

Sharing the Bounty: Stories from the Good News Garden Movement Reflection Guide



Note: This guide can be used for personal reflection or within the context of a small group, after you have watched the accompanying short film.

READ

Jeremiah 29:7-14 and Mark 5:1-20

CONSIDER

In Jeremiah 29, we see that God doesn't deliver the people from their circumstances but instead begins to teach them how to make themselves at home within their circumstances, reminding them to tend to the soil beneath their feet instead of wasting all their energy and time pining for greener pastures. Encouraging them to work, pray, and live a whole life right where they were, just as they were. In the Gospel according to Mark, Jesus heals a man from an evil spirit, and in excitement and gratitude, the man wants to go and travel with Jesus. But Jesus denies this request, instead telling the man, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." Jesus sends the man home—to live, work, pray, and proclaim the Good News as he has experienced it. This is the work that Plainsong is doing.

REFLECT

1. Plainsong Farm in Kent County, Michigan, is a place and a ministry where the values of the Good News Gardens movement—to plant more (in the soil and in the hearts of people), pray more, and proclaim the Good News of God in Christ more are flourishing. How could you or your parish form a commitment to dig deeper into one or all three of those commitments?
2. How could you or your faith community work to dig into the soil right beneath your feet, harvesting gifts of Good News for all? Who and what are the people, gifts, talents, and resources you already have that need a bit of tending to flourish?

PRAY

For the Harvest of Lands and Waters

O gracious Father, who openest thine hand and fillest all things living with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let thy Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show thy loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what thou givest, that men and women everywhere may give thee thanks; through Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Book of Common Prayer, p. 827)