

# THE DEFIANT MIDDLE

summer patio series 2023 |chapter 7

**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!)

Chapter 7 deals with solitude (not to be confused with loneliness.) **Are you comfortable with being alone? Have you ever taken a solo trip or made a restaurant reservation for just yourself? If you could plan a day of solitude for yourself, what would it include? What barriers do you have for giving yourself a day (or more) of solitude?**

On page 143 the author writes, "creative work requires solitude." **Is this true for you? When are you most creative? What do you create?**

Many Christians mystics seek solitude in creation – in the mountains, caves, etc. **Where do you go to feel connected to feel a "deep vital to the world around [you]" (pg.146)**

How would you fare on a silent retreat?

Share your reflections and reactions to the following sentence found on pg. 156: **"When you were young, people made you. As you got older, you made yourself, even if that self being built was broken by the expectations of others again and again. Now, maybe it's time to put those pieces back together."**

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

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

"The person I am becoming is \_\_\_\_\_"

**Pray** for your group

*This chapter explained the life and work of Julian of Norwich. She wrote one of the hymns in our hymnal, ELW 735. Read the words together as a closing prayer:*

*Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.*

*Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun*

*Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,*

*Grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.*

*Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close,*

*So that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know.*

**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

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