

## Session 3: Chapter 5

### **Gather** *Create and protect connections*

If needed, reconnect to your group by introducing yourself with your name and your connection to the congregation. Then go around and share one word that reflects how you are feeling coming to small group.

Then, have someone read out loud the guidelines for gathering found in the *About this Guide* document and any additional guidelines added for your group. Make sure you all understand what time to wrap up your conversation to best honor each other's time.

### **Center** *Ground yourselves in common purpose*

Have one person read: *An invitation to a Brave Space* by Micky Scottbey Jones

Together we will create brave space  
Because there is no such thing as a  
"safe space"

We exist in the real world

We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds.

In this space

We seek to turn down the volume of the outside world.

We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere,

We call each other to more truth and love

We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow.

We have the responsibility to examine what we think we know.

We will not be perfect.

It will not always be what we wish it to be

But It will be our brave space together,

And

We will work on it side by side.

**Discuss**

*Pick a few questions below to respond to as a group*

1. How would you characterize the national repentance processes in South Africa and Germany? In the United States (and specifically in the example Rabbi Ruttenberg gives in Minnesota?) What are some obstacles to national repentance? What makes it possible?
2. Reflect together on what Ruttenberg says on page 132: that “we are held accountable for all that we have not actively worked to undo” Is this statement challenging for you to hear? Are you able to name instance in our community/state/nation where this statement is particularly true?
3. There has been a resurgence of rhetoric and activity to reassert the United States as a “Christian nation” heavily inserting conservative Christian values into the political sphere. What do you make of this tension in our politics and culture, as both a person of faith and a citizen? If Jesus were here to call all Christians to repentance on a national level, what might he specifically ask us to repent, and why?
4. Is there a difference between in the roles/work of national repentance for majority groups in power verses those within minoritized and/or oppressed groups?
5. How does our regular liturgical act of confession and forgiveness speak to the need for truth-telling in national/communal repentance? Is there disconnect?
6. What parts of this chapter were most challenging or thought-provoking for you?

**Close**

*End your discussion with prayer*

Close your time together with the prayer below, adding any prayer concerns from your group. Before you depart, confirm your next gathering date, time, and space.

*Loving God, We seek to walk the pathway of your love and compassion. Strengthen us in this work. Where we feel anxiety, grant us peace. Where we encounter fear, grant us courage. Where we face unknowns, grant us hope. May Christ guide us, the Spirit sustain us, and this community uphold us. Amen.*

