

S08E10-Waymaker: Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Heather Khym: [00:00:00] Hello friends. This episode of the Abiding Together Podcast is brought to you by The Little Catholic. The Little Catholic is creating uniquely beautiful jewelry and rosaries that are ethically and lovingly made by hand. All of their pieces are individually made by artisans in Los Angeles, California. Their main objective is to evangelize through beauty and they believe that Catholic jewelry organically inspires faith, peace and perspective in a unique way every time we look in the mirror or glance down. I personally have one of their crucifix necklaces and it truly is unique and beautiful. A fundamental aspect of The Little Catholic is giving back by donating a portion of all proceeds to nonprofits around the globe to partner with their mission. You can check out their beautiful pieces at their shop at www.TheLittleCatholic.com and you can use promo code `abide15` for 15% off at the store. We hope you enjoy this episode in may God bless you.

Sr. Miriam James Heidland: [00:00:56] Hello and welcome to season eight of the Abiding Together Podcast. Abiding Together is a place where you can find connection, rest, and encouragement on your journey with Jesus Christ. My name is Sister Miriam James Heidland and each and every week I am joined by two of my very dearest friends, Heather Khym and Michelle Benzinger. This podcast is born out of our friendship and sharing all kinds of things together: our walk with Jesus, our insights, the lessons we are *still* learning, our joys, sorrows, tears, and laughter. And you are most welcome on the journey with us. You can find out more information about all of our episodes at abidingtogetherpodcast.com, but for now, grab a cup of coffee, settle in and welcome home.

Hello and welcome to this week's episode of the Abiding Together Podcast and our latest installment on our series on the heart of Christ and his revelation. And we're going to talk about Jesus today, to borrow a very popular song, but the truth is that he is the Waymaker, he makes a way where there's no way. So no way, no way, way - we're going to delve into that. And I love that scripture passage that we're going to use, which we're going to share with you in a little bit, but before we begin, as we always do, we are diving into the beautiful fall here. And Heather, you were saying that your family had smores and a bonfire. Can you just tell, I just love that. Can you just tell us about that?

Heather Khym: [00:02:28] Oh, it was just so great, you know, in a time where we're all trying to follow the rules and social distance and all that kind of stuff. We were able to have a bunch of my family members over, not a big bunch y'all, but a little bunch of them. And yeah, we just had an outside bonfire and it was so great. It was just so life-giving to be together and be outside together. And the weather's perfect. And I just love the fall. Anyway. There's just so much beauty, uh, surrounding us all the time. So. Yeah, it was wonderful. It was really, really life-giving for all of us.

Sr. Miriam James Heidland: [00:02:59] I love the thought of that.

Heather Khym: [00:03:00] Oh gosh. Yeah, it was super good. I wish you both were here. Honestly. This border thing is really getting in my way. How are you Michelle?

Michelle Benzinger: [00:03:10] I'm good. We had a good weekend also and yeah, the fall weather is just magical right now. So it's like, our weather is actually very similar. It's like 60 degrees Heather, and it's just beautiful. And we were able to have games this weekend, which was. Good here locally. I mean, we had to get our temperature taken and wear masks and all the protocol, but it was good just to do something so my normal, you know what I mean? It was just good for everybody. So, but the weather was so beautiful. We were all outside. It just felt amazing. And yeah, I just love this time of year and we are recording actually the Monday after daylight savings. And I just need that extra hour. Like I just needed that extra hour this year. I'm like, come on. I'll take whatever grace I can get. And so, but I was really convicted that we have two months left of this year and how am I going to lean into the rest of this year? Like, I don't want to be just wishing this time away. And I was really recollecting actually my word of the year yesterday. And I was like, how do I finish this strong. You know, how do I allow the Lord to romance me in powerful ways and finish this strong? I don't want to wish away this time. I want to enter into this time fully. And I, we all know there's still a lot of unknown and we're actually recording this before an election and all that. But. God is still on the throne and how do we press in, you know, and allow him to make a way? And like we're going to talk about in a minute. Sister, how are you?

