

TO THE HEART

EMBRACING EACH MOMENT OF LIFE IS TO TAKE EACH MOMENT TO OUR HEART.

THE HEART IS THE DEEPEST SEAT OF THE PERSON. THE HEART REVEALS WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE LOVE. THE HEART IS ALSO THE PLACE OF ENCOUNTER WITH GOD. WE CAN EITHER KEEP GOD DISTANT FROM OUR HEART OR WE CAN GIVE GOD ACCESS TO OUR HEART.

HIDDEN HEART

A HIDDEN HEART IS A HOMELESS HEART.

THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WERE BROUGHT INTO EXILE. IT WAS IMPOSED FROM THE OUTSIDE. BUT AFTER KING CYRUS GAVE THEM A WAY HOME, MANY OF THEM CHOSE TO LIVE IN SELF-IMPOSED EXILE. THE SAME IS TRUE FOR ALL OF US WHO HAVE BEEN EXILED BY OUR SIN AND SLAVERY TO DEATH. JESUS HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE TO STEP INTO THE LIGHT AND COME HOME, BUT MANY CHOOSE TO LIVE OUTSIDE THE LIGHT...MANY OF US LIVE IN SELF-IMPOSED EXILE.

GOD IN REAL LIFE

This week, come out of hiding. Stop running.

Make a plan to get to Confession:

Give Jesus the chance to be your Savior.

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"But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God."

John 3:21

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. WHEN YOU WERE A KID, DID YOU EVER RUN AWAY FROM HOME? (THIS IS A "KEEP IT LIGHT" QUESTION, UNLESS YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO DEEP WITH YOUR PEOPLE.) TELL THE STORY!
2. FOR THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, WHAT BEGAN AS AN EXTERNALLY IMPOSED EXILE BECAME AN INTERNALLY SELF-IMPOSED EXILE: THERE WAS A WAY HOME, AND THEY STAYED AWAY. CAN YOU RELATE TO THEIR EXPERIENCE IN YOUR OWN WALK WITH GOD? HOW SO?
3. IN THAT EXILE, WE COULD BE CHOOSING TO HIDE FROM GOD OR WE COULD BE AVOIDING GOD IN THE MIDST OF BUSYNESS. WHICH OF THESE "DEFENSE MECHANISMS" DO YOU FIND YOURSELF USING THE MOST? WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?
4. "HOW I GOT HERE IS ON ME, AND HOW I GET HOME IS ON HIM." WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO GET HOME? WHAT'S YOUR FIRST STEP? HOW WILL YOU TAKE IT?
5. WHEN WE GO TO CONFESSION, WE GIVE JESUS THE PLEASURE OF FULFILLING HIS VOCATION. HOW DOES HIS PERSPECTIVE OF THE SACRAMENT AFFECT HOW YOU APPROACH IT? HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH ANY FEARS OR HESITATIONS YOU HAVE ABOUT IT?