



Continuing the Conversation

Stitching the Fabric: Reclaiming America's Shared Story Season 3, Episode 2

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Questions for reflection and/or group conversations

1. Finding a common good for a society necessitates some sort of a unifying center. Do you believe our nation agrees on a unifying center? If so, what would you identify as the unifying center?
2. Does a nation need one overarching national story or can it survive based on distinct and unique stories from its various groups?
3. If our communities and nation are to reclaim a "shared center," what are you personally willing to compromise on? Where do you draw the line between healthy democratic compromise and compromising on core moral principles?
4. Was our nation truly united in the past? Hunter suggests that the cohesion that once bound Americans together is gone. Do you think that past solidarity was genuine, or was it simply a product of excluding marginalized voices from the national narrative?
5. Meacham believes that our nation has experienced times of strong unity often separated by times of dissension and disintegration. Do you think our current situation reflects that or has the nation reached a point where polarization will only increase?

Resources for further study (mentioned in podcast)

- Hunter, James Davison. *Democracy and Solidarity: On the Cultural Roots of America's Political Crisis*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2024.
- Meacham, Jon. *American Struggle: Democracy, Dissent, and the Pursuit of a More Perfect Union*. New York: Random House, 2026.
- Meacham, Jon. *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*. New York: Random House, 2018.