

8.26.18

When is a time that you have experienced loneliness?

The Psalmist says that "God places the lonely in families" (Psalm 68:6).

What does Psalm 68:6 say about the heart of God? What does Psalm 68:6 say about the experience of loneliness/

Do you remember "Wilson" from the movie "Castaway" starring Tom Hanks? What does "Wilson" tell us about the human condition?

Read Genesis 2:18; Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 5:2.

The same Hebrew word is used in each verse but is translated "the man," "humankind" and "Adam" throughout the story.

How do you know which English word best fits the Hebrew word?

What do we learn about humans and loneliness from these verses?

Read, think about, and discuss the meaning of these words from Einstein: "A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty."

How do we free ourselves from disconnection and independence?

What evidence do you see of divisions and disconnection in our world?

Read Ephesians 2:14-16 ad Colossians 1:19-20.

What solution is offered here?

Read Revelation 7:9

What words describe the people in John's vision? How does this description reflect God's desire for humanity?

How diverse is your circle of friends? Your church? What can we do to foster diversity?

Deepak Chopra says, "If love is universal, no one can be left out."

How does that statement reflect the life and spirit of Christ?

What can you do this week, to be more inclusive?