**01 SACRED EARTH SACRED SOUL DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Opening Reflection: Blessings**

Blessings on the day born of night. Blessings on Earth wedded to heaven. Blessings on Creatures adored by angels. Blessings on our Bodies, alive with spirit. Blessings on our Minds, filled with dreams. Blessings on our Hearts, opened by love. Blessings, Blessings!

(Adapted from Prayer by John Philip Newell in album Chanting for Peace)

**Chapter 1 Sacred Soul: Pelagius**

1. Is there anything from this chapter that struck a chord in you? Like an “aha!” or a “what?!” moment.
2. Pelagius had a five-fold focus in his teachings: sacredness of the human soul, sacredness of nature, sacredness of spiritual practice, sacredness of wisdom and sacredness of compassion (p. 35). Which of these resonates most strongly with you? Which focus provides new insights for you in your spiritual journey?
3. “Pelagius is an icon for us today of reawakening to the sacredness of every human being” (p.42). Pelagius went to Rome about 380 CE and got into “good trouble” (John Lewis) with imperial Christianity which was strengthening patriarchy in the Christian churches. How was Pelagius the bearer of good news? What can we learn from his life story about being the bearer of good news, even where the situation is difficult or there is personal risk?
4. What might be hard to reconcile with our “embedded theology”? In other words, what themes or truths from the Celtic Tradition or Pelagius’s teachings do we find ourselves resisting?

**Closing Prayer:**

May the angels of light glisten for us this day. May the sparks of God’s beauty dance in the eyes of those we love. May the universe be on fire with presence for us this day. May the new sun’s rising grace us with gratitude. Let earth’s greenness shine and its waters breathe with Spirit. Let heaven’s winds stir the soil of our soul and fresh awakenings arise within us. May the mighty angels of light glisten in all things this day. May they summon us to reverence. May they call us to life.

(Adapted from Prayer by John Philip Newell in album Chanting for Peace)