

## Reflection time one: Hiding from God (our futile efforts at sin management)

In what areas of your life may you be hiding from God, not allowing Him to be a part of your life to guide, strengthen, redeem, and restore?

Read Psalms 139:1-12.

You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.

<sup>2</sup>You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

<sup>3</sup>You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.

<sup>5</sup>You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup>If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

<sup>9</sup>If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

<sup>10</sup>even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

<sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

<sup>12</sup>even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

What strikes you in this passage as to God's vast knowledge of you?

Pray, asking God to reveal to you any sins or areas of your life you have been hiding from Him.

Are there sins that you have not acknowledged, or perhaps have acknowledged but not fully repented of (i.e.; you have deflected blame, minimized or have not fully measured the impact of your actions on God and others).

## Reflection time two (remaining in Jesus)

Read John 15:1-13

<sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes<sup>al</sup> so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup>“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command.

As you read this passage, what is Jesus calling you to do?

What are some spiritual disciplines/practices that you need to continue or start in the new year to be more fully connected to Jesus, the Living Word?