

School of Wisdom and Practical Spirituality Fall, 2021

All courses will be online.

You will not be able to register for overlapping courses.

Monday evenings 6-7:30

Sept. 13

Nov.29

The History and Archaeology of the Bible The Reverend Gary Gooch, Facilitator

Sept. 13

Oct.18

Everything is Hallelujah E.D. Watson, Facilitator

Traveling Odysseus With the Enneagram Andrea Andress, Facilitator

Oct.25

Nov.29

The Psalms: Up Close and Personal Cindy Johnson and Jerry Kimmel, Facilitators

Wednesday afternoons, 1:30-3

Sept. 15

Dec. 1

Let Your Dreams Be Your Wings Carol Husbands, Facilitator

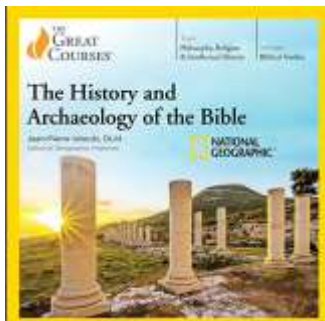
Making Meaning of God's Grace in Our Brokenness Brandon Beck, Facilitator

[Click to register](#)

Course Descriptions

Monday evenings, 6-7:30

The History and Archaeology of the Bible



This is a one-semester course using the Teaching Company's video "The History and Archaeology of the Bible." It was made in conjunction with the National Geographic, and the lecturer is Jean-Pierre Isbouts, a National Geographic Historian.

The scope of the course, excerpted from the Course Guidebook, is as follows:

"This course offers an in-depth overview of the most important archaeological discoveries related to stories in the Bible, from Genesis to the Gospels. These biblical stories did not originate in a vacuum; each volume emerged in a specific time and place, within a distinct social, cultural, and literary milieu. In the process, these stories were shaped by the most powerful civilizations of their

time: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, Greece, and the world of imperial Rome. By traveling through the world of the Bible, we truly follow the full arc of ancient civilization.

Each lesson is devoted to a particular division or book in the Judeo-Christian Bible. The first 17 lessons focus on key stories in Hebrew scripture—from Genesis and Exodus to the books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings—with visits to archaeological sites in Israel, Egypt, Greece, and Jordan. The lessons then focus on the Babylonian Exile and the postexilic era as well as subsequent books known as the apocrypha or deuterocanonical works, accepted by some Christian traditions as an integral part of the Bible. The last seven lessons address a number of groundbreaking discoveries related to the New Testament era. They follow the birth and adolescence of Jesus, the growth of his ministry, and a detailed reconstruction of the Passion, based on new archaeological findings in Jerusalem. The last lesson charts the rise of early Christianity.

This course is deliberately presented from a nondenominational perspective and is accessible to everyone. It does not conform to any particular theological orientation but treats the biblical texts as historical documents. This is also true for the question of whether the figures of the Bible were historical characters, or whether some stories are rooted in myth or biblical legend. No scholar will ever question the Bible's moral and religious significance, but many have challenged the Bible as a reliable source of historical information. This course takes no position in the debate. It treats every biblical story as a valued conveyor of meaning, regardless of its putative historicity. Each lesson looks for parallels between the biblical stories and historical sources, including evidence of ancient cities and monuments as well as tablets, letters, and works of art."

An electronic version of the guidebook will be made available. Transcript books, if desired, can be purchased from The Teaching Company.

Facilitator: The Reverend Gary Gooch graduated from Oklahoma State University with a B.S. (1957) and M.S. (1967) in Chemical Engineering. He worked for Phillips Petroleum Company as a Process Development Engineer and then as Senior Engineering Analyst in their computing department. He also served in the US Air Force as a weather officer and forecaster and was discharged with rank of Captain, USAFR. Gary graduated from Nashotah House Cum Laude (1974) and was ordained Deacon in June 1974 followed by ordination as a priest in December 1974 by Bishop Chilton Powell of Oklahoma. He has served as curate, vicar, rector and pastor of churches throughout Oklahoma and Kansas. After "retiring" in 1996, he and his family moved to San Marcos. He continues his ministry through Partners in Ministry, is an active member of St Mark's Episcopal Church and a regular facilitator with the School of Wisdom. gary.gooch@gmail.com

Everything is Hallelujah

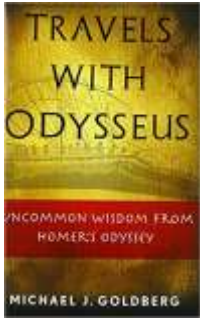


Join poet and Poetic Medicine practitioner E. D. Watson for a six-week online course exploring poetry as a form of prayer and a tool for deepening your connection to the Divine. Together we will read poetry from a diverse selection of poets, as well as poetic scripture from multiple faith traditions. Each session will also include time for inspired writing, and sharing your work (if you want to, no pressure). This course is open to all participants, from seasoned poets to first-time writers. This is not your high school English class! No papers, no analyses, no judgment of your work. This will be a safe and fun environment for exploration, insight, and expanding your concept of the Divine.

