



Riverside Church Education  
Ministry

Small Groups Course Catalog  
Fall 2019

Register online @ [trcnyc.org/smallgroups](http://trcnyc.org/smallgroups)



## **Open Bible Study**

Sundays | 9:30-10:30am | MLK 330

Join us every Sunday for a discussion on Sunday's lectionary texts. This discussion group is facilitated by a rotation of teachers. This class takes place on Sundays year around.

## **Riverside Book Club**

**2nd Saturday Monthly | 11:00 am-1:00 pm | 20T**

**Facilitator: Luvon Roberson**

Join us as we look at and discuss a book selection each month. For information on monthly selections please reach out to Luvon Roberson at [luvonroberson@yahoo.com](mailto:luvonroberson@yahoo.com)

## **Parent Connect Small Group**

**Sundays | 9:30 am-10:25 am | 314 MLK**

Parents of children through 12th grade are invited to join Amanda Meisenheimer for a weekly Parents small group where we discuss faith and parenting topics. ParentConnect offers parents and guardians an opportunity to get to know each other and discuss parenting topics through a theological lens. All parents and guardians are welcome.

## **God and Gender Based Violence: A Womanist Theological Response**

**October 27 to November 10 | 9am-10:30am | Room: MLK 311**

**Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Andrea C. White**

While black theology attends to race and feminist theology attends to gender, womanist theology is distinctive for its treatment of both race and gender oppression as theological problems and for its reliance on African American women's religious experiences as a source of theological empowerment.

This small group will explore how black women's traditions of protest, struggle, and determination for freedom inform the development of theological reflection. In a brief study of womanist theology, discussions will aim to show how womanist concerns for social justice are critical for deeper understanding of God and transformative action for God's people.

## **Jesus and Justice: A Bible Study For The Movement**

**Starts: September 29-October 27 | 9am-10:30am | Room 15T**

**Facilitator: Rev. Kevin Van Hook and David Black**

This Bible Study is intended to root our justice work in faith and scriptural teachings, while nourishing participants spiritually and giving them an opportunity for fellowship and solidarity. In this series we will be looking at five major touchstones in the life and teachings of Jesus, and using each as a way to reacquaint ourselves with the Gospel and search out deeper ways of connecting ourselves to the missions the Holy Spirit uses the text to call us to.

Week 1: The Manger: The birth & asylum of Jesus

Week 2: The Mount & The Plain: The socio-economic & spiritual teachings of Jesus

Week 3: The Cross: The trial & execution of Jesus

Week 4: The Grave: The death & burial of Jesus

Week 5: The Road: Recognizing Jesus in our world

We will pair each lesson with hymns, prayer, and a focus on a specific MSJ ministry that connects our study to ongoing initiatives in the church. We hope you will join us for this time of spiritual sustenance & solidarity in pursuing our common call.

## **Faith, Money and Justice**

**10/20, 10/27; 11/10, 11/17 | 9:30-10:3am | Room: MLK 316**

**Facilitator: Farley Lord**

Rather than shying away from a discussion of money at church, we will embrace it as a healthy and life-giving part of our life as a community of faith. In a spirit of trust, we will explore how our experiences in our families, our faith traditions, and our cultures shape our beliefs about money. Scripture will guide us in discovering ways in which money plays a role in the story of

God's people. We will consider specific habits and practices as we strive to align our personal and communal understanding and use of money with justice.

## **From Passion to Compassion to the Presence of the Divine Love: How to heal your broken heart and Give Birth to Yourself**

**September 22-November 3 | 1-2:30pm | Room: MLK 318**

**Facilitator: Andrea King and Luvon Roberson**

This small study group is designed with an intention to inspire every participant to heal a broken relationship so that he/she can paint a future without the pain and disappointment of the past and thrive by shining a light into others' Voyage to Love. Three core questions the study group will explore: Why God, WHY? How to heal brokenness? How to sustain your soul's light?

"Love starts with passion of all kinds-- different levels for different relationships -- then, evolves into compassion and brings you in the presence of Divine Love" according to Billur Suu. A mother, a wife, a United Nations women's empowerment specialist, a yogini, a woman like every other woman, Billur Suu took her broken heart in 2015 and turned it into a Voyage to Love in 50 days around the world. She solved the mystery behind a broken relationship--indeed, a deep betrayal of trust -- and brought power and love back into her life.

## **Biblical Hebrew: Absolute Beginners**

**September 22-December 15 | 1-4:30pm | Room: MLK 321**

**Facilitator: Laura Harris**

This course will focus on learning the basics of Biblical Hebrew and the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the Old Testament. Readings from the different types of literature in the Hebrew Bible will be incorporated into the course work.

## **Intermediate and Advanced Biblical Hebrew**

**September 22-December 15 | 1-4:30pm | Room: MLK 314**

**Facilitator: Laura Harris**

A review Biblical Hebrew grammar paradigms, workbook exercise materials, and build vocabulary. In addition, we will conduct close readings and translations of the Biblical Hebrew Ten Commandments with attention given to commentary literature.

## **Beloved Community Experience**

**September 22-December 15 | 1-2:30pm | Room: Meditation Chapel**

**Facilitator: Rev. Addie Banks and Phil Lynn**

The program is designed to enable participants to explore and experience Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's vision of The Beloved Community. What is the Beloved Community? How can we work together to create it in our individual lives, our Church, our families, our communities, our Nation and our world?

Working together in our small group (class size is limited to 12 people) we build the Spirit and experience of The Beloved Community, as we share our stories, explore our gifts, deepen the experience and expression of God's Presence in our lives, and experience the unifying bond of our common shared humanity. Together, we discern our unique gifts and callings, and explore how we might develop and place these in the service of our church, our families, our communities, our Nation and our world, as we Journey together along the path to The Beloved Community. The program is highly interactive and utilizes paired and group sharings, guided imagery, meditation, drawing, and other creative processes.

## **The Time Is Now: A Call To UnCommon Courage Small Group**

**October 13-October 27 | 1-2:30pm | Room: Multipurpose Room**

**Facilitator: Rev. Bruce Lamb**

Join us as we read through and discuss this new book by Joan Chittister. Joan Chittister has been a passionate voice for women's rights for over 50 years. Pairing scriptural insights with stirring narratives of the truth-tellers that came before us, Sister Joan offers a compelling vision for readers to combat complacency and to propel ourselves toward creating a world of justice, freedom, peace, and empowerment.

For the weary, the cranky, and the fearful, Sister Joan's energizing message invites us to participate in a vision for a world greater than the one we find ourselves in today. This is spirituality in action, this is practical and powerful activism for our times.