



READING HOPE BLACK CHURCH

with the

SUMMARY | Wheaton College Professor of New Testament Dr. Esau McCaulley understands we come to a deeper understanding of the Bible when we learn how faithful Bible readers from diverse communities encounter the Bible.

In this episode, Esau reveals insights that emerge from biblical passages as we examine their importance in the nurturing of hope throughout the African American Christian experience. Like peeling back layers of an onion, these conversations help us discover how engaging with believers from different cultural backgrounds can offer us a greater understanding of Scripture than we would acquire alone. Be part of the group as Dr. Esau McCaulley leads us in “reading hope with the Black church.”

This Week’s Discussion Questions

1. Read [Genesis 48:5–6](#). How does Jacob’s inclusion of Joseph’s sons into his inheritance advance the promise that God gave to Abraham in [Genesis 12:2–3](#)? How might Jacob’s grandsons’ origin story be meaningful for the African descendants of slaves?
2. Read [Matthew 22:15–22](#). What was the trap the Pharisees and Herodians tried to set with their question for Jesus? How can our political affiliation interfere with God’s image stamped on us?
3. Read [Romans 13:1–4](#). What does this passage (esp. vv. 3–4) teach us about the Bible expectations for how authorities, such as political leaders and police, exercise their leadership? How does the role of Paul, like the prophets of old, reveal how God uses His people to hold those in authority accountable for their actions today?
4. Read [Luke 1:46–55](#). In verse 52, what is it about God’s character that Mary is celebrating? How would God’s selection of Mary and God’s deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt offer hope and encouragement to African American readers of Scripture?
5. Read [Psalm 137](#). What emotions are expressed in this psalm? What does the existence of psalms like this in Scripture reveal about God’s presence in the midst of trauma? What are some times in Black history where a psalm like this may have been particularly meaningful? How can such psalms encourage those who have experienced trauma?

Challenge



Who do you know who is a Christian from a different cultural background? Call them up or take them out for coffee this week and give them a chance to share passages that have been meaningful to them and/or to their Christian ethnic understanding. Take note how their appreciation of God's Word can deepen your own.

Commit To Memory



“Until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

[Ephesians 4:13–16 ESV](#)

Prayer



Lord, thank You for the diversity of the body of Christ You've provided to help us understand who You are in deeper ways. Please remind me of my need for other perspectives to better grasp the height, width, and depth of Your love for us. Amen.

