



Fall 2020

Adult Formation at Idlewild

Faith & Function: Ancient Texts for Today's Questions

Join us at 9:40 a.m. each Sunday via Zoom.

Increasingly lately, we have heard reference made to cataclysmic events being of “Biblical proportions” – be they the global pandemic, economic collapse, hurricanes, deadly heat waves or locusts in East Africa. While there may be some truth in this, we know as Christians that love and hope can also be of “Biblical proportions”. The Faith & Function Class takes some of those Biblical stories of both great loss and renewed life and examines what they meant not only thousands of years ago but also what they mean in this time and in this place. Biblical scholars lead us each week in our journey. We invite you to join us, whether in-person or virtually.

Conveners: Rick Baker, Daniel Edwards, Judy Holland, Julie Markham, Mary Edith Walker

The Bible & the City

August 23—September 27

Facilitated by **Dr. Kendra Hotz**, The Robert R. Waller Chair of Population Health where she serves as Director of the Health Equity Program and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Rhodes College

During these weeks, we will look at urbanization in antiquity, the growth of class stratification, and how the vision of the Kingdom of God emerged as a kind of exercise in city planning.

August 23: *Nimrod, Builder of Cities* -- Genesis 10

August 30: *Leaving Ur, Becoming Urban* -- Genesis 14 and 18

September 6: *Monarchies and Urban Worship* -- Amos, 1 Kings 11:26-40 and 12-13

September 13: *People of the Land* -- Nehemiah 1-6

September 20: *Urban Economies* -- 1 Corinthians 4-7

September 27: *Social Class and First-Century Meals* -- 1 Corinthians 8-16

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How to Read the Bible: Historical and Apocalyptic Literature

October 4 & 11

Facilitated by **Dr. Steve McKenzie**, Professor of Hebrew/ Old Testament, Rhodes College

These two classes will focus on two types of genres of literature in the Bible--history writing and apocalyptic. We will look at the misconceptions about these genres that have led to misinterpretation and the characteristics that can help us to understand them properly.

The Letter of Hebrews: A Puzzlement

October 18 & 25

Facilitated by **Dr. Patrick Gray**, Associate Professor and Chair of Religious Studies, Rhodes College

These two sessions on the letter to the Letter to the Hebrews will examine some of the difficult questions that have puzzled scholars from the early church, through the Reformation, and up to the present. Come and study this book that Martin Luther wanted to leave out of the Bible.

Taking Up the Cross, Overcoming, and Other Images for Discipleship in the New Testament.

November 1—15

December 6—13

Facilitated by **The Rev. Dr. Jim McClananhan**, retired pastor and former professor of religious studies, King College

In this series, we will examine many of the main ideas employed by Jesus and the New Testament writers to encourage us in Christian living.