Sr. Miriam James Heidland: [00:04:33] Yes. I agree with you. It's just, these last few days have just been really lovely. A lot of time to think, and I was telling the two of you that we live out in the middle of farmland and as the sun, the last sunset before daylight savings, we were standing on our front porch and just watching this huge sun set over the rise. And then we walked over to the other side of the house and the other side of our living room watching the moon rise, literally sun and moon. Bless the Lord. I think there's just something about the stillness of that that it's very easy just to forget. And I've been very convicted by the Lord lately of being grateful for little things. Little things that we don't often just we take for granted. So the Lord was just saying to me, these are beautiful things. These are gifts of my mercy and my heart, and I want to give them to you. So I think for me that was something. That I was like, Lord, you make beautiful things. And every morning the sun rises again. And so it shall be amen. Yeah. So, but speaking of, yeah, way maker, ladies, we are going to talk about Jesus as the way, the truth and the life, which is so important, especially right now, just right now. And so for our scripture, for this time, we're going to use John chapter 14:5-6 where it's just so great there. I mean, you can never exhaust this. Thomas says to Jesus, Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way? And Jesus says to him, Jesus said to him, I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the father, except through me. No one comes to the father except through me. There's a lovely quote from St. Thomas Aquinas. And he says this "then if you're looking for the way by which you should go, take Christ because he himself is the way. This is the way walk in it. If you're looking for a goal, hold fast to Christ because he himself is the truth where we desire to be. "I love that. That just such a beautiful, absolute truth that we can clean to at all times, no matter what is happening. So as we kind of dive in here, Heather, what for you sticks out about this particular scripture passage from John? And how is it speaking to you right now as Christ reveals himself in our trilogy of these episodes?

Heather Khym: [00:06:34] It's speaking about everything. I mean, there's just some times where you hear a scripture, you're like, What, like how could this not be more relevant, right? Yes, because I love the words of Thomas, " Lord. We don't know where you're going. How can we know the way?" And I think for most people right now, we are questioning like,

How do we know what to do? How can we know the way? And I think on this podcast, we continually keep pointing to Jesus. Like there is only one way. We cannot continue to put our hope in other things and experience this constant disappointment, because that is where it's going to lead us. You know, we put our hope in leaders. We put our hope in all kinds of things and we will constantly be disappointed. And for me personally, there's so many times where I go to Jesus, the way. When I'm in a relationship disruption that I can not figure out, when I'm in an argument with my spouse, when I have something going on that I cannot figure out. Cause I'm pretty good at figuring stuff out. But when I can't, that's the scripture that I go to. And I just say, Lord, you are the way. Help. Help creat a way cause I can not figure this out. I need you to be the way. And it's amazing the breakthrough that I've experienced when I go there. And when I say that specific prayer. Jesus, you are the way I need you to be the way right here. Cause I don't know how to do it. It's the admission of like, I can't do this and I want you to do it. And it just opens wide the door for God to act. And I think that this is as a people, if we could, but do this. And I'm saying this to myself too, like all throughout our day everyday continue to open wide the door for Jesus to be the way the truth and the life in our own personal lives, within our families, within our communities, within our countries...oh my goodness. I really believe the world would change. Michelle, what is this speaking to you?

