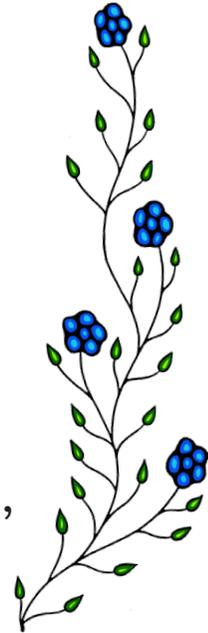
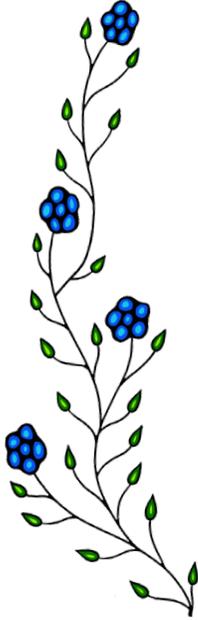


STUDY GUIDE

NATIVE: IDENTITY, BELONGING,
AND REDISCOVERING GOD



by Kaitlin Curtice

Part 1

Beginnings

Start by reading the part 1 summary.

Then read the poem at the beginning of part 1 before moving on to discussion.

1. Think about your own beginnings. Where did you grow up? What was your childhood like? As an adult, what have you learned from your child self?
2. Creation stories deeply shape us, whether we realize it or not. What creation stories did you learn in childhood, and what do those creation stories mean to you now?
3. As I write in the book, identity is about *journey*. What has the journey of discovering who you are been like? We are always still discovering ourselves, so what is this process like for you? What are you grieving? What are you celebrating? How are you welcoming yourself home?
4. How are our bodies connecting to the earth? How can we better honor this earth as we honor our own stories?

Part 2

Searching for Meaning

Start by reading the part 2 summary.

Then read the poem at the beginning of part 2 before moving on to discussion.

1. How has white supremacy manifested in your life? Can you name it and acknowledge it?
2. If you are non-Native, how can you be a better ally to Indigenous peoples as we fight for our voices to be heard in the world and by the church?
3. In chapter 6, I write about how my hair is a large part of my identity and how it connects me to my culture. What parts of you (your body or your identity) really connect you to your culture or to your sense of being you, and why?
4. In this part of the book, I write about boarding schools, which aren't often talked about in America. We need to face this part of our history and its implications for today. Are you willing to commit to learning the truth about difficult parts of our history and to teaching others as well?

Part 3

The Struggle for Truth

Start by reading the part 3 summary.

Then read the poem at the beginning of part 3 before moving on to discussion.

1. How can we expand our ideas of communion and communing?
2. It's important to think about who our ancestors were and what kind of ancestors we want to be. What will your legacy be? As an ancestor, what will those who come after you remember about who you were on this earth?
3. As we gather with one another to have honest conversations about who we are and where we come from, we have to make sure everyone is included in the conversation. In these conversations about truth and justice, who have you often left out?
4. I wrote this in chapter 12: "Those of us who are angry cannot wait for the church to give us permission." Are you angry with the church? Have you named that anger, and do you have a safe space to express that anger, to process it and heal from it?

Part 4

Working

Start by reading the part 4 summary.

Then read the poem at the beginning of part 4 before moving on to discussion.

1. This section of the book is about waking up to the reality of injustice. My wake-up call was Standing Rock. What was yours? What in your life has called you out of yourself and into a world waiting for truth to be spoken?
2. If you are a churchgoing Christian, how is your church getting to work? What are you doing with your community to defuse hate?
3. I write in this section that Indigenous peoples are often left out of conversations on injustice. How can you work to make sure Indigenous voices are heard? How can you practice solidarity with Indigenous peoples?
4. In chapter 16, I write a letter to people who are mixed race/ethnicity/culture. If you have people in your group who are mixed and they'd like to share about their experiences, let them. Listen to those who spend much of their lives in liminal spaces. Talk about how you can work to incorporate the experiences of mixed people in your conversations about justice.

Part 5

Bearing Fruit in a New World

Start by reading the part 5 summary.

Then read the poem at the beginning of part 5 before moving on to discussion.

1. The last section of this book is about solidarity with others. What does solidarity mean to you? Do you think of solidarity differently after reading *Native*? If so, how?
2. How can we better engage and talk with those who are different than we are? What could contribute to better interfaith dialogues? How do our religious backgrounds inform how we interact with other human beings?
3. “Our spiritual realities do not exist in a vacuum.” Spend some time unpacking this with one another. How are our oppression and our resilience tied to each other? Read aloud from chapter 18 if you need a place to start.
4. Let’s imagine a better world for our children, for future generations. What does this world look like? How do humans and nonhumans get along with each other? How are we decolonizing in this new world? Really take time to dream together. How could these dreams shape how you act *now*?