

**Points to Ponder as you prepare
For conversation at CF&L Dinner Dialogue #2**

**“The Shivering” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
A short story from her book: “The Thing Around your Neck”**

About the author: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Adichie was born in the city of Enugu in Nigeria, the fifth of six children in an Igbo family. She was raised in the university town of Nsukka in Enugu State. Both of her parents worked at the university. Adichie completed her secondary education at the University of Nigeria Secondary School, Nsukka, where she received several academic prizes. She has been primarily university educated in the United States. She has been awarded honorary Doctorate degrees from University of Nigeria, Eastern Connecticut University, Drexel University, Yale University, John Hopkins University.

The name **Chimamanda** is primarily a female name of African - Nigeria origin that means **My God Will Not Fall/Fail Me**.

Characters:

Chinedu: Neighbor:
Ukamaka: Princeton student
Udenna: Ukamaka’s ex-boyfriend
Fr. Patrick: Catholic priest
Abidemi: boyfriend of Chinedu

Questions:

1. Share your name at the table. Do you know why you were given this name? Share your story.
2. Share a time when someone knocked on your door and asked you to pray with them or when you knocked on another’s door and asked for prayer. Share your experience.
3. Which character do you identify with and why?
Chinedu, Ukamaka, Fr. Patrick, Abidemi or Udenna
4. Chinedu sees Faith as absolute: God does whatever is best even though it may not seem that way. Humans cannot question God or apply their own standards to God’s actions. Ukamaka’s faith is based more on reason. She questions God’s ways. Life is a struggle with ourselves, a choice of our conscience always to be sharpened.
 - Do you identify with one of these characters and share the reason why?
5. What is your definition of faith?
 - how you live it?
 - do you invite others to share or has someone invited you to share their religion?
6. How have your relationships accompanied your faith journey? How do these relationships help (or hinder!) your relationship to a higher power?

Enjoy the dialogue wherever it takes you and those at your table!

Come up with a gem of wisdom to share with the community.