

Becoming Wise

summer patio series 2024 | session 5

Chapter 6

Connect with the members of your group. Share one word that captures your experience of the summer patio series has been for you this summer.

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 writes on page 247: “...failure has always been a part of every human story of success. I’d extend that in more meaningful and less triumphant terms: failure and vulnerability are the very elements of spiritual growth and personal wisdom.” **What failures in your life have contributed most to your growth, wisdom, or sense of self?**

“Our charge is not to ‘save the world’ after all...it is to live in it, flawed and fierce, loving and humble.” (pg. 162) **How can we balance this truth with the urgent need to change**

the world for the better, or our calls to be apart of movements that bring justice and peace? Is one message more important than the other?

“hope becomes a calling for those of us who can hold it, for the sake of the world. Hope is... distinct from optimism or idealism...hope...is a choice that becomes practice that becomes spiritual muscle memory. (pg. 236) **If hope is a practice, how do you practice hope? What does “practicing hope” mean in our current context?**

“Just as our individual behaviors change our bodies, so our collective behaviors have remolded the planet.” (pg. 238) **Share an experience of making a mindful change in your life, and what it produced.**

Brene Brown shares: “hope is a function of struggle...not an emotion. Hope is a cognitive, behavioral process that we learn when we experience adversity.” (pg. 250) **What struggles dominate your life right now? Does the concept of ‘hope as a cognitive process’ inform how you see yourself through this struggle? Are there limits to this definition of hope as a cognitive choice?**

What did you underline in this chapter?

Looking back on the book, what resonated most with you? What self-reflection or collective wisdom do you hope to carry with you?

Pray for your group

We thank you for our gatherings this summer, O Lord, and for each individual that made us who we were: (name each person in your group. The space we created together was a place of celebration, conversation, and caring. It was a space of bearing burdens and multiplying joys. It was a place of challenge, counsel, comfort, and consideration, where our wisdom was deepened. As these relationships change with this group ending, we ask for our memories of this group to continually bless us. Amen.