



BIBLE REFLECTIONS **from Nungalinya** **College**

Study Guide



Introduction

These Bible Reflections come to you from [Nungalinga College](#). The College is formally supported by the Anglican, Uniting and Catholic churches of the Northern Territory and is situated in Casuarina, a northern suburb of Darwin.

Since 1974, Nungalinga College has been equipping men and women of Australian First People's groups for leadership roles in churches and communities. Our training programs explore the Christian faith contextually through courses in Foundation Studies, Bible Overview, Media, Music and Discipleship, Art, Christian Ministry and Theology, and Bible Translation.

In the reflections, we hear different Nungalinga College leaders share on the theme of 'Dwelling in Love' informed by group bible studies on 1 Corinthians 13 and John 15. To prepare for sharing we did group bible studies focusing on the context of 1 Corinthians 13 and St Paul's reflections on the sharing of the Lord's Supper. We also did group bible studies on John 15 reflecting on the context of 'I am the vine, you are the branches'. We washed each others' feet and thought about the connection between serving and being connected to Jesus. The last reflection, 'Speaking in love', by Yurranydjil Dhurrkay, was recorded for the UCA Queensland Synod Bible study on Ephesians 4:15-16.

The videos were recorded in August 2020 (Yurranydjil Dhurrkay) and March 2021.

2020: Filming and sound by Michelle Cook.

2021: Filming and sound by Samuel Wumulul and Eunice Dempsey from Milinjimi. Studying Certificate II Music, Media and Discipleship

How to use these reflections

One way to engage with each reflection is to note the following:

- What connected with you
- What you have more questions about
- What surprised you
- and what actions are you being called to.

This approach is based on the Swedish Bible Study Method and is regularly used at Nungalinga College.

For further questions for each reflection see below.

Introduction to Yolŋu worldview

Rev Deacon Maratja Dhamarrandji is a leader of the Northern Regional Council of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. He is a former chair of the Nungalinga Board and is currently participating in language workshops at Nungalinga. In these workshops people from different language groups do bible study together and then record reflections in their own language. He was ordained in 2017 and graduated from Nungalinga in Certificate 4 of Christian Ministry and Theology in 2014. He is an accomplished bible translator, having been part of the team that produced the Djambarrapuyŋu Bible, launched in 2008. For more on Maratja's story go to the Nungalinga College YouTube

channel for his testimony, his song and his reflections on a passage from Mark. He is the author, with Jione Havea, of "Receive, Touch, Feel, and Give Raypirri" in Indigenous Australia and the Unfinished Business of Theology: Cross-cultural Engagement, edited by Jione Havea, 9–15. New York: Palgrave, 2014.

In this reflection Rev Dhamarrandji shares with us about the Yolŋu way of knowing. He shares something of himself and his journey and then pays respect to different parts of his family. He gives us a glimpse of the Gurruṯu (kinship) and Mälk (subsection or skin name) systems. He is introducing us to one type of Australian First Peoples' view of the world where the whole creation exists in a complex set of relationships.

- When you reflect on your own relationship with the whole creation what stands out to you?
- Is the view of the world shared by Rev Dhamarrandji similar to yours? What do you think this view can teach you?

Context of 1 Corinthians 13

Marlene Boko is currently studying a Certificate 4 in Christian Ministry and Theology. She is from Aputula (Finke).

Marlene shares with us the context of 1 Corinthians 13.

- When have you most recently heard 1 Corinthians 13 used as a basis for preaching? Thinking about the larger context of the Scripture what other points might you add to the context given to us by Marlene.

Leading in Love

Wangarr Dhamarrandji is a teacher at Nungalinya College in the Certificate II Music, Media and Discipleship course. She is also doing Certificate 4 in Christian Ministry and Theology. She is from Galiwin'ku (Elcho Island). She is a bible translator and evangelist.

Here she shares with us in Djambarrpungu about the importance of leading in love. Wangarr speaks about the importance of listening to each other under the shelter of Christ. To hear more from Wangarr go to the Nungalinya website and find her story <https://www.nungalinya.edu.au/Pages/Category/case-studies>.

