



tonight you have the opportunity to journey interactively with
the psalms of ascent

the connection

August 18th, 2013

Orientation (Fireside)

“the function of such description is the continued reaffirmation and reconstruction of this good world.”¹

Orientation provides the base position in our relationship with God. It is the place where the relationship is in a correct state.

Art has long been used to tell the story of the great works of God for his people.

On the walls of the Sistine Chapel are a series of frescoes that tell the story of Jesus and the story of Moses on opposite sides of the room. These works are positioned around the fireside.

In conjunction with the psalms of ascent that speak of orientation and the paintings of the Sistine Chapel consider the great works of God in your life? How do you experience orientation with God? What does that look like to you? Is there an image or a picture that comes to mind?

Psalms 124; 126; 128; 133.

Disorientation (Overflow)

“... some of the psalms remember better times (Ps. 42:4) back in the old period of orientation. There is a wish to return to that situation. Others are heavy in anger and resentment against the one who has caused disorientation ... this mood leaves the impression that the speaker believes that the loss of orientation is reversible and the old orientation is retrievable.”²

Disorientation causes us to feel far from the presences of God; much we would feel in the wilderness, alone, thirsty, hopeless and in darkness.

The overflow is set up to visually represent this feeling. Take some time to sit in a place of disorientation and consider some of the psalms of ascent which describe disorientation. Wrestle with God about the places of disorientation in your life. Concerning what things or areas in your life are you asking him to act?

Make sure to spend enough time here. It is easy to want to pretend that there is no disorientation in ones life. But also, make sure not to spend too much time to ensure that it doesn't become a place of wallowing.

Psalms 120; 123; 129; 130; 131; 132.

Reorientation (pews & table)

“these psalms reflect a quite new circumstance that speaks of newness (it is not the old revived); surprise (there was no ground in the disorientation to anticipate it); and gift (it is not done by the lamenter). For these reasons, this new circumstance evokes and requires a celebration.”³

Reorientation reestablishes connection with God. It is a return to the proper order of things. It celebrates how God rescues and restores in the midst of disorientation.

Having reflected on orientation and disorientation, along with the psalms of ascent that speak of reorientation, consider your hopes and dreams. What things would you like God to do in your life?

Combined with what you have reflected on in the stations of orientation and disorientation write your own psalm(s) to record your journey thus far.

(Scroll sheets and pens are available at the front)

Psalms 121; 122; 125; 127; 134.

-After this feel free to respond to God at the table.-

¹ W. Brueggemann, *Psalms and the Life of Faith*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 10.

² *ibid.*, 11.

³ *ibid.*, 14.