

# “Love is the Way”

## Session 4

### Chapter Summaries:

#### Chapter 8 - When the Spirit Reworks You

There will be a time when God’s GPS points you in a direction that makes people uncomfortable. It may make *you* uncomfortable. The evolution of long held beliefs can be a spiritual earthquake the ground beneath us shaking; the very fault-lines of our identity shifting and seeking to resettle. But if we can make it through, we find a reward: not an easy journey but a share of what the Bible calls “peace that passes all understanding” -- the peace of knowing we are living loves way without contradiction.

- Are there “long held beliefs” you have had to question in your spiritual journey?
- “Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway” is a quote Bishop Curry lifts up. How does that resonate with you?
- “My only challenge was learning to receive anger and not give it back in return.” Is that a challenge you experience? How are you doing with it?

#### Chapter 9 - The Real E Pluribus Unum

Bishop Curry begins this chapter with the question: “Do I have to love even my enemy?” And “How do we make out of many one without obliterating anybody?” And then goes on to say: “That’s not just the church’s challenge. It is our nation’s challenge. It is the world’s challenge. How do we walk together as siblings united by some ancient and venerated values in hopes well we also have significant differences and disagreements?”

We need *e pluribus unum* now more than ever because if we don’t work together will likely work against all of our interest. The large scale problems we face as humans will not be solved by isolation when we’re busy wagging fingers at each other. We can’t move away from the nightmare and closer to the dream. The planet is suffering, and if we don’t heal her we’re about to feel the blunt impact -- some more than others -- but eventually all of us. We are all in this together.

- Bishop Curry wrote these words before we knew COVID19 was a thing. How do they resonate now as we struggle together to fight a global pandemic?
- What are the tools, skills or resources you've seen or used that have helped bridge differences that challenge us?
- What are steps we can take together away from the nightmare toward the dream?

## **Chapter 10 - The Great Relationship Revival**

Chapter 10 begins with another question: How can love overcome what divides us and move us forward together? Bishop Curry writes: "For all those who feel unheard, ignored, and under siege, these divisions are particularly painful and real. Powerful forces exploit that pain and here we are: Wrought by extremism. Mistrustful. Punching each other in the face in so many ways. And above all, doubting our shared future. That's one thing that we can all be sure of: whatever the future holds it will be shared. We will live together as family or perish as fools. But God is not finished with us yet. Love has not left this land there are many of us who are ready to move forward with one voice that says "No more! We choose love. We choose community." But to get there, we have work to do. We need to heal. Without healing claims to unity feel disingenuous. We need healing stories -- but they need to be authentic. And that takes time.

- What are the healing stories we need to hear and to tell: in our churches, our diocese, our communities, and our nation?
- How can we work together to be agents of change on the side of the kind of love Bishop Curry is calling us to?