

Small Group & Affinity Space



Sunday, October 30

4:00pm (Eastern) - *Virtual*

4:50pm (Eastern) - *In-Person*

*Items Needed: Bible, pen, and phone/tablet/laptop
(to view "The Return of the Prodigal" fresco painting)
online)*

1 *Open with prayer below from the "8 Habits of Evangelism" on Radical Welcome (5 min)*

God, who is sovereign and loving to us all, open our hearts and minds as we seek you in this lesson. Help us to see the value in welcoming the stranger, loving our neighbor and seeing people the way you do. God, help us to not center our own fear but open us up to the beauty of radical welcome. And God, even when the task at hand gets difficult, give us the strength to push past the discomfort so that we may know more fully the bountiful blessings of beloved community. Amen.

우리 모두를 사랑하시고 우리의 주권자되신 하나님, 우리의 마음을 열어주셔서, 이번 과에서 당신을 찾게 하소서. 나그네를 환대하고, 이웃을 사랑하며, 당신께서 하신 것처럼 사람들을 보는 것의 가치를 깨닫게 하소서. 하나님, 우리가 두려움을 우리 마음 중심에 두지 않게 하소서. 또 우리의 눈을 열어서 참된 환대의 아름다움을 보게 하소서. 그리고 하나님, 당면한 일에서 우리가 어려움을 겪을 때에도, 그 어려움을 이겨낼 힘을 주셔서, 사랑스러운 공동체의 차고 넘치는 축복을 더욱 온전히 알 수 있도록 하소서. 아멘.

Dios, soberano y quien nos ama, abre nuestros corazones y mentes mientras te buscamos en esta lección. Ayúdanos a ver el valor de acoger al extraño, amar a nuestro prójimo y ver a la gente como tú lo haces. Dios, ayúdanos a no centrar nuestro propio miedo, sino ábrenos a la belleza de la bienvenida radical. Y Dios, aun cuando la tarea presente se vuelva difícil, danos la fuerza para superar el malestar para que podamos conocer más plenamente las abundantes bendiciones de la comunidad amada. Amén.

Introduce yourselves (10 min)

2 Share your name, pronouns, and where you live. Then share why you are attending this conference and how you have experienced welcome, and/or tried to extend welcome to others, as we begin this conference together.

Scriptural study (20 min)

3

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

The Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32

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)

Looking at one of the websites below, reflect on the image of the fresco painting, “The Return of the Prodigal”.

[Montreat College — Ben Long Fine Art](https://www.benlongfineart.com/montreat-college)

(<https://www.benlongfineart.com/montreat-college>)

[Ben Long ‘Prodigal Son’ Fresco, Montreat NC | Blue Ridge Heritage Trail](#)

(shows larger image of the painting)

Discuss these questions as a group:

- How does this artist’s interpretation of the story strike you?
- How might it challenge you?
- How might it comfort you?
- How might this story/image help us imagine what “radical welcome” can be for us?
- What else do you notice, related to the conference so far?

“The Return of the Prodigal” fresco painting is located inside the Chapel of the Prodigal on the campus of Montreat College. The Chapel is open for visitors when there is not a college class meeting inside the chapel. In-person participants are welcome to take a short walk from Assembly Inn to the Chapel of the Prodigal, to view the actual painting, before 10:30 am, or 12:30-1:00 pm on Monday or Tuesday. Even if a class is in session, you can enter the chapel lobby and look through the windows into the chapel itself, to see the large fresco (16’ x 17’) on the front wall from a distance. (12:30-1:00 pm is the time you are most likely able to enter the chapel itself and be closer to view the painting.)

Notes:
