

Exploring the Long Trail of Scripture – from Peak to Peak

with Brian D. McLaren, “The Story We Find Ourselves In”

Class Schedule & Syllabus

Thursdays: 7pm-8:30pm—October 2 through November 13, 2014
Community Church of Huntington

October 2, 2014 - Creation

Read McLaren’s, “The Story We Find Ourselves In”, Preface through ch. 8

Read Genesis 1 – 2, Job 38 – 42:6, Psalm 104, 148, John 1:1 – 14, Colossians 1:15 – 20

Key Question(s):

- *Why might it be significant that creation is an ongoing and present reality in the world?*
- *What does Neo mean when he says the beginning of the story we find ourselves in is far more than “just myth” or “just fact” (p. 33)?*

October 9, 2014 - Crisis

Read McLaren’s, ch. 9 through ch. 11

Read Genesis 3, 6:9 – 9:17, Isaiah 1:1 – 20, Romans 1:16 – 3:31

Key Question(s):

- *What do you make of Neo’s telling of the story of crisis (p. 54 – 55)? Do you agree that humanity’s advancement has caused a crisis?*
- *Where do you see the impact of humanity’s unwillingness to live within limits, both personally (relationally) and globally (socially)?*

October 16, 2014 - Calling

Read McLaren’s, ch. 12 through ch. 13

Read Genesis 12:1 – 9, 15, 22:1 – 19, Exodus 1–2:10, 12:33–15:21, 20:1 – 21, Matthew 2:19 – 3:17, Romans 4

Key Question(s):

- *What are the consequences of focusing on “I will bless you” without giving equal weight to “you will be a blessing”?*
- *What is your sense of calling? How do you perceive your life as blessed and a blessing?*

October 23, 2014 - Conversation

Read McLaren’s, ch. 14 through ch. 17

Read 1 Samuel through 2 Samuel 7:29, Jeremiah 31:31 – 34, Matthew 5 – 7

Key Question(s):

- *What do you think of Neo’s abridgement of the Old Testament story (p. 76 – 77)?*
- *What is the difference between knowing Bible stories and knowing the biblical story?*

October 30, 2014 - Christ

Read McLaren's, ch. 18 through ch. 23

Read Ruth, Isaiah 40 – 66, The Gospel of Luke, Romans 5:1 – 6:11

Key Question(s):

- *Which of the seven theories of atonement (pp. 101 – 106) resonates most strongly for you?*
- *What are the implications of Jesus' death and resurrection for people living today, in light of his revolution?*

November 6, 2014 - Church

Read McLaren's, ch. 24 through ch. 26

Read Isaiah 40 – 66 (cont'd), The Book of Acts, Romans 9 – 11, Ephesians

Key Question(s):

- *Kerry tells Neo that she doesn't consider Christianity a way of living (p. 126). What does she mean by that?*
- *She goes on to say that she understands Christianity as a system of beliefs, but not much more. How do you respond to that?*

November 13, 2014 - Consummation

Read McLaren's, ch. 27 through ch. 37

Read Isaiah 40 – 66 (cont'd), John 20:1 – 18, Romans 8, 1Corinthians 15,
Revelation 20 – 22

Key Question(s):

- *Neo says, "Instead of history being driven by the past, what if history is constantly being invited to receive the gift of the future? (p. 148)*
- *How does this understanding of the larger story of God engage with or give meaning to the story of your life?*

Reading:

- *"The Story We Find Ourselves In: Further Adventures of a New Kind of Christian" by Brian D. McLaren*
- *"The Bible"*

Supplemental Reading:

- *"The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief" by Francis S. Collins*