



A Song to Sing

Do You Call Yourself Christian?

This conversation is a bit heavier than the last. We don't say that to prime your thoughts, but rather to be honest and upfront.

Unlike our previous conversation, the central question for today leads to the heart of our faith. In asking whether we call ourselves our Christian, we are challenged to reflect on what that identity means for us and for those around us. We might find nuances in our definition of the Christian identity. We might also find that the identity doesn't neatly align with our current understanding of our faith.

Tone Setter: Guided Meditation

Close your eyes, take a deep breath in. Breathe out. Center yourself in this space. Breathe in. Breathe out. Think about these questions: What does it mean to be Christian? Do you identify with any part of the Christian story? Do you call yourself Christian today? Open your eyes, and let's start this journey together.

Discussion Questions:

- **Do you call yourself Christian?**
- What does that identity mean for you?
- How do you feel when someone outside of this community calls themselves Christian?
- Are you able to place yourself in the Christian story? If so, where?



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Ways to Engage

Every participant should feel as though they have an open invitation to participate in this journey, regardless of the format they choose. The below are a handful of practices that may be helpful for the group or paired discussion.

Safe: We will do our part to create and sustain a space where everyone can be open and honest about their responses to this conversation.

"I" Statements: Although we are taking this journey together, our experiences are ours alone. We want to hear your thoughts and reactions. To this end, try to use "I" statements, rather than "them," "they," or "the church."

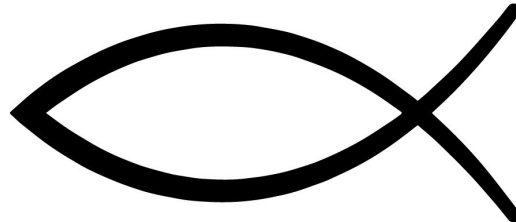
Listen: Listen to the conversation with the intent to understand, rather than the intent to respond or immediately speak next.

Step Up, Step Back: Be mindful of how often you speak. If you notice that you're speaking a lot more than other participants, think about "stepping back" and allowing others to engage in the conversation. If on Zoom, you may also use the chat function to participate in the conversation.



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The above are common images and symbols of Christianity. Are there any that stand out to you, or that you might identify as symbols of your own faith? Are there any you might add in the blank space?





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The space below is just for you. Use it to draw or write thoughts that come to mind. Or write questions that you have as they come to you throughout the conversation.

