

Reflection Guide

The Way of Love with Bishop Michael Curry: Season 2, Episode 4

Turning to Hope for the World and in Our Lives

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 and reflect on the Scripture. What word or phrase stands out to you? What might the Holy Spirit be saying to you through this passage?

Matthew 18:1-5

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”² He called a child, whom he put among them,³ and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.⁴ Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.⁵ Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

Questions for Reflection

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

1. Presiding Bishop Curry begins this episode by sharing three stories of how young people are leading the charge when it comes to social and environmental change, comparing the truth-telling of the youth to the boy in the fairytale, “The Emperor’s New Clothes.” These young people are not afraid to use their voices to try and turn around the harmful beliefs and practices in their communities and the world. As you reflect on these stories, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal a practice or belief that could use some “turning around” in your life or your community. What action can you take?

2. Guests Ruth Anderson and Greg Farrand from the Second Breath Center share how their organization came into being when a group of friends and church members began to ask, “How does God want to transform our community?” Spend a few moments with this question. Do not suggest any answers. Instead, sit in silence and listen for what God is saying, look for what God is doing. Jot down the first few words or images that pop into your mind and heart. Where might the Holy Spirit be leading?
3. Farrand shares how his faith truly took a life-changing turn after he began to practice spiritual disciplines, such as silence and stillness. These practices, which he has folded into his daily life, have helped him to experience the love of God in a new and intimate way. Anderson suggests that anyone can begin these practices first by noticing how little silence there is around oneself, and then by carving out a small practice of silence (such as driving in a car with no radio on) or stillness (for example, taking five minutes to sit still and stare at the clouds). What is your reaction to these ideas? How could you practice stillness or silence?

Prayer

Collect written by The Episcopal Church’s Season of Creation Liturgical Committee

God, maker of marvels, you weave the planet and all its creatures together in kinship: Your unifying love is revealed in the interdependence of relationships in the complex world that you have made. Save us from the illusion that humankind is separate and alone, and join us in communion with all inhabitants of the universe, through Jesus Christ, our Liberator, who topples the dividing walls, and by the power of your Holy Spirit; who live and reign with you for ever and ever. Amen.