



W H O L E

Restoring What Is Broken in Me, You, and the Entire World

S T E V E W I E N S



WHERE ARE YOU?

*Still I'm pinned under the weight
of what I believed would keep me safe.
So show me where my armor ends;
show me where my skin begins.*

“PLUTO”

BY SLEEPING AT LAST

QUESTIONS *for Reflection & Discussion*

1. In what ways can you relate to the stories from Steve's childhood? What is one story from your own childhood that marked you in a similar way?
2. Steve said immature siblings named Approval and Admiration raised him. What words would describe how you tried to gain a sense of identity and safety for yourself?
3. Finish this sentence and explain your answer: Vulnerability is _____.
4. Where are you with God in terms of wanting to be fully present and wanting to come out of hiding?
5. If God asked you, “Where are you?” right now, how would you answer if you knew you were completely safe in answering with whatever was really true?

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AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

*Copernicus discovered that Earth is not the center of the universe.
Now we have to discover that we are not the center of any universe either.*

RICHARD ROHR,
Mature Spirituality, AUGUST 29, 2016

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

QUESTIONS *for Reflection & Discussion*

1. Do you have a story similar to the one the author shares about the associate pastor, Steve, in which trust was broken? What happened?
2. What type of environment do you thrive in, allowing you to cultivate the life that grows around you, tend to that life, and guard it so that it flourishes?
3. How do you “guard” your brother and sister without becoming codependent or doing their work for them?
4. Have you ever run away from God’s face? If so, how was the voice of shame involved in your decision to run?
5. How do we differentiate between needed self-care and the seeking of gain?

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WHAT ARE YOU SEEKING?

*Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.*

JOHN O'DONOHUE,
"FOR A NEW BEGINNING"

May you begin to awaken to the really good stuff that is inside of you, and may you have the courage to share it, for your own soul's sake and for the sake of the world.

QUESTIONS *for Reflection & Discussion*

1. Have you ever experienced the gift of someone else seeing to *your* shalom? What happened, and how did it affect you?
2. Where do you see brokenness that breaks your heart? Where do you see alienation that makes you work for reconciliation? Where do you see the pieces of jagged glass wedged where nobody else seems to?
3. In what ways are you seeing to the shalom of your brothers and sisters right now? How is that affecting you and those around you?
4. Are you ready to say “*hineni*” to God (your heart is fully present and you’re ready to come out of hiding to see to the shalom of your brothers and sisters)? What is your next step?
5. What is one thing you might need to consider stopping or putting on hold so that you can have space, time, and energy to see to the shalom of someone else?

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WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

*It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out of your door. . . .
You step into the Road, and if you don't keep your feet,
there is no knowing where you might be swept off to.*

BILBO BAGGINS
IN *The Fellowship of the Ring*

QUESTIONS *for Reflection & Discussion*

1. The chapter started with a quote from *The Fellowship of the Ring*, a wise piece of advice that Bilbo gives to Frodo: “It’s a dangerous business, Frodo, going out of your door. . . . You step into the Road, and if you don’t keep your feet, there is no knowing where you might be swept off to.” What part of this quote resonates with your own experience of “going out of your door”? What do you think Bilbo means by “keep[ing] your feet?”
2. Steve wrote about how he dealt with letting go of a long-held dream to be a senior pastor at a particular church. What dreams have you had to let go of, and how has that affected you?
3. Can you think of a time when you felt as if you were called by God to “go to a place that God would show you”? Where did you go, and how did you get there? What did you have to leave in order to go?
4. Going to a place that God will show you requires the ability to hear God’s voice, which can be a very tricky thing. How do you personally try to determine if it’s God’s voice, your own voice, or some combination of the two?
5. Where does it seem as though you are being called to “go” these days? What excites you about that call? What scares you? What do you need in order to “go out of your door”?

–5–

WHAT WILL YOU BRING?

Learn what it means to experience something fully, then drop it and move on to the next moment, uninfluenced by the previous one. You'd be traveling with such little baggage that you could pass through the eye of a needle.

ANTHONY DE MELLO, *Awareness*

WHAT WILL YOU BRING?

QUESTIONS *for Reflection & Discussion*

1. In what areas of your life are you choosing to stay with what you know—such as going to a McDonald's in Moscow—even though you feel prompted to take a new path?
2. Steve wrote about trying to learn how to surf and how he came to realize he was failing at life because he felt the need to succeed at everything right away. How does this resonate with you?
3. What do you think your *etc* is (those extra things you're going to need that other people can't even begin to tell you about because it has to do with what's really essential for *you*; it's specific to what *you'll* need, and only *you* can discover what that is)?
4. What are some things you think you might need to let go of so that you can go on the journey God is calling you toward?
5. In Mark 3:13-15, we read that Jesus called those disciples *he wanted, that they might be with him*. When you think about being called on a journey because Jesus wants you before you *do* anything—that you might be with him—how does that change how you think about the journey?

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THE EXODUS

*You come to God not by being strong, but by being weak;
not by being right, but through your mistakes.*

RICHARD ROHR

QUESTIONS *for Reflection & Discussion*

1. What is your Egypt these days—the narrow place that hinders you, limits you, and restrains you?
2. Moses murdered an Egyptian because the Egyptian was mistreating his “brother.” What are the injustices you see that make you angry? What is your response to your own anger? Do you push it down? Do you lash out? In what ways do you respond with more violence to the violence you see?
3. Have you ever been at the mouth of freedom, where you are full of fear but also full of hope that something finally might change? What happened? How did it change things?
4. What was your reaction to considering that there are ways you might be Egypt—or Pharaoh—in different situations in your life?
5. Are there any ways you are being called to go back to Egypt, your former narrow place, so that you can lead others out? If so, how are you feeling about going back? What are you afraid of? What helps you go back?

