

# Taco Theology

**Addressing Food Insecurity Through  
Taco Theology**

*By: Rev. Dr. Josh Lopez-Reyes*



**E.P.I.C.**





# Unique Challenges Faced by Immigrants in LA

## Economic

Labor disruption, wage loss, housing instability

## Psychological

Anxiety, PTSD, civic withdrawal, isolation

## Legal Insecurity

Acting as translators for non-English-speaking parents

# Taco Theology – A Wesleyan Approach to Holistic Ministry



## Misión Integral

Inspired by misión integral (holistic mission)



## Faith & Justice

Faith and justice must work together like two wings of a plane



## Gospel in Action

The Gospel is shared both in word and deed

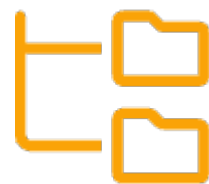


# The Early Methodist Class Meetings: A Model for Community



## Historical Context

Originated in 18th-century England during economic & social crises



## Support Structure

Small groups provided spiritual & material support to struggling communities



## Faith in Action

Faith in action – literacy programs, social justice efforts, care for the poor

"Solitary religion is not to be found there... no holiness but social holiness." *John Wesley*



# The *Inspiration* Behind Taco Theology

## Culinary Philosophy & Cultural Reclamation

Inspired by Mexican chef Enrique Olvera's philosophy on crafting the perfect taco

Olvera's balance of acidity, spice, and crunch reflects how tradition and innovation work together

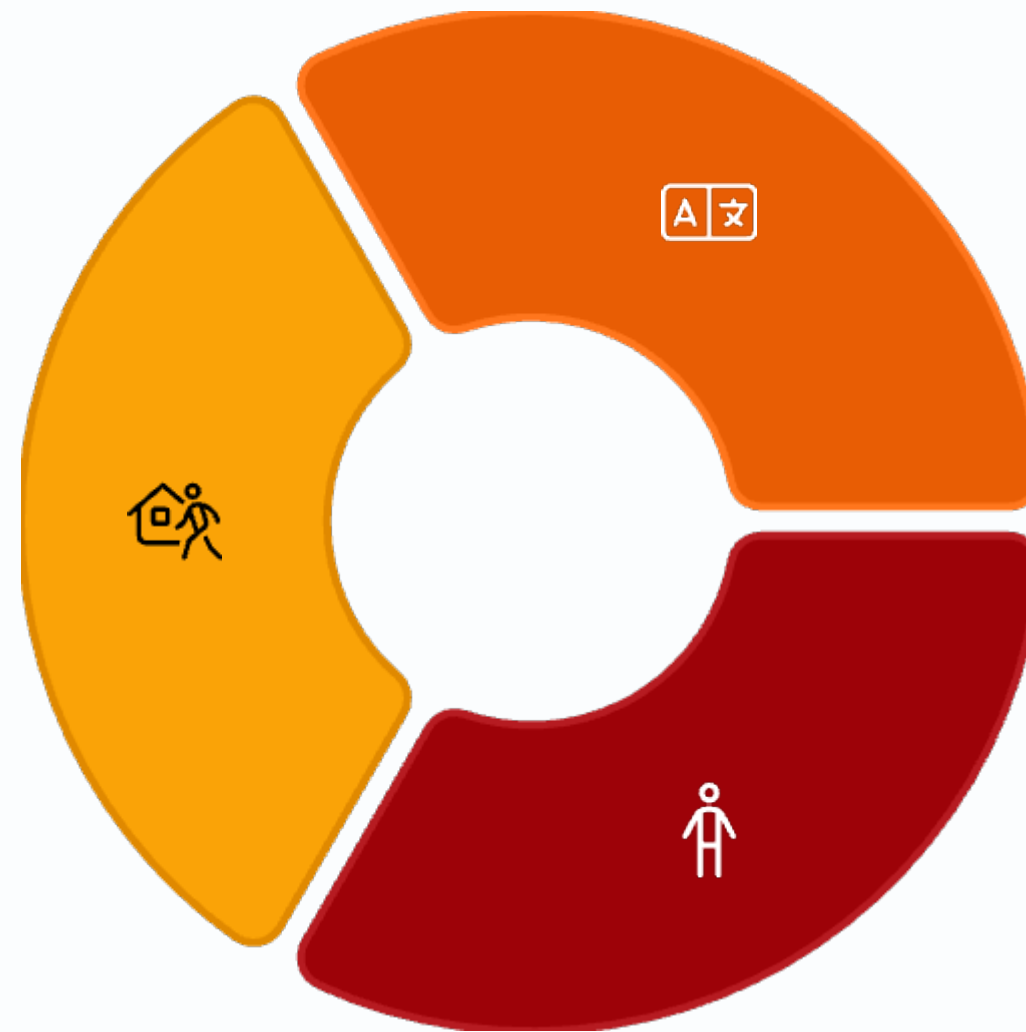
His journey of reclaiming indigenous culinary heritage mirrors the mission of EPIC—honoring our roots while shaping the future



# The Three Key Ingredients of Taco Theology

## Lo Cotidiano

The Everyday – Faith rooted in the daily realities of immigrants



## Jesus with an Accent

A Christology that affirms multilingual, multicultural identities

## Radically Hospitable Community

The power of small groups for collective transformation

# What is *Lo Cotidiano*?

"Lo Cotidiano allows the voiceless to tell their stories and to cry out to the heavens for justice and peace."

