

Longing to belong

questions and reflections to accompany film

Past generations can tell stories which raise many questions for future generations. The 'Windrush Generation' have many such stories with experiences from which we can learn and grow. *Longing to Belong* is a film that invites us to consider lessons from history, mindful that we can't change what has happened. We can, though, tell new stories that can help us build a better future together from whatever our cultural and historical heritages.

Longing to Belong is a story still being written and how it evolves depends on how YOU write it with YOUR reflections of personal experience and imagination. The new story you write is both with the ink on the paper as you reflect on the film, but also through the pages of your life as others can read them.

There is no fixed answer to the questions arising from *Longing to Belong*. There are many different answers and none of them need be wrong. So as you share, listen to the context of the time and experience, connect with the legacies and realities of today so that together we can learn and work towards building a better tomorrow for generations to come.

So, some questions to consider:

- **Do you feel as though you BELONG, and to what do you want to BELONG?**
[Belonging can be to a community; family; church; team; nation or to God]
- **How can we help people BELONG to what they feel they want to BELONG?**

"We were invited but never welcomed," said Agatha.

- a. Is an invitation enough to make people feel welcome?
- b. Why do we invite people?
- c. Have you ever been invited somewhere, but not felt welcomed? What did it feel like?

Luke 10: 38-42

A woman named Martha opened her home to him...

- d. Do we open our homes to people whether they be neighbours or strangers?
- e. How do we make people feel welcome? Where/how does eating feature
- f. What is challenging about this story/text?
- g. What prejudice(s) may Jesus be challenging here?

- **Why did so many immigrants come to Britain after the Second World War?**

“We had a dream of coming to promised land for our children...”

- Did they come because of a better future for themselves and their families?
- Did they come because they were invited to help rebuild the “mother country”?
- Why have you ever moved from one place to another or changed jobs?
- Did they come because they felt called by God to go and make disciples of all nations?

Matthew 28: 19-20 *“And teach them everything I have commanded you... “*

- **What lessons of faith can we learn from the “immigrants” who have come to Britain?**

Matthew 18: 21 *“Lord, how many times must I forgive people....?”*

“You wanna forget and forgive, but Abraham, you gotta remember to properly forgive...”

- Who has to take the initiative to forgive and how many times must they do it?
- Can you imagine the pain of having to keep on forgiving and what it does to people?
- What made Agatha feel that she didn’t belong and just wanted to go home?
- Does forgetting make forgiving easier or does remembering make forgiving stronger?
- What were Abraham and Agatha having to forgive in their different ways?
- What did Mandy have to forgive at the end of the story? Did Abraham know? Had he been trying to forget?
- Do we keep secrets from our children? Why?

- **Do we look at the pictures in the story, but not hear the words?**

- How much do we assume about people from what we see before hearing their story?

A black friend of mine went to visit a white friend in hospital but was told by a black nurse that there was no-one by his name on the ward. She assumed my black friend was visiting a black person but when she realised her mistake asked my friend if “she was his social worker!”

- a. What is actually happening here at this Bank in the following example?

A white customer visited a Bank and asked the black woman behind the counter if he could "please see the manager." The black woman asked the customer how she could help but he demanded to see the manager. The customer angrily repeated his request: "I said I wanted to see the manager so please go and get him!" The black woman replied: "HE is a SHE and I am the manager so how can I help you?"

- b. Are racist gangs/groups ethnic, colour, class and culture bound?
- c. Do we have to look the same and think the same as others, to feel that we belong?
- d. Do we see Christ in people of other cultures and nations or do we believe we provide the face and voice of Christ for others to find?

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me..." [Matthew 10: 40]

So why did Agatha feel that she wanted to go home....?

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