



Discussion Guide: Jenn Carlier

Finding God in the Basement

Reflect

- Think about a time when have you felt compelled to hide either an aspect of your identity or a particular struggle you face. How did it impact your ability to live in relationship with others? What would you have needed in order to feel that you could share this truth with others?
- If the church is, in fact, “a hospital for sinners,” why is it that so many of us feel the pressure to always show up at church in our Sunday best (metaphorically speaking)? What is it about the culture of church where you live that makes this so? What might this reveal about how we view God?
- Jenn suggests that vulnerability is an act of hospitality. What do you think she means? What could your faith community do in order to deepen the way it extends this type of hospitality to members and visitors alike?

Respond

- Jenn suggests that sharing the most painful parts of ourselves and finding acceptance, grace, and love from those we share with is an experience of salvation. To what extent do agree? In what circumstances, if any, do you think it would be appropriate for faith communities to exclude others based on their sins or brokenness?
- Jenn describes finding God in a different place than she was told to look – namely in the basement of churches with those recovering from addiction. When have you had a similar experience in which you found God in a place that was different from where you were told to look? Where was it and how did you experience God in that place?