

Traveling the Way of Love: Learn

Reflection Guide

Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Questions for Reflection

1. In this episode, Chris Sikkema visits with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to talk about “Learn” as it pertains to our engagement with Scripture. In response to Chris’s asking why we need to read Scripture, Bishop Curry points out that the patterns of information we encounter consistently are, in the end, what form and shape us. When we read and meditate on Scripture daily, particularly the teachings of Jesus, then we are better able to live our lives “not on the world’s terms, but on the Word’s terms.” What messages or information is currently shaping your heart, mind, and soul most these days?
2. For many of us, reading the Bible on our own has not been a daily or common practice. For those who would like to start, Bishop Curry suggests beginning with the book of Mark, which is only 16 chapters long, or perhaps using a Bible challenge reading schedule to begin, such as The Way of Love Bible Challenge (available from ForwardMovement.org). For some of us, it might be time to go deeper – taking on a challenge like a read-the-Bible-in-a-year plan. For others, it might be time to begin memorizing Scripture – not in order to “master the word, but so that the Word will master us.” Starting with where you are today, how can you take the next step in your journey with Scripture? Is there someone you can share this commitment with and ask for encouragement?
3. One question Bishop Curry gets often – not just from Chris – is “How can the Bible still be fresh to you after all these years?” Bishop Curry’s answer teaches us that, if we continue to read and meditate on Scripture throughout all of our life – not just during one season – then, just as our life changes and the world around us changes, so too does our understanding of Scripture. The Bible doesn’t change, Jesus doesn’t change, but instead, we change – as does our worldview according to our experience. Can you think of a time when your understanding of a movie, book, or song changed over the years based on your life experience? Is there a passage of Scripture that you have come to understand differently over the course of your life? Share those stories.

Prayer

O God, from whom all wisdom flows, guide us in reading and reflecting on Scripture, especially at this time, on the life and teachings of Jesus. Help us to draw near to you as your Word dwells within us. May we open our minds and hearts to your Word, so that we may see your story and your work present in our everyday lives. Amen.