

AN ORIGINAL PODCAST SERIES PRESENTED BY SECC YOUTH

Dear CHURCH,



Episode 5: Ezrica

Discussion Guide

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Episode 5: Ezrica introduces us to Ezrica Bennett, a woman whose family immigrated from Jamaica when she was five years old. Since then, she has served as a missionary, a church elder, and a writer. Ezrica openly shares about her experience with poverty, spiritual abuse, racism, and advocacy as a Seventh-day Adventist.

STARTER Before listening to Episode 5, think back on your unique childhood. What words or stories would you choose to best describe it to others?

Question 1 Ezrica describes her upbringing as both “tragically poor” and “really fun,” [5:01, 8:38] and shares how the Church did and did not help her family. What do you see as the Church’s responsibility to help immigrant families who are in need?

Question 2 We hear about Ezrica’s complicated experience as a missionary from ages 17-26, which included missing holidays and family visits. How do you define the line between sacrificial mission work and spiritual abuse?

Question 3 At 19:45, Ezrica shares her experience with racism in the Church and how it impacted her relationship with God. Have you ever experienced racism? If not, what do you feel is your responsibility to address racism in the Church?

BONUS In her letter, Ezrica likens the Church to either a sculpture or a garden, writing, “We as a Church should be a garden and allow ourselves to grow, to be pruned, to go through seasons of progression and change, not collect dust.” [31:03] Do you agree that the Church is best as a growing garden, or something else?