



# 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*

### **"Praying for Revolution"**

If you think the Lord's Prayer is yesterday's news, think again. Lead by Darkwood Brew host Rev. Eric Elnes Ph.D., this series probes ancient meaning and modern relevance in the one prayer we all say, but rarely examine. 'The Lord's Prayer' engages scholars, theologians, and authors in a conversation that bridges the limitations of language and looks to deeper meaning. After this fascinating study, you'll never pray the Lord's Prayer the same way again.

### **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. Is it surprising for you to think of the Lord's Prayer in terms of revolution?
2. What other words might represent divine immanence and transcendence?
3. How might the Lord's Prayer be a catalyst for Christian community?
4. What does Eric mean when he says that Jesus joins us in saying the Lord's Prayer?
5. How might the Hebrew meaning of "Father" affect our understanding of the first line of the prayer?
6. How can the example of God as a parent inform our own relationships?
7. Why do you think Jesus might use the term "Father" typically reserved for Abraham to refer to God?
8. Is it possible for you to envision God in a new way through Jesus' use of father imagery?
9. What words will you use?

## EPISODE TITLE: "Episode 1"

Prayer for Revolution, Episode 1

### Featured Guest: **Beth Tanner**

Dr. Tanner teaches classes in Biblical Studies and Preaching. Her scholarship concentrates on the poetic texts of the Old Testament. Her current projects include a commentary on the Psalms for the NICOT series and a book for the study of the psalms in the church setting. She is ordained in the Presbyterian Church USA and is a writer for *The Thoughtful Christian*. Dr. Tanner notes, "I see my work as that of a Bedouin story-teller. I have been entrusted with the church's oldest stories and songs and it is my call to tell these stories to today's Christians so they may learn of the depth of love and grace that God has for them."

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**Questions:**

1. What do you envision when you say those words?
2. What are some other ways to expand the meaning of God's Kingdom?
3. How do you think the people with Jesus might have received those words?
4. Is it possible to manifest the Kingdom on Earth? How would we participate in that?
5. How do you think loving God, neighbor and self might be ways to realize?
6. What are some examples you can see of the kingdom of God on Earth?
7. How will you listen for the heartbeat of God?
8. How have your ideas about these words changed?

**EPISODE TITLE: "Episode 2"**

Praying for Revolution, Episode 2

**Featured Guest: Michael Piazza**

Rev. Michael Piazza is a spiritual visionary; author and social justice advocate who comes to Virginia-Highland Church after 23 years with the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, Texas. Under his courageous leadership as senior pastor and later dean, the Cathedral of Hope made religious history by reclaiming Christianity as a faith of extravagant grace, radical inclusion and relentless compassion while becoming the world's largest liberal Christian church with a predominantly lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender outreach. Rev. Piazza also is the co-executive director of the Center for Progressive Renewal, which is renewing Progressive Christianity by training new assertive leaders, supporting the birth of new liberal/progressive congregations, and by renewing and strengthening existing progressive churches. In addition, he serves as President of Hope for Peace & Justice, a non-profit ministry whose mission is equipping progressive people of faith to be champions for peace and justice.

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## Questions:

1. What comes to mind when you think about “our daily bread”?
2. How does this petition focus on needs beyond our own family and community?
3. Can asking for something simple like bread be symbolic of asking for something much greater?
4. What has been some of the bread in your life?
5. How might God’s influence encourage each of us to do our part?
6. Have you felt called to work towards God’s desire that there be enough bread for everyone?
7. How are the potatoes left underground in John O’Donohue’s metaphor like our daily bread?

## EPISODE TITLE: “Episode 3”

Prayer for Revolution, Episode 3

### Featured Guest: Michael Brown

Dr. Michael Joseph Brown the Director of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies at Wabash College. Dr. Brown taught at Emory University for the last 12 years before becoming an Associate Dean at Wabash. While at Emory University, he was the Associate Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins and Chair of Biblical Studies. From 1995 to 1999, he taught at Wabash as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion. He received his undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University, his master’s degree in divinity from the University of Chicago, and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

### Pneuma Divina Scripture: Exodus 16: 1-8

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. <sup>2</sup>The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>The Israelites said to them, ‘If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.’ <sup>4</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.’ <sup>5</sup> On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.’ <sup>6</sup> So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, ‘In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt,’ <sup>7</sup> and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?’ <sup>8</sup> And Moses said, ‘When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.’

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## Questions:

1. What is the role of forgiveness in Christianity?
2. What are some examples where forgiveness and reconciliation have had major long-term benefits?
3. What factors might affect our ability to forgive?
4. What's missing from this verse?
5. How does forgiveness differ from non-condemnation?
6. Why is the restoration of relationship so important for forgiveness?
6. Why is the restoration of relationship so important for forgiveness?
7. Are there times not to forgive God?
8. How do you find ways to forgive?

## EPISODE TITLE: "Episode 4"

Prayer for Revolution, Episode 4

### Featured Guest: 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: Luke 17: 3-4

If your brother sins against you, rebuke him... And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, "I repent," you shall forgive him.

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**Questions:**

1. What do you think of when you hear the words “lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil?”
2. Do you feel more drawn to either the “evil” or “temptation” part of this line? Why?
3. What are some of the systemic temptations of our day?
4. Are we possibly both potential victims and potential perpetrators of evil?
5. How might temptation work as a clarifying factor in your life?

**EPISODE TITLE: “Episode 5”**

Prayer for Revolution, Episode 5

**Featured Guest: Carol Howard Merritt**

Carol Howard Merritt is a writer, conference speaker, and the cohost of God Complex Radio. A minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), she formerly served as a pastor of Western Presbyterian Church, an intergenerational congregation in Washington, D.C. Carol’s the author of *Reframing Hope: Vital Ministry in a New Generation* (The Alban Institute, August 2010) and *Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation*, (The Alban Institute, September 2007). Carol is also the co-host of the Internet Radio Show, *The God Complex*, with Bruce Reyes-Chow. And she blogs for the Huffington Post.

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## Questions:

1. What do kingdom, power and glory mean to you?
2. What ideas from the blogs and Facebook posts resonate with you?
3. How is the idea of Kingdom or “Kin•dom” in this line revolutionary?
4. How is the idea of power in this line revolutionary?
5. How is the idea of Glory in this line revolutionary?
6. How much of the kingdom, the power and the glory is actually our responsibility?
7. How might kingdom, power and glory work to satisfy your deepest longings?

## EPISODE TITLE: “Episode 6”

Prayer for Revolution, Episode 6

### Featured Guest: **Mike Morrell**

I’m a journalist, editor, and Technorati Top 100 Living and Religion Blogger. I curate the Speakeasy network, a collective of bloggers, podcasters, and new media personalities who love books, music, and generative ideas. I’m a Graduate Fellow in Emergent Studies, M.A. in Strategic Foresight at Regent University, and a foresight/branding/publicity consultant helping organizations turn their burdens into blessings. I am a founding organizer of The Wild Goose Festival, and work with the spirituality innovator Presence. My wife and daughter keep me sane...I live and work amongst amazing people in Raleigh, North Carolina.

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