

# Living the Questions

## **Week 1. An Invitation to Journey**

FOCUS: Faith is not a destination, but a journey.

## **Week 2. Stories of Creation**

Focus: How one perceives the creation stories is not only critical to the way one looks at the Bible, but how one understands the purpose of creation, the essence of human nature, and the attitude one takes toward the environment in which we live.

## **Week 3. Lives of Jesus**

FOCUS: From divergent opinions on Jesus' "program" to the reasons for his having been killed, the many portrayals of Jesus in the gospels, in various traditions, theologies, and the arts, amount to a Jesus who lived many different lives - each of which helps us in teasing out what it means to be a disciple of this mysterious and profoundly significant phenomenon called Jesus of Nazareth.

## **Week 4. Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision**

FOCUS: Being a person of faith demands balancing spiritual pursuits with action. In a society which is often unjust, inequitable, and whose very structures are responsible for generating untold suffering and poverty, we are compelled to pursue social justice as an expression of hope in realizing a better world.

## **Week 5. Incarnation: Divinely Human**

FOCUS: The meaning of the incarnation has been debated since the beginning of Christianity. Although often associated with Jesus alone, the notion of incarnation can be understood most fully when it also includes Jesus' followers, called, like Jesus, to enflesh the Spirit in divinely human ways.

## **Week 6. Embracing Mystery**

FOCUS: Christian practice is being re-visioned, re-tooled, and reclaimed by those who are living the questions of their faith. They're attentive to ancient ways, comfortable with ambiguity, and open to the unknowable and indescribable mystery of the Divine.

## **Week 7. Evil, Suffering, and a God of Love**

Focus: If God is all-powerful, all-loving, and all-good, how do you explain and respond to the existence of so much

suffering and evil in the world?

**Week 8. The Myth of Redemptive Violence**

FOCUS: The most potent religion in Western culture is not Christianity, but a belief in the redemptive power of violence. Although Jesus inaugurated a new order based on partnership, equality, compassion and non-violence, his example and teachings have been eclipsed by an emphasis on a human unworthiness that demands and defends the need for Jesus' violent, suffering, atoning death.

**Week 9. Debunking the Rapture**

FOCUS: Failing to understand the message of hope offered in the Book of Revelation, many Christians have been misled by 19th century doomsayers and modern-day apocalyptic preachers who proclaim their vengeful god's impending extermination of the apostate masses. How does the phrase "love your enemies" play into this scenario?