Maximum enrollment: 8

Facilitator: E. D. Watson (she/they) is a poet living in San Marcos, Texas, and St. Mark's Poet-in-Residence. She earned her MFA in Creative Writing from Texas State University, and is a candidate for certification with the Institute for Poetic Medicine. She works at the public library, and enjoys playing the cello, practicing yoga, and making pilgrimages. Learn more at edwatsonwrites.com.

Traveling Odysseus With the Enneagram



Join Andrea Address for casual conversations on this fascinating retelling of the profound adventures of the Greek hero Odysseus that hold insight and guidance for today. The travels take Odysseus through the Islands which touch on a journey of going home by traveling through events of the 9 types of the Enneagram.

Enrollment limited to 25.

Required text: *Travels with Odysseus: Uncommon Wisdom from Homer's Odyssey* by Michael J. Goldberg, available online.

Please read the assigned chapters before class.

September 13 -

Introduction pp. 9-12

Appendix I, 2, and 3 pp.140-155

Chapter 1 - The Lotus Eaters: Desire under the Helm pp. 15-25

September 20 -

Chapter 2 - The Cyclops: Polyphemus Perversity pp. 27-44

Chapter 3 - Aeolus: The Wind Done Gone pp. 45-53

September 27 -

Chapter 4 - The Laestrygonians: Darkness at Noon pp. 55-65

Chapter 5 - Hermes/Circe/Holy Moly pp. 67-75

Chapter 6 - To Hades and Back: The Death of Longing pp. 77-82

October 4 -

Chapter 7 - The Sirens: Killing Me Softly pp. 83-85

Chapter 8 - Scylla and Charybdis: Necessary Losses pp. 87-90

Chapter 9 - The Cattle of the Sun: Going for the Gold pp. 91-95

October 11 -

Chapter 10 - Calypso: Animation pp. 97-107

Chapter 11 - The Phaeacians: Do the Right Thing pp.109-111

October 18 -

Chapter 12 - Home Again pp.123 - 127

Chapter 13 - The Symbolic Life pp.129-135



Facilitator:

Rev. Andrea Address is retired clergy (Deacon) of the United Methodist Church and is a Spiritual Director certified with the Shalom Institute. A certified Enneagram teacher from the Enneagram Association in the Narrative Tradition (EANT), Andrea is also a founding member of the Arizona Enneagram Association.

She does individual Spiritual Direction and Enneagram Typing Interviews. She also leads small groups with adults in Enneagram and Spiritual Formation as well as book studies. She lives in Las Cruces, NM with her husband Robin. They have two boys and three grandchildren.

andrea.andress42@gmail.com

The Psalms: Up Close and Personal



Take six weeks of your life to look at the psalms in a new way. We will explore the psalms in self-discovery and delight. We will take on this Wisdom literature using both our analytical and creative brains to venture into a better understanding of the author's intent and what these words mean to us now, collectively and personally. We will use all of our senses to get "up close and personal" with the psalms we love. Discussion will be lively and encouraged. There are no wrong answers! Just come with an open mind and a willingness to share your ideas with others.

Facilitators:

Cindy Johnson holds a BA in mathematics and an MDiv from Perkins, SMU. She holds a certificate in spiritual direction from Heartpaths of Dallas and has served as a chaplain at Children's Hospital and Methodist Hospital in Dallas. She has taught high school and college. Her passion in life is learning through conversation and research. When she is not doing something she has to do, she is in the river. cindynana517@gmail.com

Jerry Kimmel has degrees in biology and art from Baylor University and Texas State University and is a 700-hour certified yoga teacher. She has taught courses in the School of Wisdom and Practical Spirituality over the past 15 years. She also taught at Ghost Ranch Presbyterian Conference Center in New Mexico. She serves on the Adult Spiritual Formation Committee and the Labyrinth Committee at St. Mark's. She is a certified spiritual director. kimmel.jlt@gmail.com

Wisdom on Wednesdays, 1:30-3 pm

Let Your Dreams Be Your Wings

There is a Jewish proverb that says: "A dream unexamined is like a letter from God unopened." In other words, a dream is often incomplete without a conscious, intentional response by the dreamer. In the present day there has been a resurgence of interest in working with dreams as guides for spiritual growth and transformation. However, most of us don't know the first thing about how to go about doing "dreamwork." Working with a dream is facilitated by using techniques to help us further our call to health, wholeness and holiness - as well as deepen our relationship with the great Mystery we call God. This one semester class will introduce us to the very personal symbolic language of Dreams and how to use them as letters written to us for our spiritual development.

