

# THE DEFIANT MIDDLE

summer patio series 2023 | chapters 5 & 6

**Connect** with the members of your group

First, **go around and share a word that describes how you are feeling coming to small group tonight and why.**

**Discuss** the following questions (or pick the ones that resonate most!)

On page 95 the author describes the default image of God in the Middle Ages. **What images or metaphors for God are important to you? Have they changed or evolved over time? How?**

In the chapter Butch/Femme/Other, the author touches on the complexity and religious history of gender identity, a topic that is currently heated in the media and our nation's politics. **What is your experience with gender non-conformity? Where have you experienced or witnessed TERF ideology (defined on pg. 113)**

Chapter six is titled "Angry" **Are you able to access your anger easily? What messages about anger did you receive growing up? What makes you feel angry?**

On page 125-126 the author names stereotypes which are often intersect with race, class, and gender. **Share an experience of being targeted or grouped into a specific stereotype, or discuss the ways that you notice yourself furthering stereotypes.**

What did you underline or highlight? **What passage in this section stood out to you and why?**

**Close** your conversations with the following prompt:

"A holy anger I carry is \_\_\_\_\_"

**Pray** for your group

*God of life; the world is quick to tell us who we should be, how we should act, and in what ways we are valued. Remind us this summer through in this gift of this community, that we are*

*first and foremost created good. Grant us courage to break free from the expectations that bind us, that we might know you, ourselves, and one another fully and wholly. Amen.*

**Pick** your next meeting location and time: \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday Group	Wednesday Group	Thursday Group
June 11 Chapters 1 &2 June 25 Chapters 3 & 4	June 14 Chapters 1 &2 June 28 Chapters 3 & 4	June 15 Chapters 1 &2 June 29 Chapters 3 & 4
July 9 Chapters 5 & 6 July 23 Chapter 7	July 12 Chapters 5 & 6 July 26 Chapter 7	July 13 Chapters 5 & 6 July 27 Chapter 7
August 13 Postlude	August 9 Postlude	August 10 Postlude

discussion guides are available at [www.stmichaelselca.com/patioseries](http://www.stmichaelselca.com/patioseries)