



***Climate Changed* Podcast Discussion Guide**

Season 3, Episode 1

Guests: Brian McLaren, Favianna Rodriguez

Title: *The Power of Ritual and Story*

Welcoming Activity

This episode explores the profound impact of storytelling and cultural power on the climate movement. Begin by reflecting on a personal or cultural story that has shaped your view on environmental issues. Consider how this story has influenced your actions or inactions. Write down the story and how you can use it to inspire action in your life or community. Invite a few participants to share their stories and the actions they plan to take.

Introduction to Episode

In the season premiere, hosts Ben Yosua-Davis and Nicole Diroff are joined by Brian McLaren and Favianna Rodriguez to discuss the role of faith, culture, and storytelling in addressing climate change. Brian shares insights from his new book, *Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart*, focusing on finding hope and taking meaningful action in a world facing profound environmental crises. Favianna Rodriguez emphasizes the power of cultural narratives in driving social change, highlighting how art and stories can inspire a new vision for the future.

Discussion Questions

1. **Facing Doom:** Brian McLaren talks about the concept of “doom” as a feeling of crisis many experience when confronting climate change. How do you relate to this feeling? How can embracing this sense of doom lead to positive action rather than despair?
2. **The Role of Faith Communities:** McLaren emphasizes the vital role faith communities can play in addressing climate change. How could your faith or spiritual community engage more deeply with environmental issues? How can these communities offer support and courage in challenging times?
3. **Harnessing Cultural Power:** Favianna Rodriguez discusses the importance of storytelling and cultural power in the climate movement. How can stories — through art, literature, or personal narrative — help shift public perception and inspire action on climate change? What stories in your own life have moved you to take action?
4. **Ecological Wisdom in Sacred Texts:** McLaren suggests that sacred texts like the Bible can be reinterpreted as indigenous ecological literature. What passages or teachings from your own religious or spiritual traditions could be seen in this light? How might this

perspective influence your reading of Hebrew and Christian Scriptures? How might that understanding change the way you think about faithful response to the climate crisis?

5. **Hope Beyond Outcome:** Both McLaren and Rodriguez discuss the concept of hope that is not tied to specific outcomes but rather to the act of meaningful engagement. How does this understanding of hope resonate with you? How can you cultivate a sense of hope that is rooted in action and resilience rather than in guaranteed results?

Closing Activity

Brian McLaren speaks about the importance of showing up intentionally in moments of crisis. Spend a few moments as a group discussing what it means to “show up” in the context of climate change — whether that’s in your personal life, community, or faith group. Reflect on one concrete way you can show up more fully in the coming week. Write this commitment down and share it with a partner or the group if you feel comfortable.