



DISCIPLES
Home Missions

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2025

YAYA CONNECT

Authentic Ministry - Intentional Learning - Resource Giving



CAN WE TALK? BUILDING BRIDGES IN DIVIDED TIMES:

Conversations about faith, justice, and identity can be tough especially when they challenge tradition, church teachings, or family values. Many young people are leading discussions on race, gender, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and social justice, often meeting resistance from those who say, “We don’t talk about that.” But avoiding difficult conversations doesn’t create healing honest, courageous dialogue does.

Jesus modeled this when he engaged in deep conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:7-26). He didn’t shame her or dismiss her experience—he listened, spoke truth, and met her where she was. We can follow his example by:

- Listening to understand, not to argue. Dismissing someone’s experience builds walls, not bridges.
- Speaking truth with love. Ephesians 4:15 reminds us that justice and compassion must go hand in hand.
- Knowing when to step back. Some conversations drain more than they heal. Protect your peace.

Continued...

WHAT’S INSIDE:

- **Can We Talk? Building Bridges in Divided Times**
- **Digital Discipleship: Navigating Faith in an Online World**
- **March Book Recommendations**
- **Term of the Month: Sacred Rage**
- **Graduating to Life: God’s Timing**



Hard conversations won't always lead to agreement, but they can plant seeds of change. Discomfort means growth is happening. Keep pushing. Keep speaking. Keep building.

Suggested Practices:

- **Lead with Curiosity:** Ask open-ended questions instead of assuming. Example: "Can you tell me more about that?"
- **Find Common Ground:** Start with shared values like love, justice, and dignity before addressing disagreements.
- **Pause Before Reacting:** Take a breath and ask, "Will my words build understanding or deepen division?"
- **Know When to Walk Away:** Some people aren't ready to listen, and that's okay. Protect your peace.

Discussion Questions:

- Reflecting on John 4:7-26 Jesus used curiosity and truth rather than judgment. How can we apply that when discussing topics like race, gender, or justice?
- What makes talking about faith, justice, and identity so hard, especially with family or in church spaces?
- What's one topic you wish people in your community were more open to discussing?
- How do you know when to engage in a tough conversation and when to walk away?

DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP: NAVIGATING FAITH IN AN ONLINE WORLD

For many youth, social media shapes identity, faith, and community. It can be a space for connection and advocacy but also for comparison and burnout. How can we engage online while protecting our well-being? Jesus calls us to be light in the world (Matthew 5:14-16), even in digital spaces. This means:

- **Posting with purpose:** Use your platform to uplift, educate, and advocate.
- **Setting boundaries:** Take breaks when scrolling becomes overwhelming.
- **Prioritizing real connection:** Likes can't replace deep, faith-filled relationships.

Suggested Practices:

- Encourage digital fasts and discuss online ethics.
- Create faith-based digital spaces.

Discussion Questions:

- How does social media impact your faith?
- What's one healthy boundary you can set online?
- How can you use social media for good?

MARCH BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **You Are Enough: A Book About Inclusion – Margaret O'Hair & Sofia Sanchez.** This is an uplifting, faith-affirming read that celebrates belonging and self-worth.
- **Here and Now: Living in the Spirit – Henri Nouwen.** A simple yet profound reflection on recognizing God's presence in everyday life.



TERM OF THE MONTH: SACRED RAGE

Anger is often seen as something to suppress, but what if it can be holy and how can we turn our frustration into Faithful Action? Sacred rage is the righteous anger that moves us to act when we witness injustice. It's the fire that fueled Jesus flipping tables in the temple (John 2:13-16), the prophets speaking against oppression, and activists fighting for change today.

For many young people, frustration grows when faith communities remain silent on racial injustice, gender discrimination, or systemic poverty. Sacred rage reminds us that anger isn't the problem inaction is. It pushes us to advocate, organize, create, and disrupt harm in ways that align with love and justice.

However, sacred rage must be rooted in faith and wisdom. We must pause before reacting, channel anger into strategic action, and balance activism with rest. Even Jesus withdrew to pray (Luke 5:16).

So, what's making you angry? What is God calling you to do about it? Sacred rage isn't about destruction—it's about transformation. It's the fire that demands justice while keeping love at the center. Let's use it wisely to build a world where dignity and equity are not just hopes, but realities.

Discussion Questions:

- How does Jesus' anger in John 2:13-16 challenge our understanding of faith and justice?
- What is something in the world right now that stirs sacred rage within you?
- Have you ever been told that anger and faith don't mix? How did that impact you?
- What role does rest play in sustaining justice work?

GRADUATING TO LIFE: GOD'S TIMING

The Silence Between the Notes – Learning to Trust God's Timing

Life can feel like a long season of waiting—waiting for opportunities, healing, change, or clarity. But what if the waiting is just as important as the movement? In music, silence between the notes gives rhythm and meaning to the song. In the same way, the pauses in life are not empty; they are spaces where God is working, shaping, and preparing us.

In Ecclesiastes 3:1, we are reminded, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." Joseph spent years in prison before stepping into his calling (Genesis 39-41). David was anointed king but waited years to take the throne. Even Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness before his ministry began. Delays were not denials—God was preparing them.

If you are in a waiting season, trust that God is still at work. The silence is not absence; it is preparation.

Suggested Practices:

- **Shift from Worry to Worship:** Focus on gratitude and worship instead of what's missing.
- **Prepare While You Wait:** Use this time to grow spiritually, mentally, or emotionally.
- **Lean into Community:** Surround yourself with faith-filled people who uplift and challenge you.

Discussion Questions:

- How do you feel when you are in a waiting season?
- What lessons can be learned in times of stillness?
- How can we shift our mindset to see waiting as preparation rather than delay?