



STUDY GUIDE GEEZ 70: ANCESTORS, REMEMBERING FOR THE FUTURE

These study guides are created for use in community – in the classroom, in book groups, with your faith circle – or for quiet reflection on your own. You can find a pdf of this study guide and ones from previous issues at geezmagazine.org/resources/study-guides.

REMEMBERING OUR ANCESTORS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Owólabi Aboyade's piece, "slow, slow, slow" is re-membling through social justice movements and physical body movement. How would you respond to his question for the movement work you are engaged with, "What would movements look and feel like if we acknowledged that whenever we gather we bring a host of spirits and ancestors with us?"
2. Have you inherited an item from an ancestor? What are the stories associated with that ancestor and that item? What are the stories you and that item would tell today?

ACTIVITIES

1. Sarah Pappas wrote about the birds her ancestors may have seen. Research the creatures and plants from your ancestral homelands. Write a journal entry from one of your ancestor's perspective about an experience with the wild.
2. Weave a word tapestry by taking sentences and co-creating a story. Write those sentences on strips of cloth and weave together or share stories orally in remembering and relearning about your ancestors.

BECOMING AN ANCESTOR

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Angela Pupino's "A Blessing for an Aging Activist" are words to soon-to-be ancestors who have preceded us. What are the words you wish ancestors left for you to encourage you in activism and contemplation? What is the blessing you would give to an aging activist in your own words?
2. Becoming an ancestor is a lived work in progress and is the work of connecting to the past and the future. How would you describe this work in progress for yourself? What is the journey you are currently taking to become an ancestor? How would a map of such a journey be illustrated?

ACTIVITIES

1. Write a letter to someone who will regard you as an ancestor and express to them your hopes for the future your ancestor will inhabit.
2. Create a time capsule with words and items to leave your wisdom for future generations. What knowledge would you like to leave as your legacy? What are the memories you would like for future generations to remember? What are items you would leave for an ancestor in a time capsule?
3. Write a letter with a blessing of gratitude for a particular aging activist who has shifted your life.

IMPLICATIONS OF WHITE ANCESTRAL WORK

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways has white supremacy stripped you of your ancestral identity and connections to cultural and historical practices? What are ways you can reclaim practices without appropriating them?
2. White supremacy forces all of us into dis-ease and discomfort. What are liturgical practices you can embody to reclaim ease and comfort in working to dismantle white supremacy?

ACTIVITIES

1. Take time and intention to learn about the work of The Dismantling of the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition by reading their publication, "Stories of Repair: A Reparative Justice Resource Toward the Dismantling of the Doctrine of Discovery." How will you participate in the Resource Map Toward Reparative Justice?
2. Journal: How will you move beyond knowing whose land you occupy? What are concrete ways you can move from land acknowledgment to reparative justice?