

Discovery 1 – The Search

Preparation

- Read the verses listed below
- Bring you Bible, and a concordance if you have one.

Class Agenda

Welcome

Housekeeping

- Ordering books

What is Kerygma?

Format of each Lesson

1. The story Continues
2. Preparing for the Search
3. The Search Begins
4. The Search Continues
5. Focusing the Search
6. Putting it Together
7. Reflection

Scripture Selections

- Psalm 139: 1-24
- Isaiah 55: 1-13
- Matthew 13: 44-46
- Acts 17: 22-28

Please read these selections and focus on these questions –

- Who is seeking? Who is found?
- With which verses do you most identify?

Additional Resources and Thoughts

Robert McAfee Brown

- Is the Bible a record of our search for God or God's search for us?

A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament, Birch, Brueggemann, Fretheim and Petersen (a readable, but scholarly work)

The Message, Eugene Peterson (a non-literal translation)

Online at <http://biblegateway.com/cgi-bin/bible?language=english&version=MSG&passage=all>

I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For, U2, Joshua Tree CD

Four Keywords for a Theologian (from Brueggemann)

To look in the text with and for

- Interpretation
 - What is the author interpreting?
 - Since neither author of the two Genesis creation stories was present at the event, what interpretative acts went into the creation of the text.
 - How are we to interpret the writing before us?
 - History, liturgy, family stories?
- Imagination
 - What leap of imagination is described?
 - See 2 Kings 6: 15-19 – Elisha and the alternate reality
 - How can we imagine the text working in the original setting and in today's settings?
 - Was Genesis 1 read antiphonally a part of a worship service?
- Inspiration
 - What inspired the writer to create this text?
 - Where did Isaiah 55 come from?
 - How does this text inspire us to know God better?
 - Listen to Handel's *Messiah*.
- Ideology
 - What is the point of view of the writer?
 - Is the writer seeking to defend or criticize the existing order?
 - What is the point of view we bring to the text?
 - Do we want to ignore this text because it doesn't fit with our notion of the nature of God. See 1 Samuel 15:3 and 33 or the last line of Psalm 137.