

# SEEKING

## yearning

HAVE YOU EVER FOUND YOURSELF DRAWN TO SOMETHING WITH NO EXPLANATION? WE ALL HAVE SOME DESIRE, A DEEP-SEATED LONGING THAT WE DO NOT REALLY HAVE AN ANSWER FOR. SOMETIMES WE TRY TO MASK IT OR FILL IT WITH OTHER THINGS.

ALL HUMANS SEEK HAPPINESS, A BASIC DESIRE THAT WE ALL SHARE. BUT WHY IS HAPPINESS SO IMPORTANT? WHERE DOES IT COME FROM? HOW CAN WE BE TRULY HAPPY?

ONE OF THE MAIN DESIRES WE ALL SHARE AS HUMANS IS A DESIRE TO BE LOVED AND CARED FOR. THINK ABOUT WHEN YOU ARE MOST VULNERABLE — WHEN YOU ARE SICK OR SAD. WHAT KINDS OF THINGS DO YOU WANT IN THOSE MOMENTS? HOW DO YOU FEEL? WHAT DO YOU NEED?

GOD CREATED EACH OF US WITH HUMAN DESIRES, WITH NEEDS. BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? IT IS A CALLING DEEP WITHIN US, A HEARKENING BACK TO THE WAY IN WHICH WE WERE MADE AND WHO MADE US. SOMETHING IS CALLING US AND IN THIS CONFUSING WORLD, IT IS SOMETIMES HARD TO HEAR AND ANSWER THAT CALL. AS WE JOURNEY TOGETHER, WE WILL BE EXPLORING WHAT THOSE DESIRES ARE AND HOW WE FULFILL THEM.

# SEEKING

## questions

1 WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU REALLY WANT RIGHT NOW?

## disordered desires

UNFORTUNATELY, WE LIVE IN A FAR FROM PERFECT WORLD. WE KNOW THAT THERE IS HUMAN SUFFERING AND THAT SUFFERING IS SOMETIMES THE RESULT OF SOMEONE'S DESIRE OR EMOTION CAUSING THEM TO HARM SOMEONE ELSE. OUR DESIRES CAN ALSO LEAVE US FEELING EMPTY. WE SEEK TO FILL OUR LIVES WITH THINGS THAT END UP NOT BEING GOOD FOR US OR THINGS THAT DO NOT LAST. IN THE CHAOS OF THIS WORLD, WE ARE TOLD ALL KINDS OF LIES ABOUT WHAT WE NEED OR DESERVE. AND WHEN WE PURSUE THEM, WE ARE LEFT WITH A CERTAIN EMPTINESS, SOME GREATER THAN OTHERS.

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HOW MANY OF YOU CAN THINK OF A TIME WHEN YOU SOUGHT OUT SOMETHING THAT ENDED UP NOT BEING WHAT YOU ACTUALLY WANTED? HOW DO WE EVEN KNOW WHAT WE REALLY WANT?

WE SOMETIMES STRUGGLE WITH ARTICULATING OUR DESIRES OR NEEDS. IN SOME CASES, WE MAY NOT EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS WE REALLY DESIRE. EVERYONE KNOWS THAT ONE PERSON WHOSE RESPONSE IS ALWAYS, "I DO NOT CARE," WHEN IN REALITY, THEY DO CARE. THE CONVERSATION GOES SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

"WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO TO DINNER?"

"I DON'T CARE."

"HOW ABOUT HAMBURGERS?"

"NAW, I DON'T REALLY WANT BURGERS."

"OK, WHAT ABOUT ITALIAN FOOD?"

"MMM, THAT DOESN'T REALLY SOUND GOOD."

"OOOOK, PIZZA?"

"NAH..."

IT IS EVEN DIFFICULT FOR US TO DISCERN OUR OWN NEEDS AND WANTS AT TIMES. IF WE CANNOT FIGURE OUT WHAT WE WANT, HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT GOD WANTS? OUR TRUE DESIRES ARE WRITTEN ON OUR HEARTS, WOVEN INTO THE VERY FABRIC

# SEEKING

OF OUR CREATION. BUT DO WE KNOW OUR OWN HEART?  
CAN WE HEAR WHAT IT IS CALLING OUT TO?

