



GROWING EDGE Conversation Starter

Episode 22: Revolutionary Love

In this **Growing Edge Podcast**, Parker and Carrie talk with author, attorney, filmmaker, and activist [Valarie Kaur](#). In her new book, ***See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love***, Valarie invites us to a revised and renewed version of the historic nonviolent movement for social change.

June Questions of the Month

How do you respond to the idea of Revolutionary Love? What would Revolutionary Love look like in your life? Is there any room for anger, even rage, in your understanding of love? When you reflect on the question, “Is this the darkness of the tomb or the darkness of the womb,” what does it evoke in you? How might the three sections of the book (below) apply to your life or your community's life?

- I. See No Strangers: Loving Others**
- II. Tend the Wound: Loving Opponents**
- III. Breathe and Push: Loving Ourselves**

Some Approaches to this Month's Question

You may want to explore the podcast and Questions of the Month privately, through journaling and silent reflection.

But we urge you to consider gathering online for an exploration with one or more family members or friends. If that idea appeals to you, look into using Zoom, Facetime, Skype or some other video platform or talk with each other while practicing safe social distancing.

If you aren't familiar with [Zoom](#), it's easy to learn and has proven a wonderful way to host "face to face" conversations during the pandemic. A full-featured Basic Plan with unlimited meetings is free. There's a 40 minute time limit on conversations among three or more, but you can log right back on for another 40 minutes. If the technology baffles you, check for online instructions, or get on the phone and ask any middle-schooler you know!

For group explorations, we first listen to the podcast individually or together. Then, before you meet, review the [Circle of Trust Touchstones](#) from the [Center for Courage & Renewal](#). They're designed to create safe space for open-hearted dialogue on a wide range of topics.

As convener, read the Touchstones aloud—or ask others to read them aloud—and let people comment on them if they wish. Remind people of how important it is to make sure everyone gets ample time to speak and be heard. Then take a moment of quiet before inviting people to speak.

Begin the conversation by reading the Questions of the Month, then inviting people to respond whenever they are ready. No "forced marches" around the circle! As the Touchstones advise, listen to what people have to say without any cross-talk. Ask honest and open questions to help them say more, if they wish, but avoid trying to "fix, save, advise, or correct each other."

We need to find every way we can to reweave community during these hard times—and one of those ways is gathering online for conversations about things that matter. Give it a try!