REFLECTION GUIDE

7.23.23

INTRO

Making sense of the Bible can be a challenge! When we are willing to wrestle with our understanding of the text, it has the power to enrich our lives.

THOUGHTS

PRAYER

Loving God, open my ears to what you would have me hear in the Bible. Thank you for the ways that scripture both challenges and comforts me. Help me to be open to a fresh understanding, especially with the parts of the Bible that I struggle to agree with. Holy Spirit, renew my mind and shape my perspective so I can grow in my knowledge of and love for Jesus. Amen.

DIGGING DEEPER

- Describe your background with the Bible.
  - When were you first introduced to it?
  - Has it become a part of your routine to read it?
  - When you read it, how do you feel? Encouraged? Confused? Other?

- There are many challenging passages in the Bible. How have you handled portions of scripture that you either don't understand or don't agree with?

- Hebrews 4:12-13 says, "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable." [NLT]
  - How do you think scripture is "alive and powerful"?
  - Why do you think scripture is compared to a sword?

- Have you ever experienced a moment when something you read in the Bible became clear in a way you hadn't previously understood it? Why do you think your understanding changed?

- Psalm 119:15-16 says, "I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word." [NLT]
  - What do you think the psalmist means by "delight in your decrees"?
  - Can you think of a time that following the advice of scripture led to your well-being?