



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

"Dwelling & Indwelling"

In this series we explore several narratives from the Old Testament with an eye to discerning what provides a sound foundation and structure for "God's house"-which stands not only for God's sanctuary, but for the people called by God's name.

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. How do you think Nathan's harsh criticism might have been perceived? How do powerful figures react to criticism in our day?
2. How do you think the ancient shift of emphasis away from the affairs of distant gods to the affairs of people on Earth influences our sense of agency and responsibility today?
3. What is David's second mistake that makes the first mistake worse? What similar second mistakes do you see in our day?

Thorny Theological Question:

What's a second mistake that makes the first one worse?

EPISODE TITLE: "Laying the Foundation"

Dwelling & Indwelling, Episode 1

Featured Guest: Dr. Eric Elnes

Dr. Eric Elnes is a biblical scholar with a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Princeton Theological Seminary. He is also a leading articulator of Convergence Christianity and Senior Minister of Countryside Community Church (UCC) in Omaha, NE. Eric has written several books on faith, theology and culture including, *The Phoenix Affirmations: A New Vision for the Future of Christianity* (Jossey-Bass, 2006) and a book on experiential worship called *Igniting Worship: The Seven Deadly Sins* (Abingdon, 2004). In 2006, Eric also helped lead a 2,500 mile walk from Phoenix to Washington, DC, to promote awareness of progressive/emerging Christian faith and practice and meet with Christians at a grassroots to hear their hopes and dreams for the future of faith in America. His journey, which is the subject of a feature-length film, *The Asphalt Gospel*, is recounted in his book, *Asphalt Jesus: Finding a New Christian Faith on the Highways of America* (Jossey-Bass, 2007). Elnes lives as an "empty nester" in Omaha with his wife, Melanie, dog Roe, and cat Tamar. They have two college-age daughters, Arianna and Maren.

Pneuma Divina Scripture: 2 Samuel 12: 1-9

¹and the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, 'There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had very many flocks and herds; ³but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.' ⁵Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, 'As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; ⁶he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.'

⁷Nathan said to David, 'You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; ⁸I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. ⁹Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.'



EPISODE TITLE: “The Pillar of Wisdom”

Dwelling & Indwelling, Episode 2

Featured Guest: Melvin Bray

Melvin Bray, an itinerant speaker and aspiring author. Melvin is a contributing editor for Sojourners magazine, and periodically posts to their God’s Politics blog. Melvin is also the founder, director, and chief gardener of Kid Cultivators, a missional youth development nonprofit, and he continues to make progress on *The Stories in Which We Find Ourselves: A Bible Story Project* in which he helps others tell their own story and find their own voice to say well what’s inside of them to say.

Pneuma Divina Scripture: 1 Kings 3: 4-9, 16-28

⁴The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt-offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, ‘Ask what I should give you.’ ⁶And Solomon said, ‘You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?’

¹⁶Later, two women who were prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. ¹⁷One woman said, ‘Please, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth while she was in the house. ¹⁸Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. We were together; there was no one else with us in the house, only the two of us were in the house. ¹⁹Then this woman’s son died in the night, because she lay on him. ²⁰She got up in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your servant slept. She laid him at her breast, and laid her dead son at my breast. ²¹When I rose in the morning to nurse my son, I saw that he was dead; but when I looked at him closely in the morning, clearly it was not the son I had borne.’ ²²But the other woman said, ‘No, the living son is mine, and the dead son is yours.’ The first said, ‘No, the dead son is yours, and the living son is mine.’ So they argued before the king.

²³Then the king said, ‘One says, “This is my son that is alive, and your son is dead”; while the other says, “Not so! Your son is dead, and my son is the living one.”’ ²⁴So the king said, ‘Bring me a sword’, and they brought a sword before the king. ²⁵The king said, ‘Divide the living boy in two; then give half to one, and half to the other.’ ²⁶But the woman whose son was alive said to the king—because compassion for her son burned within her—‘Please, my lord, give her the living boy; certainly do not kill him!’ The other said, ‘It shall be neither mine nor yours; divide it.’ ²⁷Then the king responded: ‘Give the first woman the living boy; do not kill him. She is his mother.’ ²⁸All Israel heard of the judgement that the king had rendered; and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him, to execute justice.

Questions:

1. If God offered to give you one thing what would you ask for?
2. What personality traits or external forces do you think might have influenced Solomon? What sort of personality traits and external forces affect our own faith walk today?
3. What does it take to be true to who you are and whose you are? What difference might that make in your life?

Thorny Theological Question:

If God offered to give you one thing, what would you ask for?

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Thorny Theological Question:

What did it take for you to realize that you don't know it all?

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EPISODE TITLE: "The Pillar of Humility"

Dwelling & Indwelling, Episode 3

Featured Guest: Rachel G. Hackenberg

Rachel Hackenberg is an author, speaker and ordained minister whose writing takes a look at faith in order to revitalize our engagement with God. Rachel's newest book, *Sacred Pause: A Creative Retreat for the Word-Wearied Christian*, is due for release in December from Paraclete Press.

Pneuma Divina Scripture: 2 Kings 5: 1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.' ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. ⁵And the king of Aram said, 'Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel.'

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. ⁶He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, 'When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy.' ⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.'

⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, 'Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.' ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.' ¹¹But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, 'I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?' He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants approached and said to him, 'Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, "Wash, and be clean"?' ¹⁴So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.



