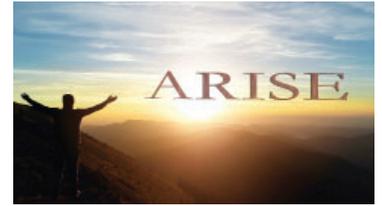


DAILY READING PLAN



Week of May 1, 2022

Arise: Partnership

Matthew 28:16-20

Day 1 | Read Ecclesiastes 4:9

"It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth."

- Think about the partnerships in your life. Why are they so valuable to you? Why is it essential for communities of faith to partner with one another?

Day 2 | Read Genesis 1:26 and 2:18

• In Genesis 1:26, there is the first indication of partnership. *"Then God said, 'Let us make [hu]man[kind] in our image...'"* Who is the "us" indicated here? Then in Genesis 2:18, God creates everything and calls everything good. But when God observes that Adam is all alone, God says, *"It is not good that you're alone. I'll make a companion, a helper, a partner."* [paraphrase...] Why is the concept of partnership integral to the creation story?

Day 3 | Read Matthew 28:16-17

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted.

- How does doubt get in the way of partnerships in the community of faith? When you consider your call to partnership in the faith community, what most gets in the way of that for you? What creates the most excitement for you? Have you ever felt like the partnership was "someone else's job"? How would you respond to that?

Day 4 | Read Matthew 28:18-20a

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

- When you take these verses personally, as if Jesus is charging you with the task of going and making disciples, how does the call to partnership impact how you respond? What does it mean for you to "go"? Where are you going? How are you making disciples? How does partnership play into that for you?

Day 5 | Read Matthew 28:20b

"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Perhaps you've heard the phrase, "There's no 'i' in 'Team!'" or "Teamwork makes the dream work!" Jesus's message is that we're more together than we are alone. That's why partnership in the community of faith is so vital. How do you experience Jesus' presence with you when it comes to partnership? How does the presence of Christ in your life impact you daily?