

## **Stories That Form Us**

July 19 – August 9, 2020

*“Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:*

*‘I will open my mouth to speak in parables;*

*I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.’”*

*– Matthew 13:34-35*

The stories we tell about ourselves and our communities shape us; they let us know who we are and how we should live. They tell us truths about the world. In every story we hear deep truths that speak across ages. Yet, sometimes we need to hear these truths in new ways. We need to retell our stories so that we can see their heart again.

### **July 19 – Sorting Out the Possibilities**

*“Let both of them grow together” – Matthew 13:30*

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” pg. 114, 117-119; “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” pg. 679-680

We may be tempted by ideas and promises of worldly splendor thrown in our path, but this does not define who we are. We are all children of God and when we too narrowly define people, we deprive ourselves and others of the opportunity to learn, to grow, to love and be loved. We must grow together so we can thrive in the love and care of Jesus.

## **July 26 – Love Finds a Way**

*“it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown...the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” – Matthew 13:32*

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52; Finding Dory

What is the kingdom of God? It seems small, but provides life to whole communities. It mixes in and changes everything. It is worth everything we have and everything we are. It is always being made new and is filled with the wisdom of the ages.

## **August 2 – More than Enough**

*“And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over” – Matthew 14:20*

Matthew 14:13-21; Stone Soup

We tell ourselves there isn't enough. We say we would do more, but we need to keep some for ourselves. Yet, Jesus shows that there is more than enough. The truth is that God has given us all that we, as a community, as a world, need. Yet, we must choose to share. We must choose to know there is enough.

## **August 9 – We Can't Do It Alone**

*“Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him” – Matthew 10:34*

Matthew 14:22-33; “The Fellowship of the Ring” pg. 60-63; “The Return of the King” pg. 929

We tell ourselves that we are all we need. We have the strength to do what needs to be done. We don't need anyone else. But our strength is in one another. It is in relationship and being willing to be vulnerable enough to rely on others and to see in the other the good news.