

Prayers of Yearning

John 3:1-21, Psalm 42:1-4

October 21, 2018

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. What is yearning? Think of a personal example..
2. What makes yearning different than other types of desires or wants?
3. What is your favorite movie or story?. Do any of the characters experience or express “yearning?” What do they yearn for, and how does it affect them?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Read through the John 3 passage. What is significant about Nicodemus’ inquiry about being born again being connected to Jesus’ response in verse 16? What does that say about our yearning for God and about God’s yearning for us?
2. What does it mean for God to yearn for us? Can’t God have anything He wants?
3. Why is it that many times God does not answer our yearnings at the time we have them?
4. Is yearning at odds with being satisfied or content? How do we know we are longing for the right things?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. What are some things that you yearn for? Take some time to share (if comfortable) and pray together over these things.
2. How does your prayer habit encourage or inhibit you in expressing your yearnings or in hearing God’s yearnings?
3. How do you go about allowing the Holy Spirit to “voice” our inner yearnings that are too deep for words? How do we know it is happening when we pray?
4. Josh Larsen writes “Yearning... is the most universal of prayers, an instinct even the resolutely irreligious have.” How might our experience of God change the way we interact with others who are experiencing their own form of yearning?