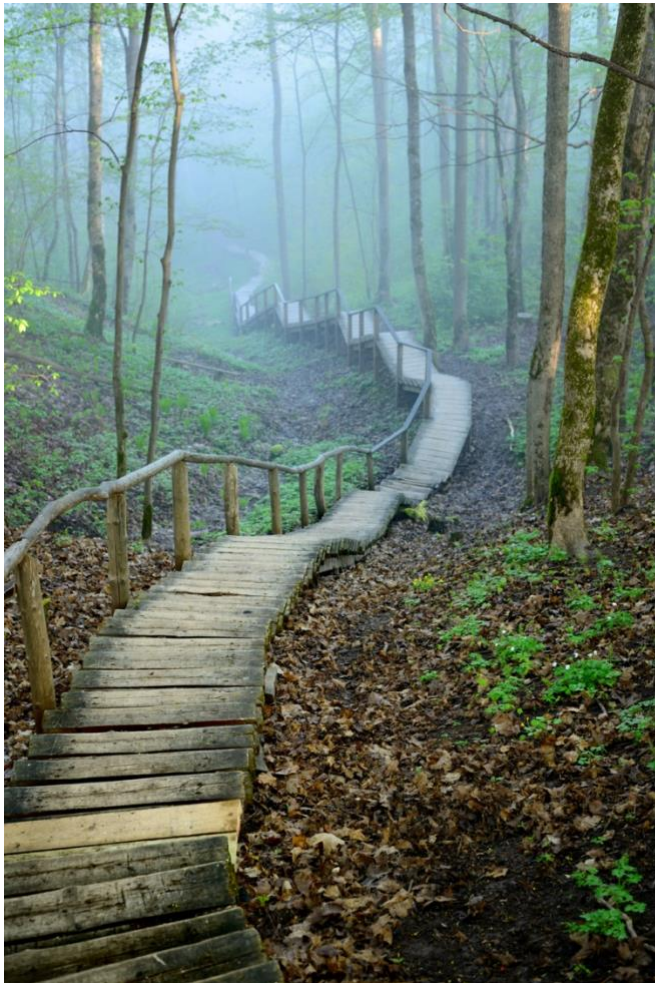


Episode 27: A Post-Election Conversation Starter



In our delayed November podcast—planned before the 2020 General Election, and recorded several days after it—Carrie and Parker discuss the outcome of that day and the four years that led up to it.

They talk about our current political divides, the many uncertainties of our challenging era (some real, some manufactured), and the role of hope and faithfulness in finding our way forward as “We the People.”

Here are a few questions to use for your own exploration and journaling. to explore with others,

1. What about the past election has left you discouraged and what has given you hope?

2. What would living and engaging with the world with “fierce love” look like personally (e.g., in relation to family and friends) or politically (e.g., in how you show up publicly in spiritual community)?

3. How have you or might you engage the vital conversation about racial justice, a question that’s been on our national agenda

from the start? In particular, how do you respond to the idea that it is important for white people to talk with white people about race?

4. What is your response to the notion of having the courage to make mistakes that are necessary to learning? Have you taken missteps that gave you better insight into yourself and how to proceed?
5. What is your response to the idea of “the tragic gap” as a description of the place where we must stand and act if we want to contribute to change?
6. What is your response to the idea that “effectiveness” cannot be the ultimate standard for the value of our actions? What would action grounded in “faithfulness” mean to you?

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 minutes 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!