EPISODE TITLE: "The Pillar of Patience"

Dwelling & Indwelling, Episode 4

Featured Guest: Frank Schaeffer

Frank Schaeffer, an American author, film director, screenwriter and public speaker. Frank is the son of the late theologian and author Francis Schaeffer, who became a Hollywood film director and author, writing several internationally acclaimed novels depicting life in a strict fundamentalist household including *Portofino*, *Zermatt*, and *Saving Grandma*. Other books include *Why I Am An Atheist Who Believes In God*; *Crazy for God: How I Grew Up as One of the Elect, Helped Found the Religious Right, and Lived to Take All (or Almost All) of It Back*; *Sex, Mom, and God: How the Bible's Strange Take on Sex Led to Crazy Politics*; and *How I Learned to Love Women (and Jesus) Anyway*. Frank has been a guest of Darkwood Brew many times throughout the years, including being the solo guest for all six weeks of our series on Amos called "Prophetically Incorrect."

Questions:

1. What is something you are willing to work for that you will not ever see the outcome?
2. When you look back on your life, what have been the most important events? Why do those stand out? How will that affect your future story?
3. What are you waiting for? Why is it worth the wait? How will you know when it is time to act?

Thorny Theological Question:

What is something you are willing to work for where you will not see the result of?

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Pneuma Divina Scripture: Micah 5:2-4, 6:6-8

⁵ But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.
³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labour has brought forth;
 then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.
⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
 in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
 And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;

⁶ "With what shall I come before the LORD,
 and bow myself before God on high?
 Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
 with calves a year old?
⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
 with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
 Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
 the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
 and what does the LORD require of you
 but to do justice, and to love kindness,
 and to walk humbly with your God?"



EPISODE TITLE: "The Pillar of Trust"

Dwelling & Indwelling, Episode 5

Featured Guest: Rolf Jacobson

Rolf Jacobson joined the Luther Seminary faculty as assistant professor of Old Testament in July 2003. Prior to joining the seminary, he taught at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, as an assistant professor of religion. Jacobson earned his bachelor's degree from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn. in 1987. He holds a master of divinity degree from Luther Seminary (1991) and a doctor of philosophy.

Questions:

1. In situations that require difficult decisions, how do you trust that God is at work in your discernment? Can you ever be sure?
2. Have you ever taken a leap of faith? How did that work out?
3. What missions are we as individuals and as the church being called into? What does it mean for us to act in trust and answer those calls?

Thorny Theological Question:

Have you taken a leap of faith?
How did that work out?

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Pneuma Divina Scripture: Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7

36 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, King Sennacherib of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. ²The king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem, with a great army. He stood by the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Fuller's Field. ³And there came out to him Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the palace, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the recorder.

¹³Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah, 'Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! ¹⁴Thus says the king: "Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you. ¹⁵Do not let Hezekiah make you rely on the LORD by saying, The LORD will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria." ¹⁶Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria: "Make your peace with me and come out to me; then every one of you will eat from your own vine and your own fig tree and drink water from your own cistern, ¹⁷until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards. ¹⁸Do not let Hezekiah mislead you by saying, The LORD will save us. Has any of the gods of the nations saved their land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? ¹⁹Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? ²⁰Who among all the gods of these countries have saved their countries out of my hand, that the LORD should save Jerusalem out of my hand?" '

37 When King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD. ²And he sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. ³They said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah, This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. ⁴It may be that the LORD your God heard the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the LORD your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left."

⁵When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, ⁶Isaiah said to them, 'Say to your master, "Thus says the Lord: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me. ⁷I myself will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumour, and return to his own land; I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land."



EPISODE TITLE: "Love It Or List It"

Dwelling & Indwelling, Episode 6

Featured Guest: Dr. Eric Elnes

Dr. Eric Elnes is a biblical scholar with a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Princeton Theological Seminary. He is also a leading articulator of Convergence Christianity and Senior Minister of Countryside Community Church (UCC) in Omaha, NE. Eric has written several books on faith, theology, culture, and experiential worship. Eric also helped lead a walk from Phoenix to Washington, DC, to promote awareness of progressive/emerging Christian faith and practice and meet with Christians to hear their hopes and dreams for the future of faith in America. His journey, which is the subject of a feature-length film, is recounted in his book, *Asphalt Jesus: Finding a New Christian Faith on the Highways of America* (Jossey-Bass, 2007).

Questions:

1. In the Jeremiah text God says, "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you." What does that mean for Jeremiah? What might it mean for us?
2. What might be supported in our own lives, in our churches and in our communities through our faith in the foundation of God as the architect and the pillars of wisdom, humility, patience and trust?
3. If Christianity was a house what would you renovate?

Thorny Theological Question:

If Christianity was a house, what would you renovate?

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Pneuma Divina Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10; 7:1-11

⁴Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

⁵'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'

⁶'Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' ⁷But the Lord said to me,

'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸'Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.'

⁹Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰'See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

⁷ The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ²'Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah, you that enter these gates to worship the Lord. ³Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. ⁴'Do not trust in these deceptive words: "This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.'

⁵'For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, ⁶if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, ⁷then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors for ever and ever.

⁸'Here you are, trusting in deceptive words to no avail. ⁹'Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, ¹⁰and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, 'We are safe!'—only to go on doing all these abominations? ¹¹Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your sight? You know, I too am watching, says the Lord.