

Becoming Wise

summer patio series 2024 | session 2

Connect with the members of your group. Share one word that captures how you are feeling coming to small group

Open your discussion with an invitation to a brave space. Have one person recite the poem below:

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.

by Micky Scottbey Jones

Discuss the following questions (or simply dwell in one or two that feel right for your group)

Early in chapter three, Tippet reflects on the power of rituals and traditions. **What are the most meaningful rituals or traditions of your faith? Are there any that feel insignificant, or have shifted in meaning for you?**

Referencing the work of Brother Lawrence, Tippet writes about the reverence of daily life, “moving through the most ordinary physical tasks of every day, washing every dish, as a holy act.” (pg. 19) **Are there any ordinary acts of your life that have become like**

rituals? (Not just for the way the habit has developed, but for how the act has deepened your spiritual experience?)

This chapter places emphasis on mindfulness and meditation. **Share your experiences with mindfulness practices or meditation. Are you drawn to them or repelled by them? If you've tried them, are they helpful to you?**

On pages 62–63, Tippetts writes about convenience. “In a prosperous postwar America, a newly minted virtue “convenience” overrode the wisdom of the body... convenience is an illusion, merely shifting the burden of process and consequences.” **What conveniences of your life could be overriding the wisdom of your body? What conveniences could be doing more harm than good?**

Pages 64–65 holds the story of a childhood food memory of Chef Dan Barber. **Share a vivid memory you have of a child of food. What made it so memorable? Did that of food experience impact your choices, interests, relationships?**

Compassion for the body and gaining wisdom from the body is a dominate theme in this chapter, touching on disability, aging, and beauty. **What has your relationship with your body been like in this season of life? Did any of Tippetts's writings or interview notes around bodies resonate with you? Why?**

You need to know: *Since the publication of this book, allegations have arose that Jean Vanier, an individual Tippetts names in this chapter as one of the wisest people she's encountered, engaged in sexual and spiritual abuse. A two year investigation after his death proves these allegations to be true. You can read more about this from the L'arche organization at <https://www.larche.org/about-larche/news/study-commission-2023/>*

Close your conversations with the following prompt:

If John O'Donohue's definition is correct, that “beauty is that in the presence of which we feel more alive” ... what is beautiful to you? What makes you feel more alive?

Pray for your group

Bless our gatherings this summer, O Lord: May the space we create together be a place of celebration, conversation, and caring. May it be a space of bearing burdens and multiplying joys. May it be a place of challenge, counsel, comfort, and consideration, where our wisdom is deepened. May we savor this season as we live it together in the warmth of your love. Amen.

Pick your next meeting location and time

Sunday Group	Wednesday Group	Thursday Group
June 9 (chapters 1 & 2) June 23 (chapter 3)	June 12 (chapters 1 & 2) June 26 (chapter 3)	June 13 (chapters 1 & 2) June 27 (chapter 3)
July 14 (chapter 4) July 28 (chapter 5)	July 10 (chapter 4) July 24 (chapter 5)	July 11 (chapter 4) July 25 (chapter 5)
August 11 (chapter 6)	August 14 (chapter 6)	August 8 (chapter 6)

discussion guides are available at www.stmichaelselca.com/patioseries