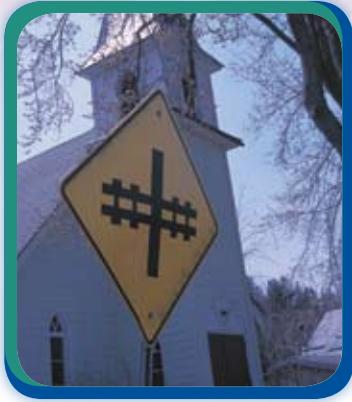


ADULT CROSSINGS

GOD'S JOURNEY WITH US

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Welcome to Adult Crossings: God's Journey with Us!



Life is a journey. We may mark off the journey and its stages by years, by educational or vocational transitions, or by relationships. No matter how we measure its passages, we are on a journey.

The core affirmation of biblical faith – whether Judaism or Christianity – is that God journeys with us. How we experience that companionship varies widely. For some, the journey with God seems an unbroken line from earliest memories of faith community to the present. For others, the journey with God resembles a landscape of hills and valleys – times of sensing God's closeness and other times

of wondering where God might be. There is no one set of universal experiences, but there is this promise: we do not journey alone.

Course overview

The Bible testifies to that promise. It is filled with powerful stories of God's presence in the lives of individuals and communities. Some see in this broad narrative a limited number of core themes and stories. This "primal narrative" tells the basic story of how God has been active in times past. Through these stories, we are more able to recognize God's presence and call in our lives today. Adult Crossings explores the Bible through eight core stories:

1. God's call
2. The exodus
3. Sinai covenant
4. Promised land
5. Davidic rule
6. Jesus' life
7. The cross
8. Resurrection life

Three additional sessions discuss how to read the Bible, the time between the testaments, and our understandings of eternal life as life with God – now and eternally. We will discover that these core stories are also our stories.



Guidelines for faith conversations



As you explore the Bible together you will discover that each person brings a unique interpretation to the table. This study seeks to create an environment of respect and encourages group members to consistently model this principle, but tensions can arise when the faith issues are at stake and differing interpretations arise. Individual participants and the group as a whole will need to intentionally develop skills that build community while embracing diversity. We suggest that your group develops some simple affirmations to help guide your interactions. Use these, or others you may suggest:

- We affirm that all are created in the image of God.
- We affirm that each person brings a unique understanding of God's word and of the world. This includes biblical scholars, those with limited Bible knowledge, and everyone in between.
- We affirm that each person has a faith that matters to him or her. Seeing things differently is not an indication that a person is un-Christian, or wrong.
- We affirm that these discussions are not really questioning God or our faith; they are exploring how we, as humans, are seeking to understand God.
- We affirm that when discomfort or passion arises around a topic we will seek ways to explore the deeper, underlying questions. For example: "Why is it interesting to consider..." or "What do you think is at stake for people who believe..." rather than "Do you think it is correct that..."

- We affirm that none of us is “the expert.” We will each spend more time listening than we do talking.
- We affirm that we will arrive at different understandings of faith and life, and that this will not disturb God as much as it may bother us.

You may come to this study with a deep knowledge of scripture. You may come with little or no experience at all. Whatever your background, this course will lead you into these stories and their connections with life and faith today. Blessings on the particular journey you begin in this study. Remember: you do not venture this way alone. God goes with you all the way.