

Becoming Wise

summer patio series 2024 | session 4

Chapter 5

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)

Tippett begins her chapter on faith by sharing the impact church music had on her spiritual life. **What music of the church is most meaningful to you? Do any music memories stand out to you as particularly impactful?**

“Faith is evolutionary, in every culture, and in any life.” (pg. 162) **How has your faith evolved over the course of your life? Where there seasons or cycles to your faith**

journey?

In one of her conversations with Shane Claiborne, he shared the start of The Simple Way community. He writes, “But we decided that we were going to stop complaining about the church that we’d experienced and try to become the church we dreamed of.” (pg. 177)

Describe the church you dream of. What are the barriers to its arrival? How can you become the church you dream of?

What is your reaction to Shane’s words on pgs. 178-179: *“And I’m convinced that if the Christian church loses this generation, it will be not because we didn’t entertain them, but because we didn’t dare them with the truth of the world. It won’t be because we’d made the Gospel too hard, but because we made it too easy, and we just played games with kids and didn’t actually challenge them to think about how they live.”*

Respond to Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks as he discusses the importance of particularity while honoring the “dignity of difference” on page 189 “Unity creates diversity. So don’t think of one God, one truth, one way. Think of one God creating this extraordinary number of ways...Don’t think that God is as simple as you are.”

“to be true to your faith is a blessing to other regardless of their faith.” (pg. 190) **What do you think “be true to your faith” means as a Christian in a pluralistic society? What does “be true to your faith” mean to you?**

Pico Iyer writes about his powerful experiences of retreating away and finding stillness. “The point of gathering stillness is not to enrich the sanctuary or the mountaintop, but to bring that calm into the motion, the commotion, of the world.” (pg. 199) **How have you been able to find or create stillness in your life? Have you had powerful experiences of retreating/pilgrimage that echo Iyer’s experiences?**

The relationship between faith and science was a dominate theme in this chapter. **How has this chapter informed your own thoughts or experiences around the intersection or relationship between religion and science?**

Brother Guy quotes Anne Lamott “The opposite of faith is not doubt. The opposite of faith is certainty”. (pg. 210) **What role has doubt played in your faith life?**

Close your conversations with a story-telling prompt:

“Kindness is like water, religion is like tea... You can survive without tea, but you cannot survive without water.” (pg. 200) Complete the sentence:

_____ is like water, _____ is like tea. You can survive without tea, but you cannot survive without water.”

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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