

# **FAITH** **UNDER** **CONSTRUCTION**

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STUDY GUIDE WITH  
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## EPISODE 1:

# I Have Jesus—Why Do I Need the Church?

*Hosts Rasool Berry and Christin Thorpe discuss the relevancy of today's church with Rev. Br. Brianna Parker, founder of Black Millennial Café*

1. Each host opened up about how they deconstructed and reconstructed their faith in their own lives. Take a moment to reflect on your journey. When was the moment you followed Jesus? If you've come back to the faith, share your experience. Read the parable in Luke 15:11-32. What do you think about the father's reaction to his son? How does this relate to the hosts and Dr. Parker's conversation?
2. What cultural issues would you like the church to be better at addressing? How might you help the church address these issues?
3. "I didn't understand how to love a God who was inconsiderate. I felt that if God could not consider me enough to keep my heart together, . . . I didn't know if that was a God I wanted to serve." –Brianna Parker [Speaking about her sister's death]  
Read Matthew 27:38-46. Have you ever felt like God didn't care about you? If so, how might these verses change your mind?
4. Read Psalm 6. What can you learn from David in how he talks to God in his distress?
5. "So much of our work in ministry comes from some kind of pain." –Christin Thorpe  
How has God used your pain to develop you or to help you comfort others?
6. "Before God blesses you with things, God will bless you with people." –John [Fason] (Parker's friend) Parker says, "when it comes to seeking God, our prayer focus can be off." Maybe we are asking for answers or resources but not wanting people to walk with. What do you think it means to seek God according to Matthew 7:7-8?
7. Explore the discussion around needing both Jesus and the church. Do you agree we need both? Why or why not?
8. Thorpe asks, "What is the value of the Black church in the Black community today?" Share ways you think the value of the Black church differs from the past.
9. What would it look like for the church to "create a culture where curiosity and doubt are okay to express"? –Rasool Berry  
Do real and honest questions create fear in you or relief? Explain.
10. This conversation reminds us that there is value in both relationship and reach. What small steps can you take to incorporate relationship and reach?
11. "Done is better than perfect. Especially, in this generation, perfect looks suspect." –Rasool Berry  
Discuss Rasool's point and how you see this played out in your church or community.
12. Read Acts 2:4-7. Take some time to pray together asking God to revive the church. Ask God for his provision, safety, wisdom, and for the right people and resources.