

# Summer Grace Groups 2020

**DIRECTIONS:** The following virtual study groups (accessible by internet or phone) are being offered this summer at Grace Presbyterian Church. Please read the Group Descriptions carefully and then go to the link below to sign up for one or more groups. All members are encouraged to join a group, both as a means of staying in community with each other during this COVID era and to deepen our faith and understanding of important topics. Friends, family members, and visitors are welcome to join—please share widely!

To sign up, click here or call the church office:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSddDxjm4k4Wil-0tDBmVdHDIQ2FVO35FSTZQxeYSX\\_5MC03Zw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSddDxjm4k4Wil-0tDBmVdHDIQ2FVO35FSTZQxeYSX_5MC03Zw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1)

## 1. Bible Women: Diplomats, Survivors, Wicked & Wily

Join us Sunday mornings this summer for a creative exploration of women in the Bible, drawing on Lindsay Hardin Freeman’s exceptional work, *Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter*. The book elevates biblical women’s lives and faith experiences through stories of passion, deceit, anguish, faith, and more. Maria Clayton and Donna Lucas facilitate the discussion of Bible women, known and unknown, as they come to life against the backdrop of the 21st century. We invite both men and women to join on this short journey. (Reading the book is encouraged but optional.)

**Facilitators:** Maria Clayton and Donna Lucas

**Day:** Every Sunday, starting June 14

**Time:** 9:15-10:15am

## 2. Wrestling with Richard Rohr

This group will read and wrestle with the ideas in Richard Rohr’s book, [\*The Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self\*](#). In the book, Rohr discusses the False Self (ego) and the True Self, which is like “a diamond, buried deep within us, formed under the intense pressure of our lives.” This True Self must be “searched for, uncovered, separated from all the debris of ego that surrounds it,” a process that leads to transformation. (Members of this group will read one chapter a week and will bring 1-2 questions or insights from the reading to the group discussion.)

**Facilitator:** Amy Trawick

**Day:** Every Monday, starting June 15

**Time:** 7:00-8:00pm

## 3. Nurturing Faith

Parents and grandparents—and anyone involved in the life of young people—can easily be caught in patterns of shame and comparison. Add in the element of faith, it gets even more complicated. Are we doing it right? How can we teach children faith without having all the answers ourselves? Join Pastor Katie and other parents and grandparents to take on topics including spirituality, the Bible, mission/service, and sex. This group is designed for people who DON’T have the answers but believe we can learn from one another’s wisdom! (No reading/prep required.)

**Facilitator:** Pastor Katie

**Day:** Every other Tuesday, starting June 16

**Time:** 8:00-9:00pm

#### 4. Money and Possessions

This group will meet bi-monthly to discuss Dr. Walter Brueggemann's book, [Money and Possessions](#). This renowned Old Testament scholar (who visited Grace several years ago!) explores biblical concepts related to wealth, including the idea that money and possessions are not inanimate objects but rather forces that compel a devotion that rivals loyalty to God. Dr. Brueggemann also writes about "exploitive economics," which leads to income inequality and violence. Join the group for a discussion led by the three facilitators. (Reading the book is encouraged but optional.)

**Facilitators:** Cramer Gilmore, Judy Crooks, Craig Crooks

**Day:** Every other Wednesday, starting June 17

**Time:** 1:15-2:15pm

#### 5. Exploring the Christian Journey

Looking for a new travel experience this summer? Try reading and discussing [A Geography of God: Exploring the Christian Journey](#), by Michael Lindvall. Tim Stryker will help participants to organize and facilitate discussions on this brief book, which the author describes as providing "glimpses of the ancient map" of the Christian journey and "hints about what you might experience as you travel."

**Facilitator:** Tim Stryker

**Day:** Every other Thursday, starting June 18

**Time:** 8:00-9:00pm

#### 6. So You Want to Talk About Race

Over the past decade, the past few years, the past month--many of us have become aware that as Christians, we are called to face the reality of our nation's legacy around race. But (especially for white people), how do we talk about things that make us uncomfortable? How do we help heal the hurts? What do we need to better understand in order to become a part of the solution? Join the pastors for a study on the book [So You Want to Talk about Race](#), in which Ijeoma Oluo guides readers through definitions and history and black experience in an attempt to make possible honest conversations about race and racism and how they infect almost every aspect of American life. (Reading the book is encouraged but optional. Some copies available for pick-up at the church office.)

**Facilitators:** Pastor Ben and Pastor Katie

**Day:** Every other Thursday, starting June 25

**Time:** 7:30-9:00pm

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**AD will continue to offer the following programs during the summer as well. Attend any time!**

- Midweek Sermon and Scripture Study (Every Wednesday, 7:00-8:00pm)
- Pub(lic) Theology (One Tuesday a month, 7:30-9:00pm)