



Darkwood Brew.org

Wherever You Are, We'll Meet You There

New to the role of facilitator? Here are a few tips to help you get started.

- First of all, a facilitator's job is to coordinate the flow of each session. View the video segment ahead of time and make your own notes and observations.
- Prepare the meeting place so that it is comfortable. Arrive early; help organize any refreshments and test your video player/computer.
- Getting to know one another helps the discussions flow. Welcome all, catch up and reflect a bit on last week's session in the first few minutes.
- You don't have to be the expert. You are not expected to provide answers to questions provided. So let the questions ignite the conversation and see where it takes the group.
- It's everyone's responsibility to make sure everyone else gets an equal amount of time to talk.
- Listen first; evaluate later. Make sure you understand a comment, then ask questions or pose other options.
- Encourage participants to bring a Bible or other resources.
- If you feel so moved, start, and/or end your session in prayer.

Leaders Guide

"The Faith of Jesus in a Pluralistic World"

This series investigates how Christians may hold a particular belief in Jesus as the Christ of God amidst a world of competing religious claims. In these episodes we will focus on both the differences and similarities between Christian faith and other religious traditions. World-class scholars will help us process and learn about how Jesus Christ can be the "way, the truth, and the life," without condemning other people's religious beliefs and values. The central question of this series is how is Christianity related to other faith traditions?

Welcome to the Darkwood Brew journey!

We are glad you can join us. Our primary resources for small group study are condensed versions of Darkwood Brew's weekly one-hour episodes. These are called GUIDED EPISODES. Each Guided Episode is 25-30 minutes in length. There are pause points with questions provided for each Episode, intended for group discussion or individual reflection.

On the following page, you will find information on the Series Topic, Skype Guests, Scripture passage, and Questions posed during the episode.



Questions:

1. What in your experience of the divine do you feel is shared with other religions? What in your experience of the divine is unique?
2. What stood out for you from John 14:1-7? What do you think this passage means?
3. What do you do when an interpretation of scripture seems counter to your experience of God?
4. How might we engage people of other faiths in ways that honor both differences and similarities?
5. How do you come to the Father? What does that mean for you?

EPISODE TITLE: "The Way, The Truth, The Life"

The Faith of Jesus in a Pluralistic World, Episode 1

Featured Guest: Rev. Dr. Allen Hilton

As Minister of Faith and Learning, Allen Hilton leads Wayzata Community Church's Christian Education team, focusing on adult Christian discipleship. After degrees from George Fox College (B.A., 1985), Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div., 1989), and Yale University (Ph.D., 1997), Allen taught Bible at St. Mary's College of California and then New Testament at the Yale Divinity School. He joined the WCC clergy team in April of 2009.

Pneuma Divina Scripture: John 14: 1-7

14'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.' ⁵Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

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Questions:

1. If it is possible that ancient Jews were polytheistic, what does that mean for your faith today?
2. In the presence of many gods, however you might define them, what shapes your life?
3. What is your best way? How do you know?
4. What is distinctive about your God?

EPISODE TITLE: “The Most High God”

The Faith of Jesus in a Pluralistic World, Episode 2

Featured Guest: Dr. Leong Seow.

Choon-Leong Seow, Princeton Seminary’s Henry Snyder Gehman Professor of Old Testament Language and Literature, earned his M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and his Ph.D. in Near Eastern languages and civilizations from Harvard University. An ordained Presbyterian elder, he specializes in the wisdom literature of the Old Testament, the history of ancient Israelite religion, Northwest Semitic philology, and the history of biblical interpretation and reception. He teaches courses on the interpretation of Job, Hebraica, Daniel, Aramaic, and Northwest Semitic epigraphy. He has written: *Hebrew Inscriptions: Texts from the Biblical Period of the Monarchy*, with F.W. Dobbs-Allsopp and J.J.M. Roberts (Yale University Press, 2004)

Myth, Drama, and the Politics of David’s Dance, Harvard Semitic Monograph 46 (Scholars Press, 1989).

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Deuteronomy 32. 7-12

7 Remember the days of old, consider the years long past;

ask your father, and he will inform you;
your elders, and they will tell you.

8 When the Most High apportioned the nations,
when he divided humankind,

he fixed the boundaries of the peoples
according to the number of the gods;

9 the Lord’s own portion was his people,
Jacob his allotted share.

10 He sustained him in a desert land,
in a howling wilderness waste;
he shielded him, cared for him,
guarded him as the apple of his eye.

11 As an eagle stirs up its nest,
and hovers over its young;
as it spreads its wings, takes them up,
and bears them aloft on its pinions,

12 the Lord alone guided him;
no foreign god was with him.

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