Michelle Benzinger: [00:08:24] Yeah, I think it's interesting, even like, when we were praying about putting the series together, like we started with a shepherd and then we went to new wine, which he is the vine dresser, and now we're going to Jesus, the way, the truth and the life and these build upon one another. And I think for me, like what the Lord is doing in this season, even in this past week, I was very convicted, like, okay, reset. And like even the last two to three days, I've just been pausing more. Our schedule has been full, but I'm like, okay, what are the lessons that I learned in this past season, from COVID? What are the lessons? Don't forget what I've learned. And don't just try to figure out. And for me, when external things are feeling chaotic and out of control, I tend to grasp and I tend to try to control things. And I've been so convicted of that this week. And that shows me like that I am not fully attached to the father. That I don't trust his way, that I don't surrender to his ways. And we were laughing when we were talking about the good shepherd. I could really have prone to wander stamped on my forehead. You know, if this sheep like, Oh, she's prone to wander because I'm like, look, squirrel, go off this way. Where the Lord is like, okay, he's the way, so this is the path walk in it. And I think there's that scripture in Isaiah says you will hear a voice behind you and it will say, this is the way this is the path walk through it. I think it's Isaiah 30, you know? And there's a voice behind you. But for me, I was so convicted. I was even telling my husband this morning, like, okay, the social media stuff, I have to turn it down. The news, I have to turn it down. Because the Lord is asking me to come listen to his voice. I can tell that his voice is starting to dim and other voices are starting to get loud. And his voice has to be the loudest voice that I hear really. I was intentional yesterday on Sunday of reordering my week, where my week is where he is a priority. Not that he isn't already a priority, but even more so to hear his voice, to create time and space, to hear his voice because it's vital right now. Like it's just not an option right now. This can't be a luxury or something we do on the side. To hear his voice has to be first and foremost priority because he is our first love and he has to be. Literally, we have to make sure that we keep on putting him back on the throne every moment. And yeah. So that's where I'm at. Sister. What about you?

Sr. Miriam James Heidland: [00:10:43] I can certainly relate to both of you. I was thinking a lot of how many times in our life, it seems like there is no way forward. Like we are the

Israelites we've gotten to the red sea and all we can see is the sea. And we can't see the way forward. And many times I think when that happens, we feel powerless. And many times I know for myself, I have an image of myself kind of like in a corner as a little girl and saying, there's no way through, what am I going to do now? And these lies the lies of the enemy, come over and say, you know, look, you're you trusted in vain. There's no way forward. You trusted something that wasn't going to come through for you. I mean, it's just amazing how the enemy comes right in those places. And I even in my own journey and when I'm mentoring other people and they come to me with their own version of that, where they, it just seems overwhelming and they don't know what to do. And yeah. And the only option is for me to turn to Christ and He promises he will never leave us nor forsake us. And he makes that promise of himself that I am the way. That I am so, there must be a way. It's kind of like those movies where there's a hidden door somewhere and many times it's in the dark and you have to feel around and you don't often see it. And we see sometimes in darkness, but there's always a way forward. Jesus would never leave us trapped in a corner and saying, well, good luck with that. He's always saying, I am the way I am the truth. I am the life. And though that reality. Uh, that reality. And also the scripture passages where Jesus says, you will know the truth and the truth will set you free. It's not just intellectual knowledge, but knowing him, knowing the person of truth, and that will bring us to freedom. So there's nothing in our life that's at a dead end, that Christ is not already providing another way through. And it might require a death to get there because we'll have to go to the resurrection, we have to surrender our control, which is so hard for us. I know myself, the Lord is convicting that at me again, of all the places I want to control and all that kind of stuff. But there's always a way through always, he never leaves us and he never leaves us abandoned. We are not orphans, we're his children. So he's always providing us a way through, if we can sit like you both are saying, if we can sit and implore him and ask him and sit and listen to what he's saying, he will always lead us, always. I

Heather Khym: [00:12:41] think it's important to remember, like you're saying he doesn't play games with us. Just because there doesn't seem to be an immediate answer right in front of our face doesn't mean that God is playing hide and seek. He's not like, Hey, I hope you figure this out. You know, this is like a escape room. Like yeah. Figure it out. I'm just going to stand here with my arms folded and watch you toil around trying to figure it out. There may not be an immediate answer right in front of your face but I think at the same time, what we find in scripture is the way. When we really break down the life of Jesus. And that's why we're doing this series, because we don't want these things to just be ideas for ourselves or for anybody else. That is just like an idea like, Oh Jesus, the way the truth and the life. That's cool. How is he the way and the truth and the life for me? How is he the way, the truth and life for you? He has given us the way if we look at his life and when we look at his life, what do we see? We see the Pascal mystery, of course. And that is a constant, circle that we should be in all the time. There are times where we are suffering and dying and rising. Again, we're following the path of Jesus. That's how we experienced restoration and wholeness and healing in our life. And in that process, you know, we come to fully depend on the father and we see that in the life of Jesus: mercy, trust, dependence security in the father, putting others first, abandonment to the will of the father, the reciprocity of love and relationship, seeing the dignity of the human person. When we go through the scriptures, we see the way that he is his giving us through how he lived, how he spoke, how he treated other people. And I don't know if we often take the time to really look at who he is know, and that's kind of where we're going. We're just scratching the surface, obviously in our