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THE WILDERNESS

*I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out
till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.*

JOHN MUIR

QUESTIONS *for Reflection & Discussion*

1. This chapter opens with a raw and surprising story of what it might have been like for Jesus in the wilderness. What feelings rose up in you as you read that?
2. What are the stones in your life that you keep trying to turn into bread?
3. “You can’t experience wholeness without experiencing the wilderness.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
4. Do you think God tests people? If so, why do you think God tests them? If you don’t think God tests people, what is your reasoning?
5. “Christ is the bread,” Augustine wrote, “awaiting hunger.” What are you really hungry for these days? Be as specific and honest as you can. Don’t worry about giving the right answer. Just give the real answer.

THE PROMISED LAND

It was the Unicorn who summed up what everyone was feeling. He stamped his right fore-hoof on the ground and neighed, and then cried: "I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. The reason why we loved the old Narnia is that it sometimes looked a little like this. Bree-hee-bee! Come further up, come further in!"

The Last Battle, THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

QUESTIONS *for Reflection & Discussion*

1. How would you have described the Promised Land before reading this chapter?
2. What people, issues, or problems keep returning to you, and how do you think they relate to your secret—how you want to change the world?
3. What is a situation in your life right now in which you really need to hear God tell you that he is with you and will never fail you? Where do you need to be invited to be strong and courageous?
4. The Promised Land is about seeing that God is face-to-face (*neged*) with you, helping you walk out your unique task. In what ways have you experienced this? Are there situations where you feel as though you haven't?
5. How would you describe the Promised Land now?

NOTES

PREFACE

1. I love this phrase and am indebted to Abarim Publications for it. “Salem meaning,” Abarim Publications, accessed February 17, 2017, http://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/Salem.html#.VvJ_yhIrKfV.
2. Krista Tippett, *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living* (New York: Penguin, 2016), 29–30.

CHAPTER 1: WHERE ARE YOU?

1. The Enneagram is a centuries-old tool—kind of like a personality test but much more than that—which helps you learn your strengths and shadows. There are nine basic types, all of which respond to the world differently. Read more about the Enneagram in *The Enneagram: A Christian Perspective*, by Richard Rohr and Andreas Ebert (New York: Crossroad, 2001).
2. Seth Haines, *Coming Clean: A Story of Faith* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015), 14.
3. If you’re cynical toward the idea of sin, or if the whole idea of it just feels like a jackhammer to you, please read Francis Spufford’s book *Unapologetic: Why, Despite Everything, Christianity Can Still Make Surprising Emotional Sense* (New York: HarperCollins, 2013). I particularly love his definition of sin. He calls it the HPtFU. You’ll have to read the book to see what the acronym means.
4. Richard Rohr, *Yes, and . . . : Daily Meditations* (Cincinnati, OH: Franciscan Media, 2013), 102.

WHOLE

CHAPTER 3: WHAT ARE YOU SEEKING?

1. To hear Kara's sermon, go to "New Beginnings 2016," by Steve Wiens, Jerry Stinar, Kara Groff, Carol Johnsen, and Dan Wanous, January 3, 2016, <http://www.genescov.org/sundays/sermons/media-item/108/new-beginnings-2016>, (8:09).
2. Matt Bays, *Finding God in the Ruins: How God Redeems Pain* (Colorado Springs: David C Cook, 2016).

CHAPTER 4: WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

1. Bruce Feiler, *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* (New York: William Morrow, 2005), 22.
2. *Ibid.*, 24–25.
3. For a little more on *lech lecha*, read Rabbi Jeff's illuminating blog post: "Lech Lecha: 'Get Yourself Going,'" October 9, 2013, <http://www.rebjeff.com/blog/lech-lecha-get-yourself-going>.
4. Thank you for this advice, Eugene Peterson. I had the chance to spend a couple of days with Eugene and Jan in June 2016, and I can tell you that they are spiritual giants on whose shoulders we will sit for many generations to come.

CHAPTER 5: WHAT WILL YOU BRING?

1. Incidentally, "Dubious Claims" would be a killer band name.
2. If you haven't experienced Pete Holmes, you're missing something essential about laughter and joy and being a better human being. Fair warning: If you're offended by foul language, you probably won't enjoy Pete as much as I do.

CHAPTER 6: THE EXODUS

1. Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999), 79.

CHAPTER 7: THE WILDERNESS

1. Richard Rohr, *Yes, and . . . : Daily Meditations* (Cincinnati, OH: Franciscan Media, 2013), 114.
2. For research on the idea of the *archegos*, I'm indebted to a great sermon: Martin G. Collins, "Diligence in the Face of Trials," BibleTools.org, January 14, 2006, <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Library.sr/CT/TRANSCRIPT/k/1660>.
3. I'm indebted to Henri Nouwen's fantastic book *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership* (New York: Crossroad, 1993), 57–60, for this interpretation of the third temptation of Jesus.

NOTES

CHAPTER 8 THE PROMISED LAND

1. Paraphrase of Joshua 1:2-9. This is one of the most stirring examples of God's faithfulness—not just to a person like Joshua but to God's people across the generations.
2. Aren't you glad that *ezer kenegdo*, which means “face-to-face companion who brings strong, powerful, lifesaving help, without which we might die,” is the way the Bible describes women when they first break onto the scene?
3. You can find out more about Des Metzler's work at <http://www.ceramicrestoration.co.za>.

EPILOGUE

1. I never thought I'd say I love a denomination, but I love ours: The Evangelical Covenant Church, <http://www.covchurch.org>.
2. I'm not sure where this invitation originated, but it's readily available online. To access the version we use at Genesis, go to http://www.ststephensrva.org/download_file/view/321/.