

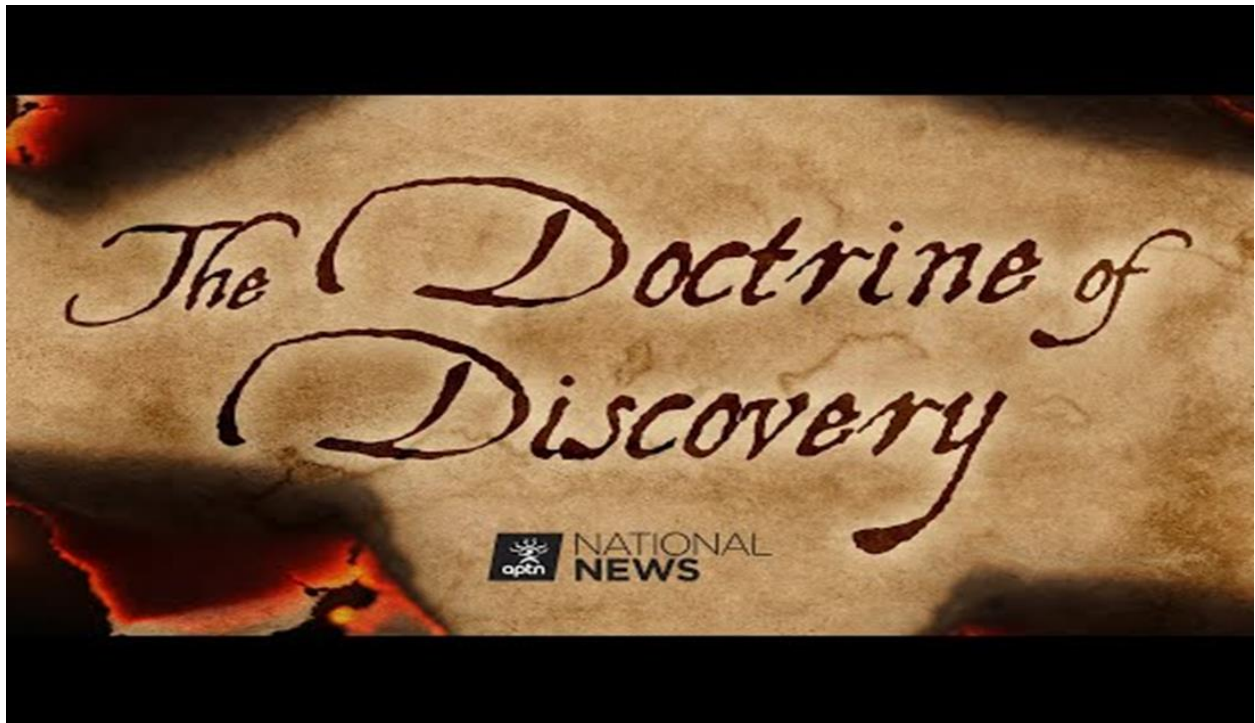
Life Group Study Guide

Week 2

This short guide is meant to help you interact with the *Truth and Reconciliation Learning and Prayer Guide* written by the Alliance Church of Canada. Week two will guide you through the call to action #49 from the Prayer Guide.

1. Read Call to Action #49 (reproduced on the next page)

- a) Read this statement aloud as a group.
- b) Because the “Doctrine of Discovery” may be unfamiliar, watch this 7 min video: [The Doctrine of Discovery and its grip on Indigenous lands](#)



- c) What is one thing you learned by watching this video?

Call To Action



We call upon all religious denominations and faith groups who have not already done so to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the [Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius](#).



