

ADULT BIBLE STUDY



Adult Crossings, God's Journey with Us

is the title of a Bible Study that is being offered at Nora and Kirkebo this next school year.

This course is offered for young people and adults from seventh grade through those age 100. Members and friends are most welcome to participate.

The Bible contains hundreds of stories; thousands of names. How does a person begin to understand and remember it all?

Crossings offers a unique Bible overview of what many scholars consider to be its eight core stories. These eight core stories are presented in 11 DVD segments, each appropriately 15 – 20 minutes in length:

1. *How Is the Bible True?*
2. *God's Call*
3. *The Exodus*
4. *Sinai Covenant*
5. *Promised Land*
6. *David's Rule*
7. *Jesus' Family Tree*
8. *Jesus' Life*
9. *The Cross*
10. *Resurrected Life*
11. *Run the Race.*

As we explore the Bible together we 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. Here are some simple affirmations to help guide our interactions:

- We affirm that all are created in the image of God.
- We affirm that each person brings 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 her or him. Seeing this differently is not an indication that a person is not a Christian or wrong.

- We affirm that the 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 arise around a topic we will seek ways to explore the deeper, underlying questions. For example: *Why is it interesting to consider...* or *What do we 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.

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

ADULT CROSSINGS COURSE



Details about this course: It will involve reading Scriptures and a course book before each session to get the most out of this study. The cost of the book is \$7, which can be used by an individual, a couple, or a family. Pastor John and Barb have paid for the DVDs and Leaders' materials. They will also, provide the treats for the initial session, and maybe volunteers will provide these for other sessions.

Each session will be taught twice: in the afternoon at 2:00 p.m. (at Kirkebo), and at 7:00 p.m. (at Nora). All sessions are on Wednesdays.

The dates for the session are as follows:
September 27th, October 11th, October 25th,
November 8th, November 29th, December 13th,

January 10th, January 31st, February 7th, April 11th and April 25th. In the event of a cancellation due to weather, ordinarily it will be re-scheduled for the following Wednesday. When you sign-up for the course, you will be asked to give your phone numbers so that you can be called in the event of cancellation and re-scheduling.

Please read carefully the newsletter article: **Adult Bible Study**.

In order for these sessions to be most effective, we will need at the very least 10 persons to enroll. For the discussions to be meaningful, we need diverse expressions of the faith so that we can challenge each other meaningfully, learning from each other. We hope for many more than 10. So please give this serious consideration.

The study will be conducted by Pastor John and Barbara, sometimes by both and at other times one conducting the afternoon session and the other the evening session. This will be the final adult Bible Study the two will teach before entering their retirement. They so hope that many from our two congregations will participate.



Sign-up sheets are available at the back of both sanctuaries. Please sign-up on or before Sunday, September 10th, so that the books can be ordered and available to you on Sundays

September 17th or 24th. It also saves postage when all of the books are ordered at the same time.

If there is someone who would be willing to record either the afternoon or evening session each week, we would certainly appreciate it. There will be times due to illness or scheduling when some will miss a session, and it would be great if it were recorded so that they would not miss out.



Invite others to sign-up for these sessions. Wouldn't it be great to have several from other congregations to join with us. And talk it over with other members as

well.

This study is going to be most valuable if we can have a very diverse group of people, young and old, persons of different backgrounds, and with a variety of congregational experiences.