



THE
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THE BIBLE FOR DOUBTERS – AN ONLINE STUDY

Dates: February 3 through March 24, 2022 (8 weeks)

Time: Thursdays from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Teaching time: 1 hr 15 minutes. (7:00 – 8:15 p.m.)

Discussion time: 15 minutes (8:15 – 8:30 p.m.)

or

Local b/out groups: 30 minutes (8:15 – 8:45 p.m.)

Location: Zoom link to be forwarded

Instructor: **The Rev. Dr. Karen Petersen Finch** is Professor of Pastoral Leadership at The Presbyterian College, and joined the college in 2021. Prior to this she served as Professor of Theology at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington. Karen has a commitment to serving the church, to excellence in teaching, and to making theology accessible to a wide audience.

Details: This study will explore some of the challenging texts of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. How these can be understood faithfully? Do these texts actually undermine our faith? Can we learn from them and discover something of God's identity and relationship to us through them? Through this course you will gain understanding and have the opportunity to grow deeper in your faith.

Study Outline:

| Session Date | Topics | Text Focus | Questions |
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| Thursday February 3 | Questioning Creation and God's Formation of a People | Exodus chapters 1-3; chapter 9.22-35 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why did God make anything at all?• What is sin and why worry about it?• Is God legalistic? |

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| Thursday February 10 | Questioning Creation and God's Formation of a People | Exodus chapters 12-14, 19 and 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When God says "Have no other gods before me," is he acknowledging the reality of other gods? • Does God not care about the Egyptian babies? • Why does God endorse a violent conquest of the Land? |
| Thursday, February 17 | Questioning Kingship/Leadership , Prophecy and Exile | Deuteronomy chapters 7, 17 and 20; I Samuel chapters 8 -10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a biblical view of leadership? Is it always male and hierarchical? • How do we tell if racism/sexism is in the mind of the reader, or if it is really in the text? • Is diversity important to the God of the Bible? |
| Thursday, February 24 | Questioning Kingship/Leadership , Prophecy and Exile | 2 Samuel chapters 6, 7, and 11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did God not save Israel and Judah from exile? • Does the Bible really teach about poverty or is that just a liberal thing? • How convincing is the evidence that the Old Testament prophets anticipated Jesus of Nazareth? |
| Thursday, March 3 | Questioning the Gospels and Claims about Jesus | Mark chapters 1-8; chapters 14 and 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How reliable are the gospel accounts of |

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| | | | <p>what Jesus did and said?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can anyone prove that Jesus was the Son of God? • If he was not the Son of God, what was he? (C.S. Lewis' "Trilemma") |
| Thursday, March 10 | Questioning the Gospels and Claims about Jesus | John chapters 11-3; 13-14; 20,21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did Jesus have to die? • Why was Jesus condemned? • Would a photo of the resurrected Jesus make a difference to faith/unfaith? |
| Thursday, March 17 | Questioning the Letters and the Vocation of the Church | Acts chapters 1,2,9,10, and 15; Romans chapters 2-4 and 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Paul such an authority in the Bible? • Why should we care what he wrote? • Did Paul teach a different message than that of the Gospels? |
| Thursday, March 24 | Questioning the Letters and the Vocation of the Church | I Corinthians chapter 15; Revelation chapters 19, 20 and 21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do even non-believers have strong feelings about the Christian Church? • What is the Church supposed to be? • Why is the Church divided? |