



Faith, Culture, Questions 2016

Brian McLaren: The Great Spiritual Migration

FAITH, CULTURE, QUESTIONS 2016

David Bazan

Thursday, September 22
at 8pm

The Bell House

Lisa Sharon Harper

Thursday, October 13 at
7pm

Calvary Episcopal
Church

Brian McLaren

Sunday, November 6 at
10am and 11:30am

The Gramercy Theatre

RESOURCES

Brian McLaren, *The Great
Spiritual Migration*

OPENING:

- Does anyone in your group have experience working for social justice? Attended any protests? Worked for a nonprofit? Wrote a letter to a senator on an issue they were passionate about?
 - Talk about what activist or social justice experiences your group members have had.
- What kinds of social justice movements draw your attention? (Environmental sustainability, LGBTQ civil rights, etc.)
 - The staff would love to hear about these!

DISCUSSION:

If possible, ask your group members to listen to the [Midrash NYC](#) podcast with Brian McLaren prior to coming. Read aloud the following quotes from the podcast and discuss.

“Christian faith has defined itself for 1,400-1,500 years as a system of belief, and I think we need to rediscover, in a migration, Christian faith as a way of life... This isn’t news to anyone, but would be news if we put it into practice. At the core of the way of life is love.”

- What would our institutions (our churches, our families, etc.) look like if we treated Christianity as a way of life?
- How would it alter the decisions we made outside of church on Sunday if we treated Christianity as a way of life, rooted in love?
- Would you have to make changes to how you view or treat Christianity or your own Christian-ness in relation to other areas of your life (work, friendships, etc.)?

*“We have presented ourselves as an **organized** religion. We need to come to see ourselves as an **organizing** religion. Meaning that we are constantly organizing people to do the work of God in the world. Rather than an organization that is just an institution trying to preserve the past. [We need] to learn what it means to have a history like we have in this country and in our world and now to say what would it look like if God’s kingdom come in this world, in relation to ___?”*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit forefrontnyc.com/calendar-mh for more events

SUNDAY SERIES

FOREFRONT IS...

September 11 -
October 9

We are an interdenominational faith community dedicated to cultivating a just and generous expression of Christianity. In this series we're uncovering the core gospel message that has been buried under layers of tradition, culture, and history.

- Fill in the blank in this quote: where do you see brokenness and need for reconciliation? Is it the church's stance on marriage equality? Racism in the American criminal justice system?
- How does reconciliation happen? Think of an argument you've had with someone, and expand that to a macro scale. How would reconciliation happen and how could we, as Forefront, begin it in relation to the places of brokenness you already identified?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Ask one of your group members to pray the Prayer of Saint Francis aloud.

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.