Hi everyone,

This new year already feels old! So much has happened already. Looking back, these days of being the primary parent because Melanie was recovering from having her appendix removed flew by! In addition, from Jan, 10th to Jan. 12th I participated in the introductory module of a 2-year long part time program called The Studion. This is a wonderful opportunity for me to grow in my spiritual life and learn ways to help others do the same. Just in case you want to find out more about The Studion, here is the link to their website: <https://www.thestudionschool.com/body>

I am excited about this so if you have any questions I am very happy to talk about it more .

Today we pick up the story from the book of Acts where we left off just before Advent. But before looking at this story from Acts and the slides, here is a reflection from Henri Nouwen followed by an invitation.

Henri Nouwen writes,
“For most of my life I have struggled to find God, to know God, to love God. I have tried hard to follow the guidelines of the spiritual life—pray always, work for others, read the Scriptures—and to avoid the many temptations to dissipate myself. I have failed many times but always tried again, even when I was close to despair.
Now I wonder whether I have sufficiently realized that during all this time God has been trying to find me, to know me, and to love me. The question is not “How am I to find God?” but “How am I to let myself be found by him?” The question is not “How am I to know God?” but “How am I to let myself be known by God?” And, finally, the question is not “How am I to love God?” but “How am I to let myself be loved by God?” God is looking into the distance for me, trying to find me, and longing to bring me home.”

I was wondering if some of you might be interested in exploring how we can let ourselves be found by God. If you want to grow in your capacity to let yourself be loved by God, please let me know. We will meet using Zoom. Our time together as a small group will be all about growing closer to God. Growth implies change thus requiring an openness and willingness on your behalf to give of yourself. The goal will be to cultivate practices, values, and desires that help us grow closer to God, self, and others.

Here is the link to the slides for today: [Sunday Jan. 17th, 2021](https://1drv.ms/p/s%21AhIsmK7XfsGDk2CjO0y_fRHg3v96)

Please let me know if the link does not work for you and I will send them to you in a different format.

As always, I am more than happy to talk if you have any question, comments, or concerns.

Andreas