

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

LOOK

How would you define humility? Do you consider humility a virtue? Or does it imply weakness or cowardice?

BOOK

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the LORD:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves? They did not say, "Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?" I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit. Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD, and I accuse your children's children. Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been

such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

- 1) The prophet Jeremiah is giving the people a very unpopular message here. The Israelites are about to be invaded and imprisoned by the Babylonians. How have they sinned? Why is God unhappy with them?
- 2) Discuss the meaning of 'living water'. What cisterns did the people build? Why are they cracked and leaking?
- 3) Read Luke 14:1, 7-14. What leaky cistern are the dinner guests trying to drink from? What is the solution Jesus gives to the problem the people have? What does God want from them? How does seeking the lowest place achieve what God wants?

TOOK

- 1) What 'worthless things' do we go after, becoming worthless ourselves? How do we try to dig our own cisterns? How do we know when they are leaking?
- 2) Are you feeling parched? How/why do we forget to drink from the living water?
- 3) How does forgetting to ask the question: 'where is God?' lead us to hubris?
- 4) What if humility is defined as 'right relationship with God and each

other' or 'a radical commitment to let God lead us'? Does that definition make humility more palatable? Can we be humble and strong at the same time?

- 5) What are visible signs of humility? Some might be gratitude; willingness to be vulnerable; living a life of service. Can you think of more?
- 6) In what part of your life can you be more intentional about asking 'where is God in this?'?"