

Reflection Guide

The Way of Love with Bishop Michael Curry: Turn

Learning to live unselfishly

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?**

Mark 2:13-14

¹³Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. ¹⁴As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

Questions for Reflection

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

1. This episode begins with a conversation between Canon Stephanie Spellers and Bishop Curry about what it truly means to turn, or to repent. Bishop Curry gives this definition: "to repent is actually to turn toward God, away from the direction I was going before." He then goes on to share a wonderful image of a flower that turns its face toward the light – gaining energy and life from that light, just as we gain our life from the light of Jesus. How does this metaphor change or inform your practice of repentance?

2. Sin is often a "dirty word" in many circles – including some churches. Ideas of what sin is and what it means to be a sinful person have been used to abuse or control people for centuries. But instead of ignoring the presence of sin, Bishop Curry is asking us to embrace what it truly is – anything of our own making that separates us, or places a barrier between us and God, us and creation, us and our neighbor, us and ourselves – and then to turn away from those acts or attitudes of "unbridled selfishness and self-centeredness" that cause us to choose our own agendas over the loving, liberating, and life-giving way of Jesus. With this understanding of sin, where do you see separation in your own life? Where do you feel God calling you back to the light?

3. Hosts Sandy and Kyle both share stories about their own moments of turning. Kyle's moment prompted him to seek a new, life-giving, and sustainable way of living his daily life. Sandy's moment led her to a liberating love for her racial identity. Both Sandy and Kyle made outward and visible changes in response to these inward spiritual turnings. When has a moment of turning – large or small – led to an outward and visible life change for you? What about that experience are you grateful for? What did you learn about God's love in that process?

Prayer

Collect

Like the disciples, we are called by Jesus to follow the Way of Love. Help us, O God, to remember that with your help, we can turn from the powers of sin, hatred, fear, injustice, and oppression toward the way of truth, love, hope, justice, and freedom. And that in turning, we reorient our lives to Jesus Christ, falling in love again, again, and again. Amen.