

Reflection Guide

The Way of Love with Bishop Michael Curry: Go

Doing our best to live like Jesus

How to Use This Guide

For personal devotion

Listen to the podcast episode one or two times. Next, set aside 20 minutes of quiet time to reflect on the following Scripture and questions. Consider writing your responses to the prompts in a journal. Close your time in prayer.

As a group

Before you meet, ask members to listen to this episode. Open your meeting by sharing the Scripture. Next, you may either listen to the episode again as a group or move on to the Questions for Reflection. As a group, discuss your thoughts about and answers to the questions. Finally, close your time together with the prayer.

Scripture

Take a moment to read this passage (aloud if possible). What words or phrases jump out to you?

Matthew 28:1-8

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”

⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Questions for Reflection

Use these questions for personal reflection, group discussion, or both.

1. During his conversation with co-host Kyle Oliver, Bishop Curry tells two stories about women who were moved to “go” – crossing the boundaries of what might be expected of them and providing for a need that they saw. The choices

and sacrifices they made changed not only the children they helped feed and celebrate but also their communities and their churches. When have you seen someone “go” in this manner? Whom or what did it change? What attributes of God did you see in this person’s actions?

2. When trying to discern how to “go,” Bishop Curry recommends that we ask ourselves, “What is the greatest approximation of love in this context, and how can I do that?” Think about a challenging situation in your neighborhood, workplace, or community. What would radical love look like in that situation? Is there a way that you can begin to approximate that love through one small action?

3. Part of being a baptized disciple is following Jesus across boundaries – going into places where we may encounter discomfort or awkwardness in order to find liberation for ourselves and others. But we must be formed in order to be ready to go. Bishop Curry speaks about the forming nature of reading and studying Scripture, saying that when you “live in Scripture enough, you begin to engage the world out of biblical way of thinking or being, which brings you closer to living the habit of grace.” In other words, “going” becomes a “gut response to grace” instead of a guilt-based or mechanical obligation to be a good person. How are you being formed to “go”? Think of things that you do out of love instead of obligation. What feels different? Why are they different? This week, meditate on one step you could take to grow in your relationship with God that would help you keep “living the habit of grace” out in the world.

Prayer

Collect

Just as Jesus went to the highways and byways, he sends us beyond our circles and comfort, to witness to his love, justice, and truth with our lips and with our lives. Lord, help us as we go to listen with humility, and to bring your healing to a hurting world. Be present to us dear Lord, as we work to live into our identity as the Beloved Community, a people reconciled in love with you and one another. Amen.