



continuing the journey of transforming grace:

transforming practice

June 23, 2024

Third Step: Ask a Sincere Question

In the third week of our exploration based on the work of Canadian-educator, Ishrad Manji, we explore an essential skill for engaging in a conversation where a divide is present. Rather than initiating from a position of argumentation or persuasion, we look at a method of inquiry that seeks to appreciate how the “other” has come to understanding. By pausing to step into this place of being available to learn, a space is created where mutual respect may override hostility.

Opening Song:
God's Eyes | MaMuse

Opening Reflection

Rainer Maria Rilke | from [Letters to a Young Poet](#)

“Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.”

Scripture

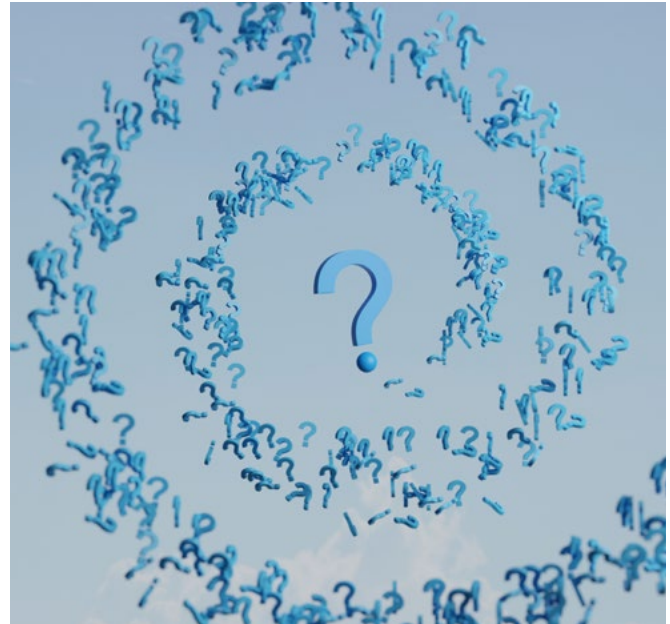
Mark 4: 40

“Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?”

Pause to Listen and Learn

Clearness Committee | with Parker Palmer

The Clearness Committee is a process invented by 17th century Quakers to help us find the answers to essential questions. In a Clearness Committee, a small group of people form a community around a focus person and use honest, open questions to help the focus person discern more clearly his/her own inner truth. In this video, Parker J. Palmer, renowned author, speaker and activist, explains Clearness Committees.



For Practice and Dialogue A Way to Ask a New Question

Listen Louder: The Game

This card game invites a way of asking a different kind of question from a place of inquiry and invitation. Using the link, choose a question from those below or those in the deck, and practice both asking and listening. Where might you use these questions to engage with someone “on the other side of the divide?” Examples of the questions follow:

What does it mean to be a neighbor?

What is your favorite thing to cook for others?

What decision are you thankful you made?

When have you been upset on someone else's behalf?

When was the last time you laughed so hard you could barely breathe?

Closing Prayer/Song

Spirit of the Wind | Brooke Medicine Eagle