## questions

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HAVE YOU EVER WANTED SOMETHING BUT WERE DISAPPOINTED WHEN YOU ACTUALLY RECEIVED IT? WHAT WAS IT AND WHY DID YOU FEEL THAT WAY?

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HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT GOD MIGHT BE ASKING OF YOU OR WHAT HE WANTS FOR YOU? WHAT ARE SOME THOUGHTS YOU HAVE?

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## growing up

AS WE GROW AND MATURE, SO DO OUR DESIRES AND LONGINGS. THINK OF WHAT YOU WANTED AS A KID VERSUS NOW. AS LIFE IS A JOURNEY OF MATURITY, SO TOO IS YOUR FAITH. WHAT YOU NEEDED AS A KID IS NOT THE SAME AS WHAT YOU NEED IN YOUR FAITH NOW. THE TIME YOU INVESTED IN YOUR FAITH AS A CHILD IS NOT THE TIME IT NEEDS NOW. WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, YOUR PARENTS STOOD BEFORE THE CHURCH AND DECLARED THAT THEY WOULD RAISE YOU IN THE FAITH. YOU WERE PLUNGED INTO THE WATER AND ROSE A NEW CREATION. BUT THAT WAS THEIR CHOICE, THEIR DECISION. WHEN YOU ARE YOUNG, YOUR PARENTS DECIDE HOW TO FULFILL YOUR NEEDS AND DESIRES. BUT AS YOU GROW, YOU GET TO DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.

## questions

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WHAT DID YOU WANT AS A LITTLE KID? WHAT HAS CHANGED? HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE FULFILLED IN YOUR FAITH?

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## the journey

CONFIRMATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF YOUR FAITH JOURNEY. IT IS THE MOMENT THAT YOU STAND UP, AS AN ADULT IN THE CHURCH, AND TAKE OWNERSHIP OF YOUR FAITH. IT IS NO LONGER THE FAITH OF YOUR PARENTS, BUT YOUR OWN. IT IS THE BEGINNING OF YOUR JOURNEY TOWARD TRUE HAPPINESS, FULFILLING THOSE DESIRES IN A WAY THAT LASTS, AND CHASING NOT WHAT IS FLEETING BUT WHAT IS ETERNAL. LIFE IS BIGGER THAN OUR SMALL SPHERE OF INFLUENCE. THERE IS SOMETHING BIGGER GOING ON AROUND US. THERE IS A DEEPER MEANING TO OUR HUMAN LONGINGS AND THE THINGS WE CONTINUE TO SEEK.

CONFIRMATION COMPLETES THE GRACE THAT WAS GIVEN TO US AT OUR BAPTISM. AT CONFIRMATION IT IS YOUR TURN TO STAND UP AND MAKE A DECISION FOR YOUR FAITH, TO "CHOOSE TODAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE."

EVERYONE ON THIS EARTH IS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING. WE ALL HAVE DESIRES — YEARNINGS — THAT WE ARE SEEKING TO FILL. THE PURPOSE OF OUR LIVES BECOMES HOW WE CHOOSE TO FILL THEM. MOST PEOPLE SPEND THEIR ENTIRE LIVES SPINNING THEIR WHEELS, STUCK IN THE MUD OF THIS LIFE WITHOUT MUCH THOUGHT ABOUT

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WHAT IS BEYOND. LUCKILY FOR US, THIS WORLD IS NOT THE ONLY THING ON OUR HORIZON. SPOILER ALERT: THE JOURNEY WE ARE EMBARKING ON OVER THE COURSE OF THIS PROGRAM CAN BE PREVIEWED BY A SPECIAL SAINT, THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX, WHO WROTE, "THE WORLD'S THY SHIP, NOT THY HOME."

## questions

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WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST MOTIVATION IN LIFE RIGHT NOW?  
WHY DO YOU GET UP EVERY DAY AND LIVE YOUR LIFE?

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HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GROW IN THE NEXT YEAR?  
WHAT QUESTIONS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEEK TO HAVE ANSWERED?