



# When the Rain Speaks —

## Week 3 Chapters 17-24

**Check in Question:** *The first big rain of the season always stirs something in us. For some, it's cozy afternoons and the smell of wet earth; for others, it brings back harder memories. What comes to mind for you when you think of rain?*

### Opening Prayer

Creator God,  
In the wonder of plants, animals and science, we recognize Your hand at work.  
Teach us to cherish creation as the precious gift it is from You.  
Open our hearts to listen deeply and to walk gently upon the earth,  
that we may honor and protect the world You have entrusted to our care.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Reflection questions:

*The questions from Sr. Melannie are thoughtful and good. Here are some of hers, along with a few additional ones. Please pick one or two and share your thoughts aloud.*

#### Chapter 17: To the Kitten I Killed

- Do you owe an apology to anything in creation?
- Have you ever accidentally killed or harmed an animal, a tree, a bird, a person?

#### Chapter 18: The way things get from here to there

- The most important question from this chapter, for humans at least, is this: where am I going and why?
- If you could go anywhere where would you go and why?

#### Chapter 19: Rhinos, Warthogs, and Bats

- Which creatures in your opinion seemed particularly unpleasant? What is their purpose in nature?
- Are there any persons in your opinion who seemed particularly difficult? What is it that they teach you?

#### Chapter 20: The Owl

- Have you ever experienced an owl up close? What was the most memorable about this encounter?
- Are there any other animals you find fascinating? Why?

#### Chapter 21: Photosynthesis Makes the world go 'Round

- How can you give thanks for the gift of photosynthesis today?
- What part of nature are you most grateful for?

#### Chapter 22: The Mushroom Hunter

- Have you ever been mushroom hunting? Or spend time alone in the woods?
- What are some of the Sabbath activities in your life?

#### Chapter 23: Soil

- What's the difference between dirt and soil? Sometimes we see others (or even ourselves) as dirt--messy, flawed, unworthy. But God sees us as soil--capable of nurturing life, change and new beginnings. Just as healthy soil needs care and nourishment people flourish when they are tended with love, patience and understanding. How might that difference help us think about people?

#### Chapter 24: The Pine Grove

- From whom do you get your love of nature?
- How are you passing on this legacy of love to children in your life?

### **Closing Prayer**

For whom and what shall we pray..

Creator of all,

You hide Your miracles in the soil beneath our feet—  
in the quiet work of roots, in the patient turning of decay to life.

You shine through every leaf that drinks in light,  
turning sunlight into the breath we share.

We praise You for mushrooms that break down and renew,  
for creatures we call “ugly” yet who belong perfectly in Your plan.

Teach us to see beauty in what is hidden or humble,  
to honor the unseen work that sustains creation.

May we learn from the soil's generosity,  
from the leaf's light, and from the lowly ones who remind us  
that all life is connected in Your great design.

Amen.

Next week chapters 25-32