

Disney's *Encanto*: Youth Ministry Discussion Guide

By the Reverend Dr. Krystal Leedy

How is Casita like the church? Sometimes, it can feel like the church is a living document, as though it has a mind of its own, the building and things that we have in our church help us to be able to worship (like: the way the sanctuary is set up, the microphones, the architecture of the space, the Bibles and hymnals, and the font, table and pulpit; candles seem to have any importance in church ☺).

What other things reminded you of the church? The crowd coming to help the family, the family itself, reconciliation as a goal, the brokenness that sometimes gets swept under the rug, the fact that vulnerability helps heal (the truth will set you free).

What kinds of gifts do people have that can benefit the church? Helping others, preaching, financial knowledge, lawyers can help with legal stuff, liturgists, choir members can sing, service projects and mission trips, especially those that take special knowledge.

How does it feel when you don't feel like you have anything to offer your community?

If you were a gifted member of the Family Madrigal, what do you think your gift would be that you could use to help your community?

Does Mirabel have something to offer the community? If so, what was it? Leadership, vision for a new future, hope, authenticity, connection

How does it feel when the community does not recognize the good in your gift?

Does Bruno have something to offer the community? If so, what was it? Prophecy, but also empathy for people like Pepa [listen to Bruno's solo in "All of You"].

What does Abuela offer to the community? Love and care and tradition to ground them, deploying the members of the family to help.

But what does Abuela need to learn? She needs to open her eyes to the new vision placed before her and to let go a little bit; she is holding on too tightly, that people are more than their gifts – that their worthiness of love and belonging is based on who they are, not what they provide or produce.

Why do you think she holds on so tightly? Because she saw what the miracle was in her generation, it also kept her connected to the important people she lost in her life.

Where is God in this story? Allowing for the safe passage of Abuela, her children, and the community through the waters (connection to Exodus and baptism), allowing for the miracle to exist in gifts for so long.

What images of God did you see? The candle, the triplets, the butterfly as a resurrection symbol, the gifts within each person - whether they had a door or not, the joy in the house, the fact that the house was a living document, the miracle in each person.

How do you see the image of God in the miracle of you? What in your life would change if you opened your eyes to the worthiness within you?



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