

Theme: Incarnation.

Everything we thought about ourselves, God and creation is radically transformed by the incarnation. Our philosophical god, the transcended, omnipotent, separate and distant god is brought to a crashing end by Jesus. He reveals God as God-with-us: closer than what we are to ourselves, more involved than what we ever imagined.

Goal: An awareness of the God who intertwined Himself in our existence.

Sessions:

1. Examining the developing Hebrew and Greek thoughts about god, which were prevalent during the time of Jesus ... and are just as prevalent today under Christian labels.
 2. The Word made flesh - looking at how Jesus subverted our ideas of what and who God is, what and who we are, and our relationship with creation.
 3. The Incarnation continues in you! Exploring the infinite possibilities that God sees in relationship with you.
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Theme: Interpreting Scripture

The way in which we read scripture has a huge influence on our perception of God, ourselves and our relationships. There is great treasure to be found in these ancient writings, but there are also many misreadings that have caused people to justify wars, genocide, slavery and every kind of evil imaginable. This course strips away all the religious superstitions and looks at the scriptures for what they are - uncovering value that our superstitions have hidden for far too long.

Goal: to strip away religious layers of pre-conceived ideas and so enable a new appreciation for what the scriptures are. Methods of reading the scripture to access the original intent of the author and from there find its relevance for the here and now.

Sessions:

1. Introduction to the Old and New Testament.
Who wrote the Scriptures,
How were they assembled,
The cultural and literary environment in which they began.
2. The error of inerrancy.
What is the doctrine of inerrancy and why is it damaging?
Specific scriptural examples.
3. Re-reading Genesis 1-3 in its literary and cultural context.
The Genesis creation story versus Enuma Elish.
4. The Bible and the The Word Made Flesh. Faith beyond text, life beyond dogma.

Theme: Atonement

Exactly what did Jesus come to accomplish? How does he restore relationship between God and man? This course examines 4 major theories of atonement.

Goal: Bring understanding of the theories of atonement and leave a sense of at-one-ment.

Sessions:

1. Penal substitution. Examining its history and apparent biblical support.
 2. Christus Victor. History and Biblical support.
 3. Restorative/healing point of view. History and Biblical support.
 4. Mimetic Theory.
 5. Revelatory Atonement. Accepting, rejecting and adjusting views from the previous theories and presenting a new proposal for understanding At-one-ment.
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Theme: Desire

Desire forms us individually and consequently determines how we relate to one another and our world. Mimetic desire, the human capacity that makes us most like God - able to love - is also the capacity for the greatest evils, namely, hatred, conflict and violence.

Goal: Recognize the source of our desires and how self-consciousness is formed in relationship with others.

Sessions:

1. Desire and the formation of 'self'.
2. The dark side of mimetic desire.
3. Genesis of Desire.
Re-reading Genesis 1-3 from a mimetic-desire point of view.
4. Untwisting desire. Desire fulfilled is a tree of life.