



## Lenten Reflection 2019

It doesn't seem possible that we're already two months into a new year. The winter has not been long, but I think the extreme cold we've experienced, and the snow have made it seem so. As each new year begins, I reflect on the many special gifts that fill my life. I always begin by giving thanks for this community of BSM...giving thanks for each of you and for all that you bring to help make BSM the amazing, Spirit-filled community that it is. I have been so blessed to be a member of this family that is BSM.

I have also been blessed by so many friends who have welcomed me into their lives and into their families. For several years, I babysat for the little girl of some close friends. From those days, I became an expert on everything Disney, to the point where I've had kids at school say that my life is like a Disney movie. I consider that a compliment.

When she was very small, we had returned to my house after a trip to the toy aisles at Target – I really needed to pick up a few things! We were sitting in my family room watching "Chicken Little" when she said, "Do you know what my favorite thing in the whole world is?" She had a smile that extended from one side of her face to the other. I said, "No. I don't know. What is your favorite thing in the whole world?" She proceeded, "My favorite thing in the whole world is when my daddy leans down!" I must have had a puzzled look on my face, because she continued, "You know. When he leans down. You'll see." And we continued the adventures of Chicken Little.

Later that afternoon, her dad came by to pick her up. When she heard the door, she ran upstairs, and I quickly followed. There, I saw her dad lean down and open his arms wide to the little girl who quickly ran to be embraced by the father who loved her so much.

That image has stayed with me. In fact, as I have gotten older, the more I see myself as that child, running into the arms of the one who loves me so much. There are so many times in all our lives when God leans down, arms open wide, to embrace us when we are tired or unsure or hurt or lonely or just in need of reassurance. That image is especially powerful as we approach the Lenten Season. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (John 3:16). For our God has "leaned down" throughout salvation history, most fully in the sending of his Son. God continues to lean down, gently calling to each of us, may our hearts be open to be embraced by the one who loves us so much! I pray that this Lenten Season, and all the seasons of your journey, may be times of growth and of the realization that you are never alone. Always know that you are in my thoughts and in my prayers; remembered and loved and cared for. "For God so loved..."

Love and Prayers,  
Mike Jeremiah  
Campus Minister