

Getting Ready for the WMA Revival...

An Invitation to a Book Discussion:

Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus, by The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry

The WMA Revival Christian Formation Team in the Berkshire Corridor is creating a curriculum to accompany the reading of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's *Crazy Christians*. We hope that a study of this collection of sermons/essays from our beloved "Royal Wedding Preacher" will generate excitement in our communities for the WMA Revival on October 21 by making them familiar with Bishop Curry's voice and his passion for following Jesus in this age.

The study is presented in five sessions. In addition to providing discussion questions for each session, we will provide links to video clips of Bishop Curry's sermons. The sessions will also include some discussion of evangelism and "The Way of Love," the simple rule of life Bishop Curry introduced at the 2018 Episcopal General Convention in Austin, Texas.

Sessions break down as follows: (*A sample of discussion questions for chapter 1 follows.*)

Session 1 – Forward and Preface - *Introduction to the study; information on WMA Revival*

Session 2 – Chapters 1-4 – *What is evangelism?*

Session 3 – Chapters 5-8 – *Telling our Stories*

Session 4 – Chapters 9-11 – *The Way of Love*

Session 5 – Chapters 12 & 13 – *Wrap-up; Introduction of events to follow the Revival*

The full curriculum will be available on the WMARevival website by August 31.

In addition, the Revival Committee has purchased a supply of books; each congregation is welcome to receive up to three copies at no charge for distribution as they see fit; sign up here for your copies.

In Berkshire County the study will be offered regionally, with parishes encouraged to promote the joint study to their members. Other parishes in the Diocese are encouraged to offer the study in their congregation, or in partnership with nearby Episcopal churches.

Curriculum Sample of questions to accompany Chapter 1 – "We Need Some Crazy Christians"

- ❖ Bishop Curry mentions several people who did "crazy" things, who were crazy like our Lord, specifically Mary Magdalene and Harriet Beecher Stowe, as people who marched to the beat of their own drummer. Put yourself in Mary Magdalene's time...could you have been there at the crucifixion? Would you have been able to join her and the other women who went to the tomb on Easter morning? (It is easy to sit back, knowing what we know of those events and say, "Yes! I would have been there!" The odds of any of us joining her are small; most of us probably would have been like the apostles - absent.)
- ❖ Bishop Curry references the people mentioned in the Apple commercial (<https://youtu.be/cFEarBzelBs>), who made a difference. The commercial is now 21 years old, but the people featured in it still inspire us today. Only 3 of the people featured in that ad are still living today (Bob Dylan, Richard Branson, Ted Turner): If you were going to make that ad today, who would you include? Who is comparable to the people in that campaign, like Mary Magdalene, like Harriet Beecher Stowe. Who could join the ranks of those "crazy" folks?
- ❖ How can you go out into the world like they did and walk to the beat of your own drummer?
- ❖ BP Curry videos that can relate to this passage:
 - On the bravery of Mary Magdalene going to the tomb:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIIqvYmC-PU>
 - A song that relates to this chapter - "Anyway" by Martina McBride
<https://youtu.be/6uLtyzRgmyl>