

What is the Bible? (Answers from Rob Bell, others, and you!)

FCCLA Seeker's Class - Fall 2017

Full schedule and all articles are linked here: <http://jlharmon.com/bible>

November 12: What does the Bible say to us...today?

What is the Bible? chapter 28 "Why Americans Often Miss Major Themes of the Bible" pp. 211-216

"Theology as Survival" by Rev. Broderick Greer

November 19: Where do we go from here?

What is the Bible? chapter 41 "What's the Best Question to Ask When You're Reading the Bible?" pp. 289-292

"United by the Word: Finding common ground in lectio divina" by Stephen J. Binz

Video: "Lectio Divina: How to Pray through the Bible" by Christina Miller

Rob Bell, pg. 213: Can you see why Americans often miss some of the central themes of this book? Can you see how citizens of the most powerful global military superpower the world has ever seen might miss some of the themes of a library of books written by people under the rule and domination of the military superpowers of their day?

Broderick Greer: [My ancestors] were people for whom theology was more than an intellectual exercise. They did not have the comfort of ivory towers or lengthy sabbaticals. They just had each other: families and communities forged during the evil institution of African enslavement. And that's what "powerless" people have to do: theology on the go, without books, seminary, theology on the streets, in the face of people wearing white sheets. Theology after we've been kicked to the corner for a perfectly holy and wholesome sexual orientation and gender expression, from the text of our very lives.

1. When you read the Bible, who do you identify with? How you think living in the United States changes our perception of the stories?
2. Rob Bell says that the Bible shows what it looks like to resist and critique the dominant oppressive narrative of the day. What should we be resisting or critiquing in American culture today?
3. What does "theology as survival" mean for you? Is that what we are doing here, or is Seeker's Class more "theologizing for sport"?
4. What theological/faith-building resources do we have access to? How can we use them to liberate, dignify, and renew ourselves and our communities?