**05 SACRED EARTH SACRED SOUL DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Opening Reflection: Blessings**

God to enfold me, God in my life,

God to surround me, God in my lips,

God in my speaking, God in my soul,

God in my thinking. God in my heart.

God in my sleeping, God in my sufficing,

God in my waking, God in my slumber,

God in my watching, God in mine ever-living soul,

God in my hoping. God in mine eternity.

(Ancient Celtic prayer found in Alexander Carmichael’s Collection *Carmina Gadelica*)

**Chapter 5 Sacred Imagination: Alexander John Scott**

1. Alexander John Scott said of the imagination that it was not concerned with doctrine, but rather belonged “to some deeper part of the human being” (p. 130). Do you experience any resistance to this idea about imagination?
2. Scott used the image of a golden thread that holds a royal garment together to describe the relationship between the divine and the human: “If somehow taken out of us, we would cease to exist” (p. 124). The golden thread is a theme expanded on in George MacDonalds famous tale, *The Princess and the Goblin*. Reread the sections about golden threads.
   1. What thoughts or emotions come up as you hear the story?
   2. Does the story awaken anything in you?
   3. What other imaginal stories have awoken a deeper truth for you?
3. Scott developed a threefold of vision of higher education that would enable people to acquire a greater consciousness of soul, strength of soul, and beauty of soul.
   1. What do the three elements mean to you?
   2. What role does imagination have in this type of higher education?
4. Where do you need to awaken to sacred imagination in your life/relationships today?

**Closing Prayer:**

Deep peace of the running wave to you,

Deep peace of the flowing air to you,

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,

Deep peace of the shining stars to you,

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you

(Ancient Gaelic blessing)