See the Appendix of this document for a full translation

- Wangarr shares about the importance of learning from creation to learn more about God's love. How could learning from creation help keep you in God's love in your leadership roles?

Painting in Love

Troy Mardigan from Nauiyu (Daly River) is doing both a Certificate 2 in Art and Certificate 3 in Christian Ministry and Theology.

He shares with us his painting of reconciliation.

- What pictures do you have in your mind of what reconciliation looks like?

Uncle Jo Cuttabut is the weekday host at Nungalinga College. This means he is the after-hours go to person for people staying on site. He is also a gifted artist and is currently finishing his Masters Degree in Theology with NAAITS through Whitley College partnership.

While we were doing the group bible studies Jo's grand-daughter was born.

- Take some time to look at Jo's painting. What stands out to you?

Acting in Love

Joanne Baker is from Miliŋimbi and is studying Certificate II in Art and Faith at Nungalinga College.

She shares with us how she tries to make God's love real in her community.

Maurice Karui is from Wadeye (Port Keats). He is studying Certificate II in Music, Media and Discipleship at Nungalinga. He is a key leader in his local community. For more from Maurice got to the Nungalinga [YouTube channel](#).

In this reflection Maurice shares about his own ministry at home.

- How do you make God's love real in your community? What stops you from sharing God's love with others? What helps you?

Speaking in Love

Yurranydjil Dhurrkay is a Wangurri woman from Galiwin'ku (Elcho Island). She is an accomplished linguist, having been part of the Djambarrpuyŋu translation team, as well as translating the bible into her own language, Wangurri. She is currently the Northern Regional Council of Congress Educator for Arnhem Land. With her husband Djawuṯ she is the author of an article in the 2020 Australian Journal of Mission Studies on "Turtle Hunting': A lesson in bible translation partnerships, roles, rights and responsibilities'. She is currently studying a Diploma of Translating at Nungalinga College. To hear more from Yurranydjil go to the Nungalinga College [YouTube channel](#).

- In this reflection she shares about speaking the truth in love so that we can grow strong together. Sometimes we can speak the truth but forget the love.
- How could Yurranydjil's focus on being in the love of Christ help you to both listen to truth as well as speak truth?

Appendix

SUBTITLES Wangarr Dhamarrandji

My name is Wangarr. I am from Galwin'ku.

This story is about love in 1 Corinthians 13.

It tells you what love is all about. It is about rom (law or way).

Love is about being patient, loving, caring, leading, guiding, teaching about Garray (Jesus).

Love is working in love. Love is working and showing love at the same time.

It means showing love to different people, going to different communities and showing love there.

It means going to other relatives – not just immediate kin, but far away kin and showing love.

Because Jesus showed love to everybody. Jesus showed love to other people, not just his own people. He showed love to those who spoke other languages and from different tribes.

If we change our thinking to the way Jesus thinks that love of Jesus will show in our thinking.

If we see God's creation, looking closer to our surroundings and we see closer to God's creation we also see God's love in that creation.

And that is yindi (great, very big)

This is why we don't understand God's love because we don't look closely at God's creation.

And from that creation it is the way in so that we can understand God's love.

Because God is telling the keys for the law in creation. In creation, God is telling about love.

We say we know everything, but we don't know everything.

God knows everything about our character and our nature.

There is forgiveness there, we have to respect one another

Because when we are leaders

If we are bossy type leader the people want to go away, because they see the character and nature of that leader.

So if we put our trust in Jesus we are learning about Jesus.

And with that love he created the world and the people – the whole creation.

And all the gurruṯu (relationships, kinship) in the creation.

And with Jesus there only one rom (law or way).

The only way Jesus created is through love

So we have to see Jesus and give thanks to Jesus.

We have to do the same as Jesus.

We have to forgive one another for what we have done to each other.

Truly understanding all this about love means you understand God's rom (law or way).