

WEEK 4 | ANCESTRAL REALM

SCRIPTURE FOCUS | John 12: 1-8

BOOK CHAPTER FOCUS | Chapters 11 - 15

SERMON CONNECTION

The story of Mary Magdalene is impossible to fully know, without knowing some of the tradition that surrounds her. Consider just this story. Why do you think Mary does what she does? How do you think she reacted to the comment that arose after she anointed Jesus? In what ways does this scene connect, or not connect, with other stories you've heard about Mary M.?

FOR REFLECTION/CONVERSATION

What do you know about your own family history, and how do you know it? What are some wonderings you have?

This realm involves a bit of zooming out. These questions are meant to help you do that. What questions do you have for your own ancestors (let yourself wonder here, from the silly to the serious)? What is one thing (theme, attribute, quality) you'd like to thank your ancestors for? At the end of your life, what do you want to be most remembered for? What is one thing (theme, attribute, quality) you'd like to leave the next generation? What is one thing you'd like to not share with the next generations?

Use your reflection above, and form a prayer. Offer a prayer of gratitude for those who came before. Offer a prayer of hope for those who will follow after you. And finally, lift up your own heart here and now. How can you invite God into the healing and the hope? Prayer also involves listening. How is God already there with you?