discussions, but when we truly open our heart to who Jesus really is and say, Lord, I want to know you as the way. I want to know you as the truth. And I want to know you as the life. That's when things really begin to change and take shape in our life and think about it.

Michelle Benzinger: [00:14:41] Okay. So we talked about the way we talk about the truth. We could have a whole conversation on just each one of these especially truth right now, what is truth, but okay and the life, And I was thinking to myself the last couple of days, uh, I had to write a mission statement for something like my why about something. And I was thinking about this yesterday - is the life that I am leading the life that longs to be lived in me? That he died for? You know, it tells us in John also like I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly. And we hear that scripture often, but do we really dive down? Or you hear the quote from Saint Irenaeus: the glory of God is man fully alive. You know, we throw that quote around, but what's it look like? And we, we throw these little catchphrases or scriptures around, and these are powerful scripture and a powerful phrase from Saint Irenaeus. I don't want to diminish that. But do we stop to ask, okay, what does abundant life look like for me? And really stopped to ponder that and really start to ponder and pray and dig deeper into that and look at the areas that are not abundant and ask the question: why? Lord, do you need to come in these areas? Is this sin? Is this woundedness? Is this just laziness? Like fill in the blank. And not to blame or shame ourselves, but because there's more. Like he has an invitation and I always have that image, like, I'm going back. I'm like, Oh my gosh. He set a banquet table in front of me. And I'm sitting on the floor, eating fast food. He has something more, you know, he has something that he wants, he's created this meal for me to savor, to be delighted in. And I'm just sitting on the floor, eating something quick, but he has something more for me and just really leaning into that. And a good friend of mine is really good. She asks a lot about legacy. And we had this conversation on Saturday at a football game, which was funny, like we're having this deep conversation. And she said to me, she was like, Michelle, I'm just really realizing. She's like, I want to know what legacy I'm leaving and I'm working on that. And I just loved that perspective because it's an eternal perspective. It is. It's eternal perspective, but it has to be intentional. And for me, intentional sometimes feels constraining, but what I'm realizing - intentional is a trellis that keeps me on the vine. Intentional is the path, the guard rails that keep me on the path and intentional is Jesus's voice saying, come close, come on. You can do it. Come closer, come closer. I'm right here. This is the way, walk in it. And I feel like his voice is in front of me. And his voice is behind me because like I said, prone to wander over here. So what is the life that he's calling us to? It's such an invitation.

Sr. Miriam James Heidland: [00:17:20] It really is. And how many of us really, what you're saying, Michelle is the words of Thomas saying, Lord, we don't know where you're going. I don't know where I'm going. I don't even know where you're going. It's just like, I don't know where, you know, how can we know the way? And so it's very tempting for all of us to look at our life at times and say, I don't know where you're going. Like where, where am I? I don't know what's happening. I can't figure it out. I'm so little. And how am I supposed to know the way it just, and it's just so beautiful that of all the things that Jesus could say to Thomas, he's not saying, well, if you were smarter, you could just figure it out or try harder. He's saying it's just how he responds to Thomas. And you can imagine just the way he looked at him and just probably looked at him with love and said, I, Thomas, I'm the way. I am the way I am the truth. And I am the life. You just stay with me, you stay with me, you live with me and you will know the way. And I think it's the difference between us living in our heads

