



Date: August 13th, 2023

Title: Deep Calls to Deep

Scripture: Matthew 5:4; Matthew 6:5-15

Introduction to Analog

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else.” Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another, deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

Teaching Season

When Jesus’ teaches his disciples to pray, he speaks 57 words. While brief, Jesus’ prayer covers every corner of our life; past (forgive), present (give us bread) and future (deliverance). We will explore the breadth and depth of these well-known words, how we can continue to pray them in a fresh way, and why they have had such staying power for over 2,000 years.

Teaching

With guest teacher and friend of DCC, Jason Miller, we explored the mysterious nature of how the Divine works in the midst of grief and loss that Jesus named in the Beatitudes. In sharing about the death of his dear friend, Jason discussed this phenomenon that often the most honoring thing we can do in the midst of loss is to hold space for that void rather than following the temptation to fill this up. And in alignment with the psalmists that would move from great despair to hope-filled praise, God works in mysterious ways in the midst of these voids within our lives.

Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App

Opening Question for the Group: Start your group discussion with the question below.

- 1) If you could use magic to complete one mundane task for the rest of your life, what task would you choose and why?

Questions for Discussion or Reflection

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don't feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. Have you encountered the Beatitudes before? How have you understood them, or how have you heard them explained?
2. What losses stand out for you as you think about the circumstances Jesus names for us when we mourn?
3. Have you ever participated in an especially meaningful grieving ritual? It may have been in a traditional setting, like a funeral for a loved one. Or it may have been unexpected and creative, like burning artifacts in a fire to say goodbye to a relationship that ended. What was the ritual, and what made it so meaningful?
4. Is there a loss in your life or in the life of a loved one that hasn't been grieved? What could you do to enact that mourning?

Spiritual Practice:

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

*** For this series, I have included two options of prayers: The Lord's Prayer, which will be included every week, and a rotating selection from the podcast. There is deep value in repetition and it could prove meaningful to sit with this single meditation each week as we move through the Lord's Prayer given by Jesus as seen in the scriptures. But if that is not serving you or your group well, feel free to use the varying one each week.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Guided Meditation - The Lord's Prayer](#)

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: The Jesus Prayer](#)