you'd like to no longer hold power over you, something from the past that you'd like to let go. When you're ready, take a walk and find a spot to literally leave the stone—and the represented burden. Allow this to free up space in yourself to receive God's grace and to be a vessel for God's radical welcome of self and others. (If you are attending the conference in person, you may also choose to leave your stone at the wailing wall inside Convocation Hall.)

Note: Both virtual and in-person groups will end this session once individuals are dismissed for their prayer walk/stone release.

Notes:
