



Climate Changed Podcast Discussion Guide

Season One, Episode Two

Created by Tyler Mark Nelson

Guest: Corina Newsome

Title: *Where Do You Find Hope?*

Listening excerpt: 17:44–23:19

Welcoming Activity

Our hosts, Nicole Diroff and Ben Yosua-Davis, begin the episode by discussing what each of them is paying attention to in life. To open your time together, pass around the group a few different natural objects, collected by the group facilitator beforehand (a leaf, stone, pine cone, etc). After everyone has had a moment with each item, ask them to share something that surprised, inspired, or otherwise affected them during the practice of paying close attention.

Introduction

To Climate Changed Podcast

The BTS Center's new podcast, *Climate Changed*, offers intimate interviews and conversations around some of the most pressing questions about faith, life, and climate change. Hosted by [Ben Yosua-Davis](#), Director of Applied Research, and [Nicole Diroff](#), Program Director, and produced by [Peterson Toscano](#), the podcast features acclaimed guests who are exploring what spiritual leadership looks and feels like in a climate-changed world.

To Episode

In this episode, Nicole Diroff speaks with conservation scientist Corina Newsome about how taking on racial injustice directly through activism led her on a journey of outrage, struggle, and questions about her faith. She and Nicole talk about this messy and essential process, as well as the practice and process of paying attention, what birds can teach us about hope, and how Black faith communities are now addressing resource inequity and depletion in relation to food sovereignty including the [Black Church Food Security Network](#).

Discussion Questions

1. Corina shares about her experience of being consumed by anger in the face of wrongdoing. Have you experienced anger about issues of injustice (white supremacy, climate change, oppressive systems, etc)? How does this affect your relationship to the religious/spiritual traditions and stories that are meaningful to you?
2. Corina claims that paying attention to the natural world around us provides endless supplies of wonder and healing, whether in urban, rural, or wild places. Yet as she points out, such opportunities are not accessible equally. Can you think of a time when you had an encounter with wonder or healing in the outdoors? Where do you see examples of unequal access to green or wild spaces?

3. In your day-to-day life, what is one thing in the other-than-human world that you would like to give more of your attention? What is one way that you can do this?
4. A hummingbird, Corina tells us, feels weightless and fragile when held in a human hand. Yet these small birds are capable of completing the seemingly impossible migration over the Gulf of Mexico. What was your reaction to hearing Corina's example of birds as symbols for unimaginable hope in the face of impossibility?
5. In Corina's essay in *Rooted & Rising* referenced during the episode, she writes, "As I seek refuge in the forested hills and refreshing sanctuary that God's Creation provides, I take comfort in this: there is no place I've gone where hope has not found a way to survive and perch gently in my soul." How does hope arrive in your life? Where might you find hope if you engaged in contemplative awareness?

Closing Activity

As conditions allow, move the group outside to watch for birds. Find a comfortable position for your body and remain in attentive silence as you observe the feathery creatures. The goal is not to search for as many types as possible, but instead to appreciate the birds around you through the cultivation of ecological contemplation. This practice values the loving observation of a single bird far more than the half-attentive accumulation of multiple sightings.