

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY SESSION 16: WHAT WE LOVE

OPENING WORDS:

You do not have to be good. You do not have to walk on your knees
For a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about your despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting --
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

- Mary Oliver's "Wild Geese"

CHECK IN:

- Current state of physical or spiritual health
- Joys or concerns about loved ones
- Concerns/excitement about what is happening in our lives

REVIEW COVENANT AND OTHER BUSINESS

BREAK

DISCUSSION

Mary Oliver said, "You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves." What do you love? Tell the story of when you first encountered one of your loves. How does it feel doing or being with the thing you love? How do you feel when you are apart from it or unable to do it? Are you at peace with the things you love to do or be? What would you have to do to "let" yourself love what you love? How could we help each other achieve that?

CHECK OUT

What did you like about this meeting? What do you wish had been different?

CLOSING WORDS

May the love which overcomes all differences, which heals all wounds,
which puts to flight all fears,
which reconciles all who are separated,
be in us and among us
now and always.

- Frederick E. Gillis