

BECCA STEVENS discussion questions

Ministry Begins with Loving Lavishly, Without Judgment

The Rev. Becca Stevens is an Episcopal priest serving as chaplain at St Augustine's at Vanderbilt University, and founder of Thistle Farms & Magdalene. Thistle Farms employs 40 residents and graduates of Magdalene, and houses a natural body care line, a paper and sewing studio and the Thistle Stop Café. Magdalene is the two-year residential program that serves women who have survived lives of trafficking, prostitution and addiction.

Stevens has [authored nine books](#); been featured on NPR, PBS, CNN, Huffington Post, *Southern Living* and *Christian Century*; was named by the White House as one of 15 [Champions of Change](#). She has raised more than \$15 million for the organizations she supports; received of The University of the South's "Distinguished Alumnus" award; and was named the 2011 Social Entrepreneur of the year in Nashville. Stevens has received awards from the Frist Foundation and the Academy of Women of Achievement. Her latest book is [Snake Oil: The Art of Healing and Truth-Telling](#). Stevens lives in Nashville with her husband, Grammy-winning songwriter [Marcus Hummon](#), and their three sons.

Small Group Questions

1. What interests do you have that might lead to a ministry in your community to serve a need? In what way might you move forward to take first steps?
2. In your church community, how do you/might you witness what Becca Stevens said: "Love is the most powerful force for social change?"
3. In a busy world, with busy lives, how do we surrender to our faith, making that our first "business?"