

Tuesdays at the Table

After I'm saved, what's next?

The purpose of this resource is to help guide your engagement of the "Tuesdays at the Table" conversation. This is merely a frame for the conversation you'll have or the raw materials to shape a conversation unique for the table you're sitting at.

As you participate in the conversation...

- Keep an open mind.
- Stay curious.
- Look for new ideas.
- Speak from your heart.
- Respect the ideas of others.

Access a video of the "After I'm saved, what's next?" conversation [here](#).

"...it is not enough to appreciate the good. We need to know and appreciate the goodness of the good"

Rev. Dr. Connie Semy Mella

Let us pray.

Give thanks to the LORD, for the Lord is good, for the Lord's steadfast love endures forever. — *Psalm 136:1*

Guiding questions.

- What does it mean to appreciate the goodness of the good?
- What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? What are some of the identifying marks of discipleship?
- We believe God's grace is undeserved and unmerited. How does such a gift and expression of love make you feel? How do you express gratitude for God's grace?
- How are you "in the same spirit" with those around you?
- Can we be a disciple outside of community or without connection?
- How can our understanding of discipleship guide what we do and/or stop doing in the future?
- "Grace is God's presence to create, heal, forgive, reconcile, and transform..." How have you observed this at work in your life?
- To live a life of discipleship is to walk the way of gratitude. Who embodies this practice for you?
- "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8) Which of these actions do you find easiest to understand and embody? Which is the most challenging or difficult to express?

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Take action.

- The word compassion derives from the Greek – *com* (“with”) and *pati* (“feel”). An equivalent is found in the Filipino and Korean languages and the African word is *ubuntu* – which means “I am because you are.” What is one thing you can do today to express your global connectedness?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. Consider how to connect your personal discipleship journey with service to others as an ambassador for Christ. Identify 2-3 ways you can deepen and strengthen your identity as a disciple within your own heart and spirit as well as within your community?
- Dr. Mella shares that the ministry of healing and reconciliation occurs within the local church as well as a variety of the general agencies and boards, including the General Board of Global Ministry (“GBGM”), the General Board of Church and Society (“GBCS”), and the General Commission on Religion and Race (“GCORR”). Find the mission of these entities and name 1-2 ways your local church partners with them to engage our global neighbors.
- Thinking of grace as a means of “paying it forward”, perform a random act of kindness for someone this week. Notice how it makes you feel. How does expressing kindness feel different than receiving kindness?
- Think of 1-2 people for whom you are grateful? Contact them and share your gratitude.

Resources.

Our Social Principles, 2017-2020 (*Book of Discipline*, ¶¶ 160-166)

Our Social Principles, Revised 2020

“On Working Out Our Own Salvation” (Sermon 85) by John Wesley

The General Rule of Discipleship. “To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.” (*Book of Discipline*, ¶ 1119.2.a)

The Mission of The UMC. “The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” (*Book of Discipline*, ¶ 120)

Three General Rules (summary). Do no harm. Do good. Attend upon the ordinances of God. (*Book of Discipline*, ¶ 104)