

Have you ever read or heard a story that changed your perspective on an issue or the world? Whose story was it?

Where do you see faith informing politics as helpful and when does it become problematic?

When we disagree on an issue, how might working from shared moral and spiritual values change the way we move towards resolution?

Week 7 - read *chapter 12 and the appendix*

When have you taken part in an experience that you look back on as a mountaintop, time on holy ground?

Have you seen a church or community offer transformative love for a stranger? What happened?

Have you created and used a Rule of Life? If so, were you able to keep it? How did it change over time?

If not, what are the “rules” that you already follow in terms of body, mind, spirit, relationships, giving back and community?

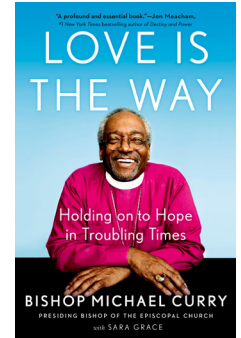
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF GEORGIA



Discussion Guide

Love Is the Way

by Bishop Curry



This study is broken up into seven sections as the Diocese of Georgia will hold a 1Book1Diocese read over seven weeks: from Monday in Easter Week (April 5) to Pentecost (May 23). This study assumes a group is meeting weekly, such as on Wednesday evening. If meeting in fewer sessions, select the questions most meaningful to your group.

Questions for every week of the study

Each week, the group may use the following prompt as an icebreaker: How have you seen or experienced God’s love in the previous week? Put another away, what has been Godly or what was your moment closest to Christ?

After working through the questions for the week, you can close with the following questions:

- What stood out to you in the section you read?
- What challenged how you see love?
- How might the section you read this week change the way you walk with Jesus next week?

Week 1 - read *the introduction and chapter 1*

Think back to your own family history. How did your family of origin fit into the larger movements in our country’s history—for better or for worse?

If a hunger for love is universal, what barriers prevent the ethic of love from changing the world?

Josie Robbins embodied the love this book is about in her care for the Curry Family after Mrs. Curry's illness. Who has made sacrificial, self-giving love real to you?

Love's great, but how does it apply to real world decisions? Where have you seen love as an intentional action, and not just a sentiment, make a difference?

Week 2 - read chapters 2-3

When have you experienced a community of love offering comfort?

When has a ritual of faith sustained you through a difficult time?

In the recipe for making do, Bishop Curry describes a spiritual alchemy at work where the only explanation is God. When have you seen God showing up in this way?

Week 3 - read chapters 4-5

Desmond Tutu and Dolly Parton are examples given for keeping the faith at midnight, when love's vision fades. Who is an icon for you of holding on to hope in dark times?

Which of the Ten Commandments of Nonviolence spoke to you? Did any seem unnecessary?

Being fully yourself in any environment is not easy. When have you found it difficult to be true to who you are, what you believe, and what you stand for?

Vocation, meaning "calling", is using our God-given abilities and interests for God's purposes. This can be lived into at every age and in any profession. How can you live more fully into love's call for you where you are now?

Week 4 - read chapters 6-7

Bishop Curry saw Sister Luke Mary as one of God's remarkable saints. Who have you seen making such a difference in the lives of others over the long haul?

When has being part of a greater movement felt real for you—that the otherwise insignificant part you played was part of something bigger that was making a difference?

Bishop Curry describes the process of a Thou becoming an It. When have you seen a person or group move from a Thou to an It, either in your own life or in word events?

When have you seen the Church or a congregation be the beacon of hope we long for it to be?

Week 5 - read chapters 8-9

When have you struggled with a long held belief and felt God calling you to let go of it? How did you see the need to change?

Have you experienced someone making space for you to honestly and respectfully hold a different opinion? What makes this difficult in practice?

Bishop Curry describes the tension between *e pluribus* (out of many) and *unum* (one). How can we make love real with someone while holding convictions counter to theirs? Have you seen this happen?

How can we live together in profound difference. What does that look like at this moment in history? Are there any differences that make living together impossible?

Week 6 - read chapters 10-11

How do you see the connection between faith in Jesus and the care of God's creation?