

# 5 LENTEN QUESTIONS

A SERIES WITH BISHOP WRIGHT

## Q4: HOW DO I STAND FOR TRUTH? | BEARING WITNESS

### REFLECTION GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS/INDIVIDUALS

These reflection guides are designed to supplement the Bishop's videos for use in a small group Bible study. They are created for the leader's ease of use, and with links to free web-based resources.

#### REFLECTION

Bishop Wright says that it's impossible to love God without loving neighbor. He says that the way we stand for truth when we feel we are surrounded by falsehood is to close the gap between how we live and God's truth, so that God's truths become our lived truths. He encourages courageous questioning of ourselves to find out if God's truths are being lived out in our lives, particularly looking at whether we want to win/be right or advance God's truth through love. He exhorts us to find encouragement to live the way of love and truth through Scripture and the cloud of people, our Christian community, who will cheer us on.

#### SCRIPTURE

**Read 1 John 4:7-21**, especially vs 12. Sometimes standing for truth means we have to show it, to live it out. "Actions speak louder than words" and often make a more impactful argument than words can. Showing people the truth about God means living out radical love for others.

**Read 1 Peter 3:15-16**. It is important to be prepared with your own story about how you have hope because of Christ. If you are living out God's hope and truth and love, others will wonder, and you will be presented with the opportunity to explain why. We should all be ready to answer about how we've experienced God, and how it's transformed our lives.

**Read Hebrews 12:1-3**. Surrounded by saints past and present, we are not alone, even though it may feel like we're the only ones living differently in this world.

#### DISCUSSION

- As you attempt to live out love for God and neighbor, are there times you've felt "maladjusted for the world we live in"?
- When have you felt that God's truths are your lived truths (that you really are living out God's truth and love in your life)? When have you not felt that?
- As you "courageously question" yourself about the living out of God's truth and love in your life, what do you find? About wanting to win/be right or show God's love?
- Which image from the Bishop's video stood out to you? Why?
- Which Scripture passage stuck out to you and what might God be speaking through it to your life circumstances today?

#### ARTICLES

Read about the power of sharing your God stories:

<https://rachelheldevans.com/blog/why-christian-inspired-excerpt>

Read more about the Episcopal Church's "e-word" (evangelism):

<https://livingchurch.org/covenant/2016/02/02/the-episcopal-churchs-e-word-what-is-evangelism/>

#### TAKE-AWAY

Practice being prepared with an answer for the hope that is in you: think about how you've experienced God's goodness in your life and why you follow Jesus; practice articulating that. Imagine someone asked where your faith or joy or hope comes from. Prepare how you would answer.

*Use this Guide for Episcopal Evangelism as a resource, especially pg 11 on "Sharing Your Story" and pg 13 on prompts for story sharing:*  
[https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/12/evangelism\\_101\\_participation\\_guide.pdf](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/12/evangelism_101_participation_guide.pdf)

#### PRAYER

For the Mission of the Church  
(BCP 816)

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.