

Reflection Guide

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

Mutual Blessing Through Presence & Relationships

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?

Mark 10:46-52

⁴⁶ They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹ Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." ⁵⁰ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." ⁵² Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Questions for Reflection

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

1. Presiding Bishop Curry begins this week's episode with this phrase: "Love, not as a sentimental feeling, but a spiritual discipline way of living, a way of life." When speaking of love in the Gospels, Jesus primarily talks about

selfless love – a sacrificial love and a giving love, a love that breaks down barriers and divisions. Bishop Curry goes on to say, then, "If this is how we love, then there is no us and them, there is only us." When have you experienced a love that broke down barriers, removing the "us" and "them" labels? Where in your daily life do you see divisions that could use this sort of love?

2. After his sermon at the royal wedding, the question Bishop Curry receives most is, How can people access the power of love, when "the gravity of reality crushes that out of us"? How do you most often access the love of God? Share a story of a moment when the gravity of reality threatened to crush your hope or faith, and the love of Jesus saved you.

3. Guest Greg Russinger of Laundry Love, a human care initiative, shared about this ministry: "Laundry Love is not a service project; it is an expression of living with people, which leads to a culture of mutuality and listening. Often, how we bear witness to love in the world then becomes the very witness to love itself." Greg then went on to share how, when forming new relationships with people on the margins, "listening is how we enter, and then listening becomes how we stay, and then that is how we begin to understand what is Good News to people." This helps move people from strangers to acquaintances to friends. Laundry Love is one ministry that is part of a larger shift in the Church, where instead of doing things for people, we make an effort to do things with people. How does this way of thinking challenge or inspire how you think of blessing and serving others? How could you or your church intentionally integrate doing with into your approach to sharing the Way of Love beyond your walls?

Prayer

Book of Common Prayer, p. 260

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.