"The ideas of environmental stewardship and sustainable resource management are certainly not new or radical concepts for British Columbia's Aboriginal peoples. Long before Europeans even dreamed of traveling to North America, B.C.'s First Nations already had a deep spiritual connection to the land — *considering themselves a part of it* — as well as traditions, legends and stories reaffirming their respect for nature."
(Aboriginal Tourism BC: Land of Our Ancestors)

[WATCH VIDEO TO LEARN MORE>>](#)



"In 1941, the federal government chose to register each Inuk with a unique numeric identifier, which was stamped on a disc or printed on a card. These identifiers were often called "Eskimo disc numbers" or ujamit (ujamik) in Inuktitut.

The Inuit were required to carry these numbers on their person, so they were often sewn onto clothing or hung from laces around the neck. These numbers were used until 1972 except in Quebec where the practice continued for a few more years."

[READ MORE>>](#)



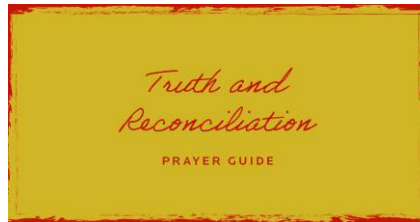
Portrait of a young girl (Diksonnagook) holding a small wooden board with the number 6009, at Pt Barrow (1948-1949) (National Archives, Ottawa, August 1948)



Call to Prayer

Father God,

We regret that Your Church was party to the use of the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius in the expansion of European sovereignty over land that had been in the care of Aboriginal peoples. We regret the dislocation that resulted from these concepts. We pray that Your Church will be pro-active in bringing healing and restoration to those whose ancestors and present families continue to live with the negative results of this dislocation.



Life Group Study Guide

2. Read 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

⁹ Now my heart is glad, not that you were made sad, but that your sadness led you to change your ways. This is what Creator wanted, so that you would not be harmed by our letter. ¹⁰ With the help of the Great Spirit, sorrow can create a change of heart that will not turn back, which sets us free and makes us whole. But there is a sorrow in this world that leads only to death. (First Nations Version)



a) There are a myriad of ways we can respond to the historical injustices that continue to have ongoing implications today. Notice the line that says, “*but that your sadness led you to change your ways.*”

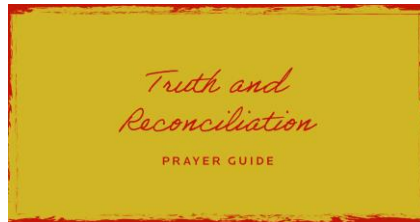
What is one personal step you can take to change your ways today?

b) What is one way your family or community can respond together?

3. Read Acts 3:19-21

¹⁹ You must think in a new way and return to the Great Spirit to walk this new path he has chosen for us all. Then you will be healed of your broken ways, and Creator will shine his face on you and give you cool, fresh water to drink from his river of life. He will then give to you the one he selected to be his Chosen One – Creator Sets Free (Jesus). He has gone up into the spirit-world above to remain there until the time comes when Creator will restore all things. (First Nations Version)

In the face of overwhelming social problems that stem from the Doctrine of Discovery, our response can default to being fueled by rage and anger. Instead, this passage points us to participate in reconciliation, knowing that God is orchestrating it and leading us to his beautiful conclusion. The good news is that reconciliation is not just up to us. God is already at work.



Life Group Study Guide

a) What's going on in your heart that these words touch on, and what healing is God calling you towards?

b) As you read "Creator will restore all things," what hopeful thoughts or feelings arise in you?

4. Reflect on the song "Creator Father" by singer and songwriter, Cheryl Bear.

Cheryl is from the Nadleh Whut'en First Nation in BC. She is a multi-award-winning singer/songwriter who shares stories of Indigenous life through story and song.²



a) Listen to the song "[Creator Father](#)" by [Cheryl Bear](#)

b) How does Cheryl's song, written from her Nadleh Whut'en perspective of following Jesus, invite you to worship the Lord?

5. Read the Call to Prayer

a) Read the call to prayer together.

b) Spend a few moments in silence absorbing the words of this prayer and turning your own heart in prayer to the Lord.

² <https://cherylbear.com/about/>