and constantly trying to figure stuff out. I know it's easy for me to get into that kind of tailspin where you just it's like you trying to, I got to figure this out. I got it figure it. And the Lord is saying, would you just bring your heart to me? And I'm going to bring your intellect to me. And I'm just going to have you rest on my heart. And I'm going to show you the way. I'm going to, I'm just going to show you the way, but I need you to stay close to me. And you think of how the disciples lived with Christ. Of how Pope Francis talks about how he wants the shepherds to smell like the sheep and how Jesus lived with his disciples and they lived with him. And is that intimate knowledge that is available to every single one of us at all times where at any time we can turn our gaze back to Jesus and say, okay, Lord. I have taken my eyes off you. I don't feel like there's a way forward. I don't know what the truth is. I don't know. Right now I don't feel full of life. I feel full of death or I just feel like this is something that's gonna, whatever that is. That the Lord doesn't look at us and say, would you just try harder to get your stuff together? He's saying you come to me, you know, you come to me, all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest. I will give you rest. And I, I know for myself, I think it would make it so much more difficult than it has to be many times.

Heather Khym: [00:19:17] Yeah, I think it's so simple. What you're saying is hard to live, but it's really simple. It is abiding really. It's like, will you stay with me? Will you just stay with me? Like what a beautiful invitation, if we could. There's times where I've just pictured Jesus saying that to me, like with his eyes, those compelling, intriguing eyes where his voice is so tender, like you said, sometimes it's we hear a different voice, which is like filled not with the truth of who God is, but it's like, like you said, get your crap together. Whereas Jesus is really looking at each of us saying, will you stay here with me? And when I hear his voice like that, I'm like, of course, of course this is where I want to be. And I need that reminder that, yeah, this is. Where my heart was made for this actually is where I want to be as right with you Jesus. And there's comfort in how he responds to Thomas. Thomas is like, how are we going to figure it out? Jesus, like you don't need to. I figured it out. You just stay right with me. And I think it goes back to the good shepherd as well, that sometimes he carries a sheep, you know, sometimes on the way Jesus, isn't dragging us along. He's wanting to carry us. He's wanting to comfort us. He's wanting to help us along the way. It reminds me of that book, Hinds Feet on High Places. Oh my gosh. Yeah. I was probably 18 when I read that book, but when I, when I read it there, it was a big revelation to me about how. When we are looking at the way, through our perspective, she describes like, Oh, I'm supposed to go up to the high places in the mountains. And there's some times where the path, all of a sudden turns and the mountains are behind her and she's like, wait, what? Like I'm going the wrong way. And, uh, it's just that she can't see. And she has to trust that the shepherd is leading her, where she needs to go. I think the other aspect of Jesus, the truth that I've experienced very personally is inviting the truth of Jesus into the lies that I believed along the way. I love the restore the glory podcast with my husband, Jake and Dr. Bob, because it's my husband, Jake, but I mean, I love that too, but they talk about this in detail and I think it's something that we all need to learn about more so that we can apply this practical truth. That we all have places within us where we've made agreements with the enemy, with lies about who we are about our identity, about who God is, you know, negative images of God or where he wasn't, when we thought he should be. So to invite the truth of Jesus into the lies of our heart that have taken root and are bearing bad fruit is something that I do consistently throughout my journey. And I know that you guys do too, and I would love to just hear your thoughts on that.

