Sharing Stories • RESONANCE "On Faith"

Questions for Reflection & Discussion:

- 1. Have you ever had questions about your faith? What caused you to have questions or doubts or concerns? What encourages or strengthens your faith in those times?
- 2. What does the biblical practice of lament mean? Why is the practice of lament important?
- 3. Have you ever cried out to God and you didn't hear an answer, or God said "no" or "not yet"? How did you respond in that situation?
- 4. Sometimes we talk about blind faith. In what ways has your faith been blind?
- 5. What does it mean to have faith in Christian community?
- 6. Why is communal faith important?
- 7. Many of us grow up with an inherited faith. We take on the faith of our parents or our grandparents, often without thinking about what it means. Why is it important to make your faith your own? How can you begin to make your faith your own?

Disciplines for Practice:

1. Read the Bible

Reading the Bible is important as we strive to "make our faith our own." Spend some time engaged in reading passages of scripture, studying God's word firsthand. Try to set aside some time each day for this. Whether it is a verse, a chapter, or an entire book, it is important to spend some time each day in scripture.

2. Centering Prayer

Centering prayer gives us the opportunity to empty ourselves before God in order for God to fill us back up. Spend some time in centering prayer—let go of your agenda and surrender yourself to God. You can set aside some time in the morning to let go of your agenda and allow God to lead you throughout the day, or some time in the evening to empty yourself of all of the things that happened throughout the day.

3. Take Action

Faith requires action. We must live our faith in order to separate it from simple belief. What are some little steps you can take to turn your belief into faith? Try to identify actions of faith you can take, and commit to taking some sort of action step each week.

Bible Passages to Consider:

- 1. Job 1:1 3:26; 38:1 42:17
- 2. Lamentations 1:1 5:22
- 3. Romans 12:1-8
- 4. Hebrews 10:19 12:3