

# Becoming Wise

summer patio series 2024 | session 3

## Chapter 4

**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)

This chapter focuses on the meaning of love. Tippett shares about her early understanding of love was shaped by what she saw between her parents. **What relationships did you witness growing up and how did that impact your understanding of love or partnership?**

Tippett discusses “healing stories” which we tell ourselves to survive... but are not always always helpful or objectively true. (pg. 106–108) **Looking back on your life (your work,**

**your relationships, etc.) what stories have you clung to in order to survive seasons or situations? What stories have you needed to reframe or release?**

In Tippett's interview with John Lewis, he reflected on the power of "living as if" (pg. 111-113) **How did his words impact you as we head into another election season? What**

Do you think the encouragement we often give our children of "you can be anything you want to be" works against the values of belonging and connection as John A. Powell suggests? (pg. 120) **What might be some alternatives to offer younger generations as they face the challenges of this quickly changing world? What alternatives might we embrace as we seek to be more connected to our neighbors?**

On page 121, Tippett asks: "How can we make belonging infectious?" **Recall your experiences of belonging (or feelings of not belonging) in our faith community. How might we make "belonging infectious" as we expand and deepen our congregation?**

Tippett writes that "There are windows in public life, every now and again, when we wake up to the reality of our bond to each other" (pg. 123) **What events have been windows for you, where you experienced a community or our nation waking up to a shared bond and witnessed people acting accordingly?**

Sister Simone Campbell shared that "The guilt - or the curse- of the progressive, the liberal, the whatever, is that we think we have to do it all. And then we get overwhelmed...I can't do everything. And so I don't do anything. But that's the mistake. Community is about just doing my part." (pg. 128-129.) **What is your part? What small act of compassion can you commit to? Remember that "Joy is the heart of this journey." (pg. 130) What life-giving acts bring you joy?**

**Close** your conversations with a story-telling prompt:

"What is love? Answer the question through a story about the last time you saw it." (pg. 137)

**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)

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