Michelle Benzinger: [00:21:57] Yeah, I think it's really important. First of all, Heather, I love the book, *Hinds Feet on High Places*. One of the quotes is in my prayer journal. I give that book to all the girls that there's a really new version of it. I give it to a lot of the girls that I mentor and cause they read it. It is beautiful, but I love there as a part of it. I'm looking at it on my prayer journal that says, Oh shepherd, you said you would make my feet like hinds feet and set me upon high places. Well, he answered the shepherd. The only way to develop hinds feet is to go by the paths which the hinds feet are used. So like we have to walk these paths and the three of us have had conversations the last couple of weeks, but one of the processes the Lord has me coming through is really looking at anything that has entangled me, looking at anything that I've come in agreement with that isn't of the Lord. And this weekend, when I was praying, he brought me back to Hebrews 12 is like any constraints that is hindering you to run your race. I love that because it was all saints day. This weekend, I was like, okay Lord, what is constraining me? What is entangling me? What is breaking me? And I was just been really praying through those things deeply. And he's brought just a lot of things up in the last couple of days to look at and not bringing them up. Like I said before, to be like, Oh my gosh, you need to work on this and work on that. And he's like, no, take those off. Come on, girl. We got, you know, is it imitation? We have got a race to run, cast them off, break them off, let's do this. And so just coming to him in that way, but also I think for us, to go to the way the truth and the life takes courage. But I love how it tells us a scripture to take courage. You know? So there has to be an action. You have to take it and receive it. You have to go after it. You don't have to grasp, but you do have to take it and take hold of it. And that, to go to those places in our heart to pause and ask these questions to pray and ponder, there has to be something courageous in our hearts to do that and that has to be the Lord. And I just love that Thomas felt so secure in his relationship with the Lord to question him, he didn't see him as this authoritative leader. Like I can't ask him these questions. He'll think I'm dumb. He would, whatever. No Thomas trusted the Lord so much. Okay. Explain to me just like a little kid, but why, but why, but why. I was with my two year old nephew. You know, I, like I told y'all a couple weeks ago. I mean, I must have answered, but why, but why like 20 million times, right? Thomas trust Jesus, come on, Jesus. Give me some answers. Let me ask you because it's a relationship, you know, it is a relationship. And so yeah, for us, where do we need to just take courage and go to these places of our hearts? I don't know sister?

Sr. Miriam James Heidland: [00:24:37] That is so good. I was just recently thinking of what happens in secure relationships is when we feel safe enough to ask, when we feel safe enough to tell what we need, when we feel safe enough to feel where we're hurt, where we're not pretending, you know, and not in human relationships, there's always elements of a certain insecurity to it. But when it, when one of our relationship is largely securely attached, you do have that freedom. And I was thinking of who Christ is. And that's, he is secure attachment and he is security itself and how the disciples would have, and Jesus responds to them differently in different settings, but they would have had the freedom to be able to do that. And Jesus didn't, you know, offer some sort of sharp rebuke that was cutting or demeaning or anything like that. Just that engagement of that kind of intimacy. I think we often overlook because sometimes in our life, I remember many years ago, somebody telling me that who is an intercessor for me. And she texted me one time and she knew that I was struggling with a certain area of my heart with the Lord. And she just texted me out of the blue. And she said, you know what, sister, Miriam Jesus is your husband. It's okay. If you bring that to him and be really honest, she was like, it's okay. You can, you can.

Yeah. She's like, I know that you're struggling with that. And I know that, I know, I understand the beauty of your heart there, but she's like, he can take it because he's your husband and he loves you. And that for me was just such a beautiful thing. And of course, yes, God is God. And his ways are far beyond ours. And thank God, but he's not off-put or offended by our questions or our struggles or our being overwhelmed and where he comes to bring it. Cause that's the truth. Like that's the truth of honesty. Open relationships and Jesus reveals his heart to us and honesty, and he comes to heal. Like you're saying, Heather heal the places where we believe lies about him, where we realize about ourself lies about other people is, you know, sometimes we spend our entire life laboring under something that's a complete lie. And we've set up our whole life on a foundation of something that's not even true. So Jesus, please reveal the truth to each one of us right now about an area of our life, where we have been laboring under a lie, that's kept us constrained. That's kept us hindered. That's kept us in a diminished place, a place of self hatred, or place of addiction or. Oh, gosh, he loves to come into these places and bring us to life there. And that has just been my prayer lately, as I reveal those reveals more and more of those places for me, I was like, Oh my gosh, that's just not true. In the name of Jesus Christ I renounce like, that is not true. And I cannot afford to spend it on another moment believing that lie because it's not true. And it just it's destructive. So Jesus gives me the courage to welcome you here and grow my heart in places beyond my comfort zone so that I am comfortable in the truth of who you are, because that's the only way for me.

