

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

# A SOJOURNER'S TRUTH

CHOOSING FREEDOM

AND COURAGE IN A

DIVIDED WORLD

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## PART ONE: FORMATION

### CHAPTER 1—PAIN

1. What stories or life experiences has God used to shape you?
2. In her book *The Broken Way*, Ann Voskamp writes, “Not one thing in your life is more important than figuring out how to live in the face of unspoken pain.” What is the source of your pain?
3. In the face of our pain, how can we choose to “see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” (Psalm 27:13)?
4. Are there any steps you need to take to process pain that has surfaced?

### CHAPTER 2—GRACE

1. What is your family’s story or legacy?
2. What is one truth about God that you continue to hold on to?
3. Can you name the specific and intimate ways that God’s grace has been revealed to you this week?
4. In what ways have women showed up to minister God’s grace to you?

### CHAPTER 3—COMMUNITY

1. What comes to mind when you think about your community?
2. Can you describe your community shapers? In what ways might they be in conflict?
3. What tensions do you experience living in a pluralistic society and divided world?
4. Give an example of how you deal with the challenges of conflicting loyalties between your commitments—to God, work, family, country, etc.

### CHAPTER 4—PURPOSE

1. What descriptive terms (titles, adjectives, phrases, etc.) come to mind when you think of God?
2. In the introduction, Natasha asked a series of questions to prepare you to enter the stories being shared in the book and reflect on your own story. Among them is the question, “For what purpose has God created me?” What is your response to this question?
3. How has God shaped you to fulfill that purpose from the very beginning? (see Jeremiah 1:4-5, Psalm 139:13-16)
4. How will you choose freedom and courage as you faithfully live out your purpose or calling?

## PART TWO: HISTORY

### CHAPTER 5—CONSCIOUSNESS

1. What history and stories have significantly shaped your life, and how is God calling you to respond as a result?
2. What comes to mind when you hear labels such as *Muslim, immigrant, gay, black, liberal, conservative*?
3. How has your understanding of your country's history, artifacts, and stories shaped the way you see people who do not share your history or background?
4. How do you communicate your understanding of God's righteousness and justice in light of the injustices in your local community?

### CHAPTER 6—DELIVERANCE

1. Share the titles and give a brief summary of the last few books that you read or listened to. What do you know about the authors' backgrounds?
2. Consider your nationality, gender, ethnicity, education, and economic class. How have these factors affected your experience in the community where you currently live?
3. What lies and historical messages have you believed about different people groups?
4. How is God inviting you to change the historical narrative about your community and nation, and about its diverse people?

### CHAPTER 7—TRUST

1. What words would you use to describe your relationship with your earthly parents?
2. How do you define success?
3. What purpose does money serve? What is your relationship with money?
4. What are the ways and areas in which God is inviting you to place your trust in him?

## PART THREE: WILDERNESS

### CHAPTER 8—ANGER

1. What makes you angry?
2. What do you do with the anger that deeply plagues you?

3. Name one injustice that makes you angry. How can you educate yourself about that one thing and consistently take righteous action?
4. In his article, "Who Has the Right to Be Violent," Jamye Wooten writes: "Is there a moral response to state-sponsored terror beyond nonviolent civil disobedience?" How do you answer this question? Why?

### CHAPTER 9—DEATH

1. Who are your traveling companions in life? Who is there to lift you up when you are in dangerous situations or on the brink of death?
2. What is God calling you to remember or to put to death?
3. How can you encourage and support those around you who are going through a wilderness experience?
4. How do you find hope even in the midst of suffering and death?

### CHAPTER 10—HUMILITY

1. What should we do with all the broken spaces that don't measure up to our God-given, holy dreams?
2. What are the broken things in our society that you need to lament or publicly confess?
3. What lies has Satan planted to keep you off the humble path?
4. What role does prayer play in your life?

### CHAPTER 11—WAR

1. What are you willing to stand up for, fight for, or even die for?
2. What are some lies you have believed about your own identity or your ability to contribute to God's mission?
3. What vision did the naysayers and haters put to death in you?
4. What is the first step of resurrecting that hope, vision, or forgotten dream?

## PART FOUR: REDEMPTION

### CHAPTER 12—LIVE

1. What or who made you conscious of life's possibilities?
2. What tools and training do you need to break your wilderness chains?

3. What people of color do you need to pay attention to at this point in your faith and leadership journey?
4. What would it look like if you truly lived unafraid?

### CHAPTER 13—BUILD

1. Why is mentorship and sponsorship important?
2. What kind of community do you want to be a part of, and how can you help shape it?
3. What skills, gifts, and talents can you share with others?
4. Who can you commit to mentoring or sponsoring? Identify your first few actions steps for developing these important relationships.

### CHAPTER 14—HEAL

1. What do you do when you are tired, burdened, weary, or heavy laden?
2. What do you do for fun?
3. What are some practical ways you can delight in self-care and healing?
4. Who can hold you accountable to these commitments until they become habits?

### CHAPTER 15—LIGHT

1. Name some of the people who have modeled God's faithfulness throughout your life?
2. How can you honor the Moses figures in your life while they are among the land of the living?
3. What does redemption mean to you? What does living redeemed look like?
4. What tribute do you hope your children and those you influence will share about you?

### CHAPTER 16 - HOME

1. What do you expect out of this life?
2. In *The Practice of Adaptive Leadership*, the authors state that "there is no such thing as a dysfunctional organization, because every organization is perfectly aligned to achieve the results it currently gets." So if we want different results, we need to change organizations and systems. How will you contribute to fixing dysfunctional, broken, and unjust systems and organizations, or erecting new, equitable ones?
3. How can you find or muster the courage to do the hard-yet-important things?
4. How is God inviting you into deep, courageous change?