

Nurturing and Challenging
February 21, 2016

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

LOOK

Canon Linda observed that St. Timothy's is a community of believers that nurtures and cares for each other. We gather together to support each other in struggles and celebrations.

1. Share a time when you have been nurtured by this or another community.
2. How does this kind of support enable you to face the challenges and stresses of life and ministry outside the community?

BOOK *Luke 13:31-35*

This passage gives us a glimpse of the context and complexity of Jesus' ministry.

1. What are some of the joys and challenges Jesus faces in Jerusalem?
2. The Pharisees may have been trying to shoo Jesus out of Jerusalem. How does his response surprise or inspire you?
3. What does it look like to be unwilling to be gathered under Jesus' wings?
4. How does Jesus conclude his conversation with the Pharisees?

TOOK

Ministry does not happen in a vacuum. It happens in the context of time and place, our friendships, our marriages, our communities, our political system, the social issues of our day, in blessings and in challenges.

1. Name one or two challenges/opportunities for ministry that your particular context offers you.
2. How do you allow Jesus to gather you under his wings and nurture you?

If desired end by reading/praying Psalm 118