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Rights: World



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Reader Guide

Questions and Topics for Discussion

1. Definitions of “unity” include: the state of being one; combining all parts; absence of diversity; oneness of mind, feeling, etc.; harmony. After reading *Holy Disunity*, what might you add to these definitions?
2. Is disunity always bad? Is unity always good? Think of an example for why or why not.
3. Why do you think people are afraid of difference? How does this fear impact the world? Can you name a time when you were afraid of difference?
4. Do you believe that Jesus experienced doubt? How is doubt, or lack thereof, important to your faith? Can you think of a time when doubt led to good things?
5. What were you taught and/or shown about argument as a child? How does that inform your reactions to arguments as an adult?
6. What do you think would happen if we set aside civility and allowed for frank, impassioned argument? What ways could this be done well?
7. How does our faith require us to make peace with unresolved tension? How could embracing nuance and accepting ongoing, unresolved tension transform some of the conflicts currently going on around us?
8. Can separation ever be helpful in healing conflict? Do you think separation can be good even if it doesn't lead to reconciliation?
9. Have you ever seen vulnerability used to harm people? How can we create spaces where mutual vulnerability is possible? How can this transform the way we approach people we disagree with and the things that divide us?
10. What troubles you in the world today and why? What does it mean to faithfully confront what troubles us? How can it help us deal with conflict?
11. Do you believe our faith requires us to protest? How do we faithfully respond to protests we disagree with? What good can come from protests?
12. How have you seen a fear of scarcity cause conflict and discord? How have you seen instinctive hunger (physical, spiritual, or relational) connect people? What does it mean that *hunger* and *table* are such central themes in our faith?
13. What kinds of limitations can contribute to bias and misunderstanding? How does a culture of perfectionism, self-sufficiency, and supremacy make us afraid of our limitations? How do you acknowledge your limitations and the limitations of those around you?
14. Does failure (and our fear of it) contribute to the ongoing divisions in the world today? How might it help us—individually or collectively—to risk failure or to confront and reckon with our failures?
15. What are you uncertain about? Does your uncertainty cause you to be uncomfortable, anxious, or fearful? What damage comes from choosing false certainty instead? What could you gain from embracing uncertainty?