Heather Khym: [00:27:19] Yeah. I think knowing Jesus as the truth is so vitally important right now as a world for humanity. We are being bombarded with so many lies. And I don't know about you guys, but sometimes I'm overwhelmed by it. Like when I turn on the news and I'm like, I don't even know what to believe anymore. And I, you know, with various leaders in different places, I'm like, I don't know whether to trust you. There's just so much corruption. And I think, you know, we're feeling this in the world on a very deep level. The loss of leadership, like all over the place where we're just like, I want to trust someone what they're saying, but I don't know if I can, people are now fearful about the vaccine that might be coming in the future. We're fearful about things that medical people are telling us. We're fearful about all this. Like everybody is questioning everything. And I think it's so important that we enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus, the truth. Because his truth doesn't change. We can trust him. He is the only one that is steadfast, that never changes. And his word always stands. It's always relevant in every situation, in every time, for every person. It's vitally important for us. Like if you watch a lot of people watch the documentary of the social dilemma and you hear about how, because stuff, it is that we're all. If we are on social media, we are being pumped full of whatever they want us to see whether we believe whether we think we are not, we, we are being influenced by many, many, many things. And it's on my heart more than ever. Like, I need to turn down that noise and I need to, like you were saying, Michelle, I need to come to Jesus again, say, teach me your ways of the Lord. And I will walk in your truth, teach me your ways, Lord. And I will walk in your truth. Like I just want to submit to your truth. I don't have to question you.

Michelle Benzinger: [00:29:12] Yeah, I agree. And. Just going in, like closing it up. But it's interesting. I picked up this weekend. I was like, right. I need something to read that is engaging, but isn't super, you know, a little bit where it's entertainment, leisure, but it's not total fluff. But, so I picked up the last battle again from CS Lewis. And that's the last, if you read Chronicles of Narnia, it's the last book in the series and I love it. And I came across this

quote yesterday and it was one of my favorite, but it was like for such a time as this, I so needed to hear it. And it reminds me of just walking on this path of the way and the truth of the life. And if you haven't read, like I suggest reading all of them in order, but the last battle it's just so poignant right now for this time in history. Like I was like, Oh, Lord, there's a reason why you have me reading this Holy spirit, but I love the unicorn. Like I love the unicorn in this one. I love it, but I love what the unicorn says. I have come home at last. This is my real country. I belong here. This is the land I've been looking for all my life though I never knew it until now. Come further up, come further in. And that's just the thing, because the way the truth and the life, we're all looking for that invitation to home, who is a person. It is Christ. And we were looking to go to the father's house. He's made a place for us. And, but we have to go further up and further in, you know, further up and have a heavenly perspective and be in his gaze and further in above our own hearts, like to look deeply into our own hearts and he keeps on inviting us to that. And if you're really cool, you have a unicorn to guide you, but, you know,

Sr. Miriam James Heidland: [00:30:55] Hey, well, I'll just make, do what we can do right now, but whatever.

Heather Khym: [00:31:00] So I like that further up, further in.

Michelle Benzinger: [00:31:04] Further up, further in.

Sr. Miriam James Heidland: [00:31:06] Hmm. Amen. So that's our prayer for you this week? Friends, as we kind of transitioned into our one thing for the week, but further up and further in, where is Jesus, as the way the truth and the life calling you up further up and further in that's the, Oh, that's gorgeous. A great thing to think about and a great thing to ponder with the Lord and how he's bringing us in a place where it seems no way that there's a way. And it's him. It is him. Yeah. That's awesome. So, uh, Heather, do you want to share with your, or our listeners, your one thing for the week?