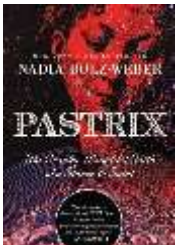


Required text: *Dreams and Spiritual Growth: A Christian Approach to Dreamwork* by Savary, Berne and Williams (available from your favorite book seller). This book includes 37 dreamwork techniques for working with our dreams along with some history of the use of dreams in scripture and tradition. The class will focus primarily on the first six chapters and we will try to use as many of our own dreams as possible as examples for class discussions.

Facilitator: Carol D. Husbands attended the University of Texas at Austin and graduated with a BA in Education (1969). During the 1980's and 90's she was a student, then mentor, in the Education for Ministry extension course from the School of Theology of the University of the South at Sewanee. After completing the Spiritual Director Internship at Incarnate Word University in San Antonio (1995), Carol went on to earn her Masters of Pastoral Ministry with a focus in Spiritual Formation from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest (2002). Currently, Carol is active on the Parish Adult Spiritual Formation Committee, helps with adult spiritual formation classes, and sings in the chancel choir. carolhusbands46@gmail.com

Making Meaning of God's Grace in Our Brokenness:

Reflections on [Nadia Bolz-Weber's 2013](#) memoir [Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of A Sinner Saint](#)



Leonard Cohen, in "[Anthem](#)," sings, "There is a crack, a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." And one of the finest art forms in the world, "[Kintsugi](#)," is a traditional Japanese form in which broken pottery is recreated with gold filling the seams. Paul Simon, in "[Rewrite](#)," sings, "Thank you for listening to my prayer" after telling the story of "working on [his] rewrite."

I (Brandon) am broken. Yet, I journey toward a Universal Whole. Indeed, both Broken and Whole are true. As these singers and artists tell us.

In [Pastrix](#) by [Nadia Bolz-Weber](#) describes the universal pattern of being simultaneously broken and whole while sharing her path of finding meaning in her life as a self-described Sinner Saint. She shares her personal theology rooted in experience, tradition, reason, and culture - and maybe some mystery and magic and wonder, too. Oh, and she throws in a heap of humor, authenticity, and self-examination, as well.

[Nadia's promotional bio](#) says, "She writes and speaks about personal failings, recovery, grace, faith, and really whatever the hell else she wants to. She always sits in the corner with the other weirdoes." I know I know myself more, and God and I know each other more, when I can sit in the corner with Nadia, so I invite you to sit in the corner, read, listen, and discuss Nadia's work with me.

Join Wednesdays from 1:30 pm-3:00 pm on Zoom for this St Mark's Episcopal Church School of Wisdom on Wednesday Fall offering. This shared space will offer opportunities to share stories, ask questions, ponder, wonder, reflect, practice Lectio Divina, and take a deep dive into one of the great contemporary theological memoirs of our time. Explore what it means to sit in the corner with others and allow all your weirdness to be Loved.

Check out [Nadia Bolz-Weber](#) - public theologian, speaker, author, host, founder of Denver's House for All Sinners and Saints (HFASS - pronounced Half ass): [Instagram](#). Maybe explore/join one of her communities - [The Corners](#) - [The Confessional](#) - [The Chapel](#) - [Make plans to see her live and in person in Bryan on September 9](#)

Required text:

[Pastrix by Nadia Bolz-Weber](#)

Facilitator: Brandon Beck

Brandon practices a Benedictine spirituality with a Queer Liberation Theology twist. He's a person of story and question and deep listening. As a lay chaplain with Community of Hope and a mentor for EfM, and being One of Us in the world during COVIDBLM#metoopost911+, he has been reflecting on the role of story and community in life, faith, spirituality, and family. When Brandon was younger than 2, he knew he wanted many things from the world. With the Brokenness that is who he is and the journey toward Universal Wholeness that is equally who he is, Privilege and Grace also aid him to the fulfillment of at least three of those desires: to humbly and curiously question everything, to be open and willing to learn always, and to teach for a future fit for all beings so the world is Becoming a place of Peace and Justice and Love. tkdpower1@gmail.com

[Click to register](#)