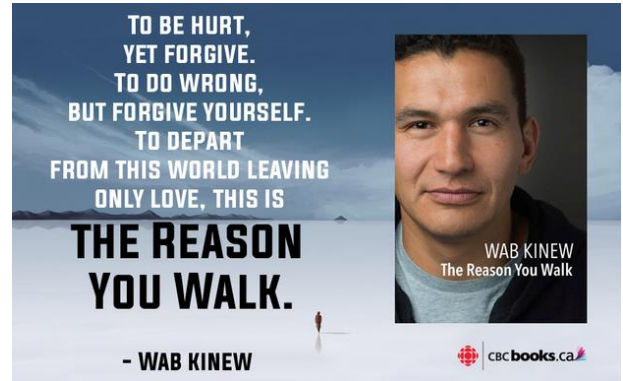


2017 Lent Book
The Reason You Walk by Wab Kinew
Leader Guide

Reflection from Bishop Michael Bird

I am delighted that the Lenten book that I have chosen this year is one that will help us to continue the journey that we are committed to as a diocese to grow into a new understanding of the challenges and the blessings that are the reality of life for our Indigenous peoples. This study is one of many ways that we are honouring our deep desire to respond to the “Calls to Action” that have been placed before us as a



church and as a nation by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Led by our Archdeacon for Truth, Reconciliation and Indigenous Ministry, Val Kerr, we are beginning to see this ministry come alive and bring many new insights into the spiritual life of the people of the Diocese of Niagara. At the very heart of this journey is the work of reconciliation which is foundational for our lives as followers of Jesus. It is central to our baptismal covenant.

I am confident that this wonderful book, *The Reason You Walk*, by Wab Kinew will inspire and encourage you as we walk this road together. May this study be a blessing to you in this season of Lent and may it help to give us the courage and strength to respond to these Calls to Action and to be the instruments of God’s reconciling love in the world we are called to serve.

Contributors to the leader and participant study guide: Kathleen Randle, Archdeacon Val Kerr, Sr. Margaret, Caroline Sharp, Canon Donna Bomberry, Catherine Leckey, Bruce Weaver and Reverend Maria Nightingale

The questions in the participant study guide have been separated into five sections with the understanding you will use this guide in the most helpful way for your group. We hope that these questions will help you in your study of the book *The Reason You Walk*.

I am the reason you walk: Four meanings (pg. 132)

1. I have created you and therefore you walk.
2. I am your motivation.
3. I am that spark inside you called love which animates you and allows you to live by the Anishinaabe values of kiizhewaatiwin.
4. I am the destination at the end of your life that you are walking toward.

Ideas for Leaders and Some Resources Used

1. Opening liturgy of some sort.
2. Be creative.
3. Perhaps a meal (something Indigenous?).
4. Perhaps smudging (or drumming) but only if there is someone like an elder in the group who practices smudging and can teach what it is about and why we do it. Walk gently as it is disrespectful to take something and make it your own.
5. Make it clear that people need not get “hung up” on the Anishinaabe language to follow the story although obviously important to Wab to use it.
6. Suggest they may want to look at some YouTube videos.
7. You may want to do an exercise with stones...“courage stones”. Each person chooses a stone then as we go around the circle each person shares a story of a time they did something that took courage. After we share our stories we pass each person’s stone around the circle and pray on it. When we leave we take our “courage stones” with us.
8. Link loss of land and way of life to plight of today’s Syrian and other refugees.

Notes: Pair questions with appropriate Scripture readings, e.g., the exile, the slaughter of the Innocents.

You may want to know how to pronounce Wab’s Dad’s name Ndede (Ne-DeeDee)

YouTube word of the day: Anishinaabemowin series - a link to one video (other videos available on web page) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpTwdkzTq4A>

Pronouncing some of these words correctly (might be helpful but not necessary)

http://www.native-languages.org/ojibwe_guide.htm

Woodland Cultural Centre: a non-profit organization which preserves and promotes the culture and heritage of the First Nations of the Eastern Woodland area. 184 Mohawk St., Brantford, ON - 519-759-2650 <http://www.woodland-centre.on.ca/>

Show “8th Fire”: a provocative, high-energy journey through Aboriginal country showing you why we need to make whole Canada's 500 year-old relationship with Indigenous peoples; a relationship mired in colonialism, conflict and denial. <http://www.cbc.ca/8thfire/>

Sundance Ceremony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EK4fCv5ekzl>

Another short video (with piercing): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvqQmTSDXtY>

Aboriginal Drumming music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlAZjca2YMo>

About smudging: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzysDb4pVco>

Oakville Reads Study: Five questions http://www.goodreads.com/topic/group_folder/312377

Other Useful Websites for General Information about Indigenous Peoples

Dancing to Eagle Spirit Society:

<http://www.dancingtoeaglespiritsociety.org/index.php>

Hamilton Region Indian Centre:

<http://www.hric.ca/>

Six Nations:

<http://www.sixnations.ca/>

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada:

<http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=3>

Kairos Canada:

<http://kairosblanketexercise.org/>

Anglican Church of Canada Indigenous Ministries:

<http://www.anglican.ca/im/>

Story of Turtle Island (North America) and more:

<http://www.turtleisland.org/front/article3.htm>