

Remaining in Christ: Jesus' "I am" statements in the Gospel of John

Session II

Questions for Reflection

Living Water (John 4:1-42)

These questions are deep, and you will need to spend some time reflecting before you answer. We suggest you choose one or two questions each day and work on them throughout the week.

Scribble page provided (next page). Print it out to use it.

1. What is the most important part of this story to you?
2. The story depends for its power on the most basic elements of human life: water, light, food. Choose one of these to explore in your memory. When have you been in most need of this element? How did that feel? What did you do?
3. If you could be absolutely fearless in questioning Jesus, what would you ask him today?
4. As you have learned earlier in this study, Jesus is the embodiment of the Wisdom of God, the Wisdom by which all things were made, and the Wisdom that holds them all in life. His offer of living water is an offering of this Wisdom in a form that is perfectly suited to human beings, in fact absolutely necessary for human life as God intends it to be. Sometimes we think of Wisdom as something difficult to come by, the result of great labor. But Jesus offers a generous invitation to drink and the promise that, "The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." Have you had this experience of God's Wisdom taking up residence within you, or can you describe someone who seems to have internalized the Wisdom of God in a life-giving way? How would you describe this experience in your own words? Where did you get your first taste of this Wisdom?
5. The world of commerce is very skilled at evoking our desire for things, for status, for comfort. Jesus never says that there is something wrong with desire, but it should be desire for what really matters. The Wisdom that he embodies and that he offers is the Wisdom to discern what to desire, so that we and all around us have the experience of flourishing life. Do you have practices that help you to align your desires with those of God, with what really matters? How do you manage the many voices around us, encouraging us to buy more and have more? If you could design one perfect day, what and who would be in it? How does that image help you to align your desires with what really gives life?
6. Jesus says that his food is to do the will of God. Can you describe a time when you were so engaged in something that you didn't get hungry? Have you ever been involved in a ministry that really fed you? How would you describe this experience to someone who isn't in the Church? How does this experience help you sort out what is most important for you?

use this space for your thoughts, notes,
scribbles, or drawings as you reflect

