

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

LENT 2021 PARTICIPANT GUIDE

WEEK 3: LONESOME DOVE 03.07.2021 | MARK 14:53-65

According to the 2020 U.S. report from Cigna Health Services, 61% of those surveyed reported that they are lonely. Loneliness in Americans is up from 54% in 2019 to 61% in 2020.¹ Why? ¹ www.cigna.com/static/www-cigna-com/docs/about-us/newsroom/studies-and-reports/combating-loneliness/cigna-2020-loneliness-infographic.pdf

How is your response similar/different from the ones provided by Cigna?

How is loneliness impacting our everyday lives? How is it impacting you?

From today's passage, as well as from the other parts of the Passion of Christ, how is Jesus responding to being in such a lonely place of being rejected, denied, and disowned? (Think about what he says and does, and what he doesn't say and does not do.)

Who among us or around us are like Jesus, found in an unexpected place of shame and loneliness? Who in our lives is God calling us to visit, serve, and minister to? I invite us to close our eyes, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal whom we can go and serve, and what we can we do to serve them.

Thinking about the stories of Jesus, and perhaps other characters in the Bible, as well as the report from Cigna, what are some of the healthy coping mechanisms? What about the unhealthy ones?

(OPTIONAL) Many Bible characters found themselves in a lonely place. Think about the story of Job, Hannah, Joseph, etc. Which character's experience of loneliness do you relate to the most? What about their journey resonates with you?

CHURCH-WIDE MISSION: SHARING SHOES & JOY IN PERU

"Most of the boys are here because they were abandoned, because of abuse. The community here doesn't want to see it; people don't call them by their names. They call them 'those guys from the home.'" This is how the orphanage director described the boys we were visiting in Cusco, Peru. These boys were rejected, first by their families and then by the community. They were denied recognition and dignity. "That's why it's important for you to come here and get to know them by their names. It's important for them to see that someone cares for them just as they are."



Playing games with the boys in the orphanage was one way we showed that we cared for them..

- Lanie Williams, Mission Coordinator

** On this trip in 2014, over 400 of the Christmas backpacks we delivered were filled by Custer Road families.*

Join us in serving families in Peru by donating new shoes and socks, volunteering to sort and prepare shoes for delivery, or donate to help build more bathrooms.