*Dr. Ada María Isasi-Díaz*

**Concept developed by Dr. Ada María Isasi-Díaz in mujerista theology**

Lo Cotidiano = The sacred in the everyday

Recognizes Latine immigrant stories, struggles, and survival strategies as sources of divine wisdom

Challenges oppressive theological traditions by centering marginalized voices

# What is *Crunch* in Taco Theology?

## Supportive Framework

Crunch = Strong, supportive community framework



## Radical Hospitality

Radically hospitable, relational ministry



## Historical Roots

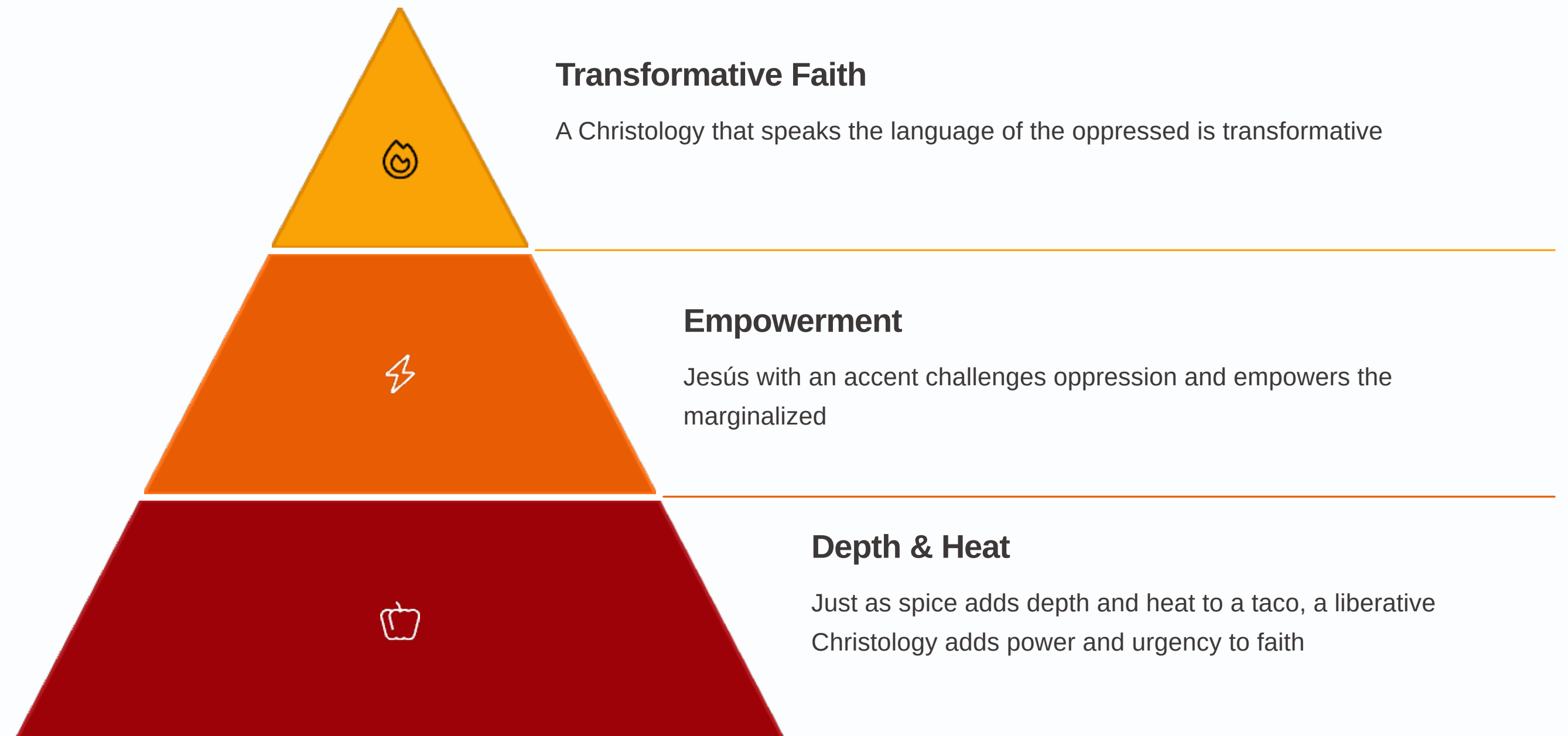
Inspired by early Methodist class meetings and teología en conjunto



"Crunch gives a taco its structure—just as **Radically Hospitable Community** gives faith its foundation."

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me." *Matthew 25:40*

# The Spice of Jesus with an Accent



# Seeing Christ Through the Borderlands

## Concrete Reality

Jesús is not abstract—he walks with the immigrant, the refugee, and the marginalized

## Borderland Theology

Virgilio Elizondo & Gloria Anzaldúa describe borderlands as a space of struggle and transformation

## Historical Parallel

Just as Jesus, the Galilean, lived in a borderland space, so do Latine immigrants in the U.S. today

"Jesus, the Galilean, was a mestizo, a mixed-race person in a cultural crossroads."

*Virgilio Elizondo*





# Hospitality is More Than Charity

It is **Justice**

"Hospitality is radical love. It reflects God's heart for the vulnerable." *Karen González*

## Essential Faith

Welcoming immigrants is not an option—it's an essential part of faith

## True Solidarity

Karen González: True solidarity means dismantling oppressive systems, not just offering aid

## EPIC's Challenge

At EPIC we constantly ask, "How can we move beyond charity to justice?"