

CHIEF B

EXPLORATION GUIDE

The W with Lisa Slayton & Pastor Cynthia Wallace
by Rev. Charisse Jones

1

Chief Brackney shares that for the last 37 years she's worn a different sock pattern with her uniform. The uniform represents something that is in this world, and the socks serve to remind her she is not of this world. Informed by her faith, Chief Brackney described justice as "wellness, healthy, thriving, the absence of crime and disorder." Justice is not a definitive moment, but something she works towards every day.

Is your faith embedded in the work that you do? What expressions of your work are in the world but not of it? What are some of the gifts, characteristics and qualities you possess that add value to your workplace and your work? How can we bring justice and flourishing to our workplaces and communities?

2

In the film, Chief Brackney invites us into her experience arriving in Charlottesville, VA, a historically divided community, as a Black woman and a northerner, in a male-dominated profession. She says it was a foundational moment where she knew she would be tested in terms of who she was, what she believed in and why she was qualified to occupy the seat as police chief.

Have you ever been tested in your workplace based upon your gender, race/ethnicity and/or qualifications? If so, how did you respond? How does having people who differ in life experiences add value to an organization's culture?

3

Chief Brackney manages many competing priorities in her work. She has to navigate political and social spaces while still providing public safety avenues for people living in her community. The pandemic and its disparities and social justice movements across the nation seeking to reform policing are just two of the she's matters had to confront.

What are some of the competing priorities in your workplace or life that you must manage, and how do you do so? How do you engage people to work collaboratively for the common good? How does faith inform your response as you navigate tense spaces?

4

Chief Brackney says there are lots of good days in police work that do not make headline news. She says a good day is when you know that you made an impact in someone's life. We see examples of this in Chief Brackney's relationships, which prove to be transformational versus transactional.

What do you think are the core values that Chief Brackney cultivates in the workplace that make her an authentic and intentional leader? In your own work and/or workplace, how do you find the good in challenging or broken situations? In what ways can work be transformational vs. transactional?