



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

"Listen"

This series looks at many ways that the voice of God speaks to us, and explores things we can do to strengthen that connection. From meditation and music to study and social action, guests Yvette Flunder, Jack Levison, Carl McColman, Bruce Epperly, Phileena Heuertz and Doug Pagitt join Eric Elnes and Chris Alexander look for the voice of the spirit...and find it active in surprising places.

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 stood out for you from 1 Kings 19:9-16?
2. What or where is that place in your life where you seek God?
3. How do you discern the voice of the Holy Spirit in our modern world? How is that voice different than the messages of scripture?
4. What do you think Augustine meant when he said the path to knowing yourself and the path to knowing God are the same path? How might that affect your quest for relationship with God?
5. How can you create space in your life for an honest relationship with God in the finely powdered silence?

EPISODE TITLE: "Finding Your Cave"

Listen, Episode 1

Featured Guest: Bishop Yvette Flunder

A native San Franciscan, Bishop Flunder is a third generation preacher with roots in the Church of God in Christ. She was licensed in the COGIC and later ordained by the Bishop Walter Hawkins of Love Center Ministries where she served as Associate Pastor and administrator for the Oakland-based Love Center Church. In 1984 Bishop Flunder began performing and recording with "Walter Hawkins and the Family" and the Love Center Choir. Other gospel music recordings include "There's Power" with the City of Refuge Praise Ensemble, "We Won't Be Silent Anymore" with The Fellowship Mass Choir, and "How Sweet the Sound", with the Grammy Award winning Chanticleer. Bishop Flunder is also an ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ and a graduate of the Ministry Studies and Master of Arts programs at the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California. She received a Doctor of Ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo California.

Pneuma Divina Scripture: 1 Kings 19: 9 - 16

⁹At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁰He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' ¹¹He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁴He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' ¹⁵Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition), copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



Questions:

1. What do you think of the idea that air and spirit are the same thing? What do you think might mean? How would that, or does that, inform your spiritual practices?
2. What are some examples of the impact of the Holy Spirit, or the movement of what Jack refers to as “spirit breath,” in our world? Does our Christian context make a difference in how we ultimately respond to that spirit or breath?
3. How do you prepare for or spiritual guidance? What has been the result? How might you strengthen that preparation?
4. What stood out for you from Romans 8:26-30 and 38-39?
5. What is the difference between praying for what you want and praying for what it is necessary to pray for?

EPISODE TITLE: “Breathe!”

Listen, Episode 2

Featured Guest: Jack Levison

Called a “brilliant and spirited theologian” by author Phyllis Tickle, Jack Levison has a passion for ideas and an obsession with writing. Raised in a small tract house in Levittown, New York, Jack left to attend Wheaton College, where his Greek professor captured his imagination with visions of Cambridge University. When he returned from England to pursue doctoral studies at Duke University, Jack fell in love with a divinity student, Priscilla Pope, alongside of whom he now teaches at Seattle Pacific University. Jack is an internationally recognized scholar, whose books have received wide acclaim. Scot McKnight, author of *The Jesus Creed*, characterized Filled with the Spirit as “the benchmark and starting point for all future studies of the Spirit,” and Walter Brueggemann hailed it as “inspired.” Already Eugene Peterson has called his next book, *Fresh Air: the Holy Spirit for an Inspired Life*, “a rare and remarkable achievement.”

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Romans 8: 26-30 and 38-39

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition), copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



Questions:

1. What character voice or voices from movies, television, or literature do you hear in your head?
2. How do you integrate the teachings of scripture and the traditions of your community with your direct experience of the divine?
3. What stood out for you from Romans 12:2-12?
4. How might you invite the Holy Spirit to move up to a higher place at the table in your life?

EPISODE TITLE: "Meet the Committee"

Listen, Episode 3

Featured Guest: Carl McColman

Carl McColman is a Roman Catholic layperson and a lay associate of the Cistercian Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Georgia. He is the author of several books on the spiritual life, including *The Big Book of Christian Mysticism*, *366 Celt* and *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Celtic Wisdom*. He teaches classes and conducts retreats on mysticism and contemplative spirituality, and is the author of *The Website of Unknowing* (www.anamchara.com), a blog devoted to ecumenical and interfaith spiritual practice.

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Romans 12: 2-12

²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition), copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



EPISODE TITLE: "Prayer and Healing"

Listen, Episode 4

Featured Guest: Bruce Epperly

Bruce Epperly is a practical theologian, pastor, spiritual guide, author, and leader in lay and pastoral faith formation. This fall he was Visiting Professor of Process Studies at Claremont School of Theology/Claremont Lincoln University. Prior to that he served as Director of Continuing Education and Professor of Practical Theology at Lancaster Theological Seminary (2003-2010). Bruce was also co-pastor of Disciples United Community Church (a partnership Disciples of Christ/United Church of Christ congregation) from 2004-2010.

