

Small Group Ministry Session Forty-Two: Wilderness & Wildness

OPENING WORDS

“Wilderness is (the) place where the wild potential is fully expressed, a diversity of living and nonliving beings flourish according to their own sorts of order...To speak of wilderness is to speak of wholeness.”

--Zen writer and poet Gary Snyder, The Practices of The Wild

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

REVIEW PROGRESS OF THE CIRCLE

DISCUSSION

Thoreau said, “In wildness is the preservation of the world.” Clarissa Pinkola Estes advises women to “run with the wolves” a way of rediscovering their authentic selves.

1. Is the external wilderness a place we enter for spiritual experience and renewal, a sacred place that takes us out of our small selves and into the grandeur of creation? Or is it a place of fear and inadequacy?
2. Is our internal wildness a place that we brave to discover something essential to our true selves, or is it a raw and dangerous place that we avoid?
3. Is there a relationship between the external wilderness and the internal wildness?

CHECK OUT

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

CLOSING WORDS

“We were born in the wide domain of the wild! The trees sheltered our infant limbs, the blue heavens covered us. Let us be children of the wilderness.”

--Adapted from the words of George Copway (Ojibwe)