

# **“Love is the Way”**

## **Session 2**

### **Chapter Summaries:**

#### **Chapter 3 – Making do and making new**

Bishop Curry tells how his grandma and ancestors “made do” with what they had, whether it be in the kitchen or in their faith. They took a little and made a lot, he says, “that’s a miracle. That’s taking something old and making something new.” Bishop Curry gives us the recipe for making do, the ingredients are tradition, imagination, and God.

#### **Chapter 4 – What Desmond Tutu and Dolly Parton have in common**

Bishop Curry talks about people who dared to dream another reality and the power of dreams, especially in the darkest of times. He reminds us, “in the dark of midnight, many lost sight of love’s vision.” This is where faith matters, love is greater, and we are called to dream. Can it work? he asks and has been asked, yes, if we have courage, faith, and love.

#### **Story 1, page 51**

“For me, the answer begins in my grandmother’s kitchen. I sat so many times at the Formica table, watching my grandma work, talking to her, listening to her, eating. In the eye of my mind and heart I can see her there now. Her favorite apron like a uniform that had been worn in many a battle, slipping off one shoulder. Gray hair pulled unto a neat bun. She’s rinsing the greens, dumping the grit. Chopping and chopping. She’s snapping the peas and, near new Year’s, rinsing the chitterlings. (If the truth to be told, at least in those days, if someone was cleaning chitterlings, you didn’t hang around too long). While she worked, whatever she was cooking or baking or preparing, she told us stories.”

*Questions:*

1. When you hear this story, who comes to mind in your life as a person who hanging out with you set the foundation upon which you have built your spiritual life?
2. Bishop Curry shares that to make do is to take little and make a lot, kind of like “if life gives you lemons, just do lemonade.” How much of your time and energy over the past four years (and especially since Covid-19 started) have you spent in “making do.” How do you feel about it, tired, overwhelmed, frustrated?
3. Bishop Curry says that when God is factored into the reality of life and living, through prayer, something changes for the good. How do your prayer practices bring God into the reality of your live and living? Is there anything that you would change, add or replace in your prayer life?

**Story 2, page 90-91**

“That’s the million-dollar question: how do we keep our hearts and our actions loving, and our dreams vivid, as midnight approaches? We do it the same way our heroes did. People like Martin Luther King, Desmond Tutu, and Gandhi seem to be superhuman, born into their greatness. But Martin was mortal, fallible, and sinful, too. Gandhi was mortal, fallible and sinful. Desmond is mortal, fallible and sinful. What the word sin means is “selfishness.” So, while we are all capable of love, we are equally capable of sin.

Given that these leaders were as human as the rest of us, maybe they weren’t born differently, but lived differently. They worked harder, longer at their commitment to love. Courage, faith, love – these all must be cultivated! For love to survive when dreams are deferred, it must be practiced day in, day out. And in the end, living the way of love requires what King called “cosmic companionship.” When it’s dark on earth, God is the one who whispers, ‘Say, let me tell you about this dream...’”

*Questions:*

1. Bishop Curry says, "Dreams are love's visions." We are called to dream another reality, the dream of God. How much dreaming did you do over the past four years living here in the United States? How much dreaming have you been doing during the Covid-19 pandemic?
2. Late Senator Robert F. Kennedy said " Some see things as they are and ask, why. I dream things that never were and ask, why not?" Bishop Curry says that this is "the hard way of love." How easy, or difficult, is it for you to dream a better country, a better world? Why?
3. When people of love suffer major setbacks in their pursue of a better world, they may say "to hell with love. You see what it gets you?." The people of Venezuela have been trapped for more than 20 years under a government that in pursue of "equality" has stolen their dreams, their freedom, and even presidential elections. What would you tell them so that they keep loving, when their country seems to be going the other way?