

GROWING UP IN CHRIST!

LENT 2025 | DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

WEEK 2: MALADJUSTED

These reflection guides are designed to supplement the 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

To grow up in Christ will make you maladjusted to the world.

What are the costs, responsibilities, and privileges of heavenly citizenship?

To imitate Jesus, adopting his words and ways and seeing as he sees, will result in us being maladjusted to the world as it is.

What does this superior citizenship cost? It costs courage to see the gaps between what we say on Sunday and the way we live on Monday. It's responsibility is to God and neighbor...

~Bishop Wright

SCRIPTURE

Read Philippians 3:17-4:1.

About being citizens of heaven, observing the examples of saints who have gone before.

Read Genesis 15:1-12,17-18.

About what it meant for Abraham to be a citizen of God's kingdom, and leave his land of origin to follow God's direction.

Read Luke 13:31-35. About how Jesus was "maladjusted" to Herod's kingdom

DISCUSSION

- Who are the Christian examples you know or know of, who, because of their primary citizenship in heaven, are maladjusted to the way this world works? What does that look like in how they live their lives? What about their example inspires you?
- The closer we walk with Christ, the more palpable the tension between citizenship in heaven and citizenship in this world. Where are you seeing and feeling that in your own life?
- Christian maturity means adjusting our primary citizenship to the ways of the kingdom of God. In what specific ways do you want to align more fully with God's kingdom in your own life this Lent? What will that look like? What practices will help?

ARTICLES

For Further Study:

The Bishop uses examples of President Jimmy Carter and Dr. MLK as modern-day citizens of heaven who were maladjusted in this world. Read more about holy people of God and their life and work as citizens of God's Kingdom in *A Great Cloud of Witnesses* or here:

https://www.episcopalcommonprayer.org/uploads/1/2/3/0/123026473/lm_great_cloud_of_witnesses.pdf

PRAYER

"Reverse St. Francis Prayer"

Lord, make me a channel of disturbance. Where there is apathy, let me provoke; Where there is compliance, let me bring questioning. Where there is silence, may I be a voice. Where there is too much comfort and too little action, grant disruption. Where there are doors closed and hearts locked, Grant the willingness to listen. When laws dictate and pain is overlooked... When tradition speaks louder than need... Grant that I may seek rather to do justice than to talk about it; Disturb us, O Lord. To be with, as well as for, the alienated; To love the unlovable as well as the lovely; Lord, make me a channel of disturbance. ~Author Unknown

TAKE-AWAY

Pick a saint whose example or specific qualities you want to emulate this week. It could be a biblical saint, a saint from history (see *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*), or someone you know.

What about their example do you want to embody in your own life? What will that look like?