Questions:

1. Do you have a spiritual practice? If so, does it come easily or is it difficult? Has that practice ever had a healing effect?
2. Do you think it is possible that the effects of prayer might one day be discovered to have a scientific basis? Would that affect your faith in prayer?
3. What do you think Bruce means by, "When I pray, coincidences happen?" How might we be better attuned to recognizing those coincidences, or even helping to make them happen?
4. What stood out for you from Mark 5: 24-34?
5. Bruce suggests that faith may open doors to healing transformations. What kinds of transformations do you think those might be?

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Mark 5: 24-34

²⁴So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' ²⁹Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' ³¹And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' ³²He looked all round to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition), copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



Questions:

1. What do you think Eric means when he says that in our contemplative life our intent is more important than our technique?
2. How might contemplative practice engage with the command of Jesus to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves? Does contemplation only offer personal benefits, or is there a broader effect?
3. What stood out for you from Psalm 46:1-11?
4. How do we become co-creators with God? How does subservience factor in?
5. What can you do for God? What can God do for you?

EPISODE TITLE: “Contemplation: Centering Prayer”

Listen, Episode 5

Featured Guest: Phileena Heuertz

Author, spiritual director, yoga instructor, public speaker and retreat guide, Phileena is passionate about spirituality and making the world a better place. Phileena has led contemplative retreats for a number of faith communities including: Word Made Flesh, World Vision International, Compassion International, as well as non-faith and interfaith groups in leading cities across the nation. She has spoken at a number of universities and seminaries including: Asbury Theological Seminary, Biola University, Creighton University, Eastern Nazarene College, Fuller Seminary, George Fox University, Hardin-Simmons University and Midland University; and conferences such as Q, Catalyst, Urbana and the Center for Action and Contemplation.

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Psalm 46: 1-11

To the leader. Of the Korahites. According to Alamothe. A Song.¹
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.²
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*⁴
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.
⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.¹⁰ ‘Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.’¹¹
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition), copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



EPISODE TITLE: “Do You Want to be Made Well?”

Listen, Episode 6

Featured Guest: Doug Pagitt

Doug is a possibility enthusiast who seeks to find creative, entrepreneurial and generative ways to enlist people to join in the hopes, dreams and desires God has for the world. Doug is the national director of the Cana Initiative a collective of faith-engaged organizations, individuals, institutions and networks who seek to embody a generous Christian ethos leading to constructive collective action in the United States. Doug is the founding pastor of Solomon’s Porch, A Holistic Missional Christian Community in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Doug is a speaker and consultant for churches, denominations and businesses throughout the United States and around the world on issues of Inventive Age culture, social systems Christianity and Leadership. Doug has worked in churches, for a non-profit foundation and has owned three businesses in Minneapolis.

Questions:

1. What elements of church life or practice would you change to create a more meaningful spiritual experience?
2. Do you find the voice of God in community? How does it come through? Doug mentioned long-distance running. Are there any non-traditional ways you connect to the divine?
3. What stood out for you from John 5:1-9?
4. Do you want to be made well? What might be the cost of that healing?
5. When does healing lead to obligation? When does healing lead to freedom? What do either of those outcomes have to say about the healer?

Pneuma Divina Scripture: John 5:1-9

5After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. ³In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. ⁵One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’ ⁷The sick man answered him, ‘Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.’ ⁸Jesus said to him, ‘Stand up, take your mat and walk.’ ⁹At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath.

The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition), copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



Questions:

1. Is music an aspect of your spiritual life? What part does it play?
2. Chuck expresses his love for God through composing music. How do you think that love might affect his creative process? Do you have a creative process, musical or otherwise, driven by love?
3. What thought or emotion does music bring forward to you? Return to this experience throughout the coming week to see where it might provide insight or have ongoing relevance.
4. What has been your experience of music in worship? How does it affect your experience of and relationship with the divine?
5. Will you listen to or perform music in new ways? If you do, what do you think the results might be?

EPISODE TITLE: “God and Music”

Listen, Episode 7

Featured Guest: Chuck Maronhnic

For 20 years, Chuck has had the privilege of serving as Music Director in numerous churches including United Methodist, Roman Catholic and United Churches of Christ. He is also a frequent guest performer and clinician at many churches and church conferences throughout the US. He served for 5 years as Director of Music for the now well known Studio Worship service at Scottsdale Congregational United Church of Christ in Scottsdale, AZ, After retiring from Arizona State University in 2003 as Director of Jazz Studies and moving to Louisville, KY with his wife Mary Ann, Chuck was asked by Eric Elnes, now senior Pastor at Countryside Community Church in Omaha, NE to help develop a jazz based worship service there. Both Eric and Chuck worked on developing what is now known worldwide as Darkwood Brew.

The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition), copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.