Heather Khym: [00:31:38] Sure. One thing is a song from Damascus mission worship. This song. I can't even, I was watching this video in my kitchen while I was trying to cook dinner and I just like suddenly had tears streaming down my face. I'm not overselling this. This is a Catholic, how, how would I even describe this case Catholic ministry? They have retreats and stuff for young people and they also at school. Yeah. They also have a Catholic mission school. So, so young, young adults who want to give a year of their life to be on mission. And they do formation there and they have a worship team and they're writing their own worship music. And this song called, I believe I'm going to put the link in the show notes and you can find it on our website where you can find all our one things and all the show notes. This song was so powerful. Just seeing Catholic young people being moved by the Holy spirit and writing songs. Like just, it was so beautiful and my heart was like. Finally, like, look at this so beautiful. So please look it up. And I hope you enjoy it. And also if you're a young person and you're looking for something to do, please check out their mission program. Um, I don't know, I'm going to find the link somewhere. It'll be in the show notes. We'll put the link to everything that you can find about them and the people who run it are wonderful, wonderful leaders who I trust. So yeah. Check it out, Michelle. What's your one thing?

Michelle Benzinger: [00:33:07] I have two, one things as usual. And so one of them is I came across, you all know that I have a deep love for Tasha Cobbs Leonard. Like she has a new album out, but that's not my one thing, but it should be. So queen, um, she is like, she is so

queen and you all need a stop right now and pray that she becomes my friend in real life. But anyway, I love her. And I saw her live in concert and she just, there is such power in her voice. Uh, I mean, I just love her, but they did a live, um, song, her and, uh, Kierra Sheard. And it's a song called something has to break and they did it at the very beginning of quarantine. And I love the song, but I had never seen the live video on YouTube. It is so powerful. I made it as. Downright gospel and I love it, but it was so funny you were playing it in my car. And my son David was, uh, just like, he goes, man, there's some power going on in there. And he actually just got the piano music for the song. Cause he just loved it. But there is something so anointed about this. I mean, if you're ready for some gospel church, there is this song. And my other favorite thing is we are going to begin our advent series. On the first week of advent and we created these beautiful cards to go along with them that you can display in your house. But what really came out of this is- this came out of the fruit of all of our prayer and that we had done a consecration about Mary's mantle this past fall and it was such beautiful, so beautiful. It's been my one thing, but out of it, like the Lord has really just made Mary become very, three-dimensional very tangible and just feeling this cry of all of our hearts for really like the only phrase I get. Is it just, there's something that's coming to. Um, prayer for me is the Holy spirit. I just really feel like he's saying basically like scoot people, get them under her mantle, you know, just gather them under her mantle and her maternal protection, like for such a time as this, this, I think our mother is calling us in a special way with the Holy spirits to really come under her maternal protection and to really become, allow her to love us and her motherly love. And I, we're going to just explore four different aspects of Mary and my prayer and our prayer for you all journeying with us this advent is that she becomes more of a mother to you, and that she becomes more three-dimensional to you too. So she just becomes tangible and real, and that you see different aspects of her then you have never experienced before. That she's not just a statue, but that she's a mother that loves you. So that is mine. Sister, what is your one thing?

Sr. Miriam James Heidland: [00:35:44] Well, gosh, y'all. While you guys are well friends, while you're listening to the music and watching the video and all that kind of stuff, I'm just going to give you some cookies. So I have a recipe for you. My superior that I live with is an excellent cook and baker. She's just so good and this weekend, she made the recipe is called the best pumpkin chocolate chip cookies ever. And it literally is the best pumpkin chocolate chip cookies ever. And it's, they're so good. And so I couldn't stop eating them. I don't usually eat sweets ever, but I, these were so good at, cause they're not too sweet and they just, they really have a nice pumpkin flavor to them and they go, they pair well with the glass of milk and peanut butter. I'm just saying like, if that is your thing, you will love them. So while you're crying your eyes out listening to gospel music, eat cookies, and I'm going to give you a recipe that you're going to love. So There;s a way through people, there's a way through. Well, thank you so much for joining us this week, dear friends, and it is our heart that Jesus speaks that's to you about the way that he's making in your life for you always have your home in him and that's where you belong. So until next week we will be abiding together. God bless you.

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