

Traveling the Way of Love: Special Episode Go

Reflection Guide

Scripture

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Questions for Reflection

1. In this episode, host Chris Sikkema visits the Tsedaqah community at Liverpool Cathedral in England. Tsedaqah is Hebrew for “righteousness” or “doing justice,” which is the foundational practice of the community. The group invites members from three places directly associated with the transatlantic slave trade – sometimes called the Triangle of Despair – to live together and intentionally practice what we call “Go”: crossing boundaries, listening deeply, and trying to live like Jesus. Through this, they work toward God’s vision for us: lasting and true reconciliation. Nelson Pike, a member of The Episcopal Church’s Young Adult Service Corps who is currently living at Tsedaqah, says that this work is not without its challenges. He explains, “It’s not supposed to be easy. Jesus never told us it would be easy. And while it’s not easy, it is good. And I am exhausted in the best way at the end of the day.” When have you experienced the work of Going – work rooted in righteousness and justice – that wasn’t easy but was very good? What were the challenges? Where and how did God’s goodness show up?
2. The Latin word for eyelashes is *cilia*, the root of the word “reconciliation,” reminding Nelson that, in order for healing to happen, we must look be able to look each other squarely in the eyes and recognize that we are all part of the same human family. For the Rev. Nana Akwasi Kessie of the Diocese of Kumasi in Ghana, reconciliation and the practice of Going look like “coming together to share our history as to what happened and tell our story, forgive each other, and then see a positive way forward.” Take a moment and reflect: With whom might God be calling you to practice Going? With whom do you need to share stories, forgive, and work on a positive way forward?
3. The term “missionary” is one that can bring up a wide range of understandings or emotions. In this episode, the Rev. Canon Malcolm Rogers, who coordinates the Tsedaqah community in Liverpool, says this about what it means to be a missionary: “It doesn’t necessarily involve traveling a distance. . . . It’s about seeing things in a different kind of way, stepping into God’s imagination for what the world could be.” How does this definition challenge or encourage your idea of what it means to be a missionary? How can you practice stepping into God’s imagination of what the world could be?

Prayer

Book of Common Prayer, p. 815

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.