

STORIES THAT DRAW US DEEPER

Discussion Questions

June 7, 2026

Dancers and Mourners

1. Take some time to share how you experienced the “small things” practice from last week. How did it impact your daily life and where did it lead you?
2. What impacted you most during our worship service together this past Sunday? How would you describe what you experienced? In what ways did you experience encouragement and in what ways discomfort?
3. Read Matthew 11:2-6 and discuss the following:
 - Why do you think the author refers to Jesus as “Messiah” (“Christ”) here?
 - What exactly is John the Baptist asking Jesus? Why do you think he is asking it?
 - Why do you think Jesus give an indirect response?
 - What do you think Jesus means about people taking offense about him?
4. Read the parable in Matthew 11:16-19 and discuss the following:
 - In what ways are Jesus and John the Baptist different and what do they have in common?
 - What does Jesus seem to be saying about the power of public opinion here?
 - How might this apply to us today, especially in terms of religious and political opinion?
 - What is the caution for us as a church community and as individuals here?
 - What does Jesus mean about wisdom and its outcome?
5. Read Matthew 14:1-14 and discuss the following:
 - How does this passage make you feel?
 - How is Herod portrayed, especially considering the parable above?
 - How would you read Jesus’ emotional response to the news of John’s death?
 - What motivates Jesus’ actions towards others here and how does that relate to the parable?
6. What personal challenge do you take away from the parable this week and why? Share this with one another and then spend some time praying for one another.

Prayer Practice for the week: Finding a new rhythm

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30 (NRSVUE)

Take some time this week to meditate on the above scripture. What kind of “burdens” are you carrying? What external pressures are you experiencing? How could you let these go? Consciously align yourself with Jesus and the way of love. Invite God’s Spirit to draw you into the rhythm of God’s love throughout your day.