

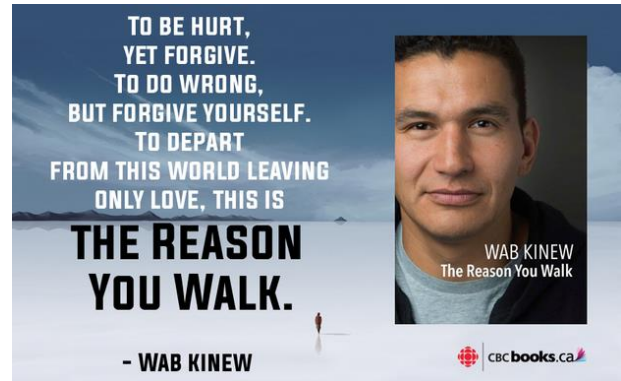
**2017 Lent Book**  
**The Reason You Walk by Wab Kinew**  
**Participant Study Guide**

**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.



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Contributors to the 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 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*.

**Section 1**

- Why did you read this book and decide to come to this Lenten study?
- What do you already know about the indigenous way of life or indigenous issues today?
- Would you read the book again? Why or why not?
- Why would you recommend the book to someone else?
- Wab Kinew describes many indigenous traditions of the Anishinaabe culture throughout this memoir/biography from naming ceremonies, dream interpretations, adoption ceremonies, Sundance, etc. What kind of impression did they make on you?
- How could the Sundance be compared to a pilgrimage?

## Section 2

- Is there anything that surprised, disturbed, or puzzled you?
- *The Reason You Walk*...What does it look like to the Creator's eyes?
- Is there anything specific you identify with?
- How is the book and these conversations impacting you?
- What have we learned about different cultures? What can we learn from First Nations?
- What would your community look like if all your children were gone?
- Should we be intentional when we name our children? What might our intentions be?

## Section 3

- After reading about the Sundance...what in our/your culture or Biblical story could be misunderstood by another culture as brutal.
- What do you think First Nations people want?
- What is the place of visions and dreams in indigenous culture, in the Bible and in our world?
- Wab says he had "**strayed off the red road I had been taught to walk...**" Who in scripture might you name as someone who strayed off the road they had been called to walk?
- "...they have forgotten how to live on the land." Wab reflects on his youth in many ways, especially his connection to the land. How easy is it for a non-native reader to really feel that connection to land and, even more so, to place?

## Section 4

- Reconciliation could have many meanings regarding Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples. It can also have many meanings in our relationships with one another in general. What types of reconciliation were highlighted in *The Reason You Walk*?
- How would you describe Wab's anger, doubt and then peace surrounding his Dad's death? In what ways can you connect with Wab's story of restoration?
- The Epilogue talks of a journey of love, a journey with Wab's father, family interaction and a way forward. How might this be compared with your own experience of Lent, journey, and reconciliation?
- Wab's family were highly educated/Indigenous people have a strong intellectual tradition pg. 115. Do you see education for First Nations people being used as a tool of oppression or a tool of empowerment? pg. 150

## Section 5

- To what extent do you think such personal accounts as shared in this book can help others understand the truth about our treatment of indigenous peoples and help us to reconcile our differences?
- Did Wab Kinew take risks in telling his story, or could he have been more revealing? What revelations, in particular, did you admire?
- Many of our Indigenous brothers and sisters have remained in the church. Why do you think that is so given the ways they have been treated throughout the years?
- What do you want to do with what you have learned? Is there anything that you need to act on? How might your church begin the process of reconciliation?
- How might we start a relationship with Indigenous peoples?