

Honoring Our History, Offering Our Best

Greetings, friend!

Throughout his life, my husband's grandfather loved and restored classic cars – from vintage Model T's to a '57 T-bird. Several remain in the family, and we dusted off a Model A recently to chauffeur a family friend's daughter at her upcoming wedding. As we cleaned and polished, the “old-



Granddad Brown with grandson Preston, age 10

car smell” of leather and gasoline brought up memories of rides with Granddad and being drawn into his passion for taking something old, making it like new, and preserving it for the future for others to enjoy.

What smells transport you to a different place? As a new school year approaches, I'm reminded of the scent of new textbooks, school supplies, even a new pair of shoes. The memories they evoke inspire my commitment to life-long learning, even while that knowledge might now be delivered on my laptop rather than in a classroom with physical books.

At BeADisciple, we're committed to providing quality online learning to equip and empower your faith journey in life and in ministry. With a fragrant cup of coffee or tea at hand, what learning might bring you new joy, insight, or skill? Like Granddad, I want to honor my history and heritage, infuse that foundation with a fresh Spirit, and offer my best for the bright future God intends for God's people. Will you join me?

Peace,



Lori Richey
Director of Online Education, Institute for Discipleship

Check Out These Scriptural Literacy Courses Beginning in August and September

During 2025 BeADisciple.com will place special emphasis on courses that focus on scriptural literacy. For more information on this theme, visit our web page [**here**](#).

August 18 - September 12: *Finding the Christian Story in the Old Testament*

August 18 - 29: *Creative Praying Through Scripture, Music, and Art*

August 25 - September 5: *Jesus' Use of Spiritual Gifts*

August 25 - September 19: *A Journey Through the Old Testament: Rebuilding the Temple*

September 8 - 19: *Old Testament Through a Different Lens: The Prophets*

September 8 - 26: *21-Day Journey in God's Word*

September 15 - October 17: *Children of Abraham*

September 22 - November 14: *A Journey Through the Letters of Paul*

Enroll Now in These New BeADisciple.com Online Courses Beginning in August and September



Finding the Christian Story in the Old Testament (New Course) August 18- 29

Sometimes persons who follow the Christ of the New Testament find it hard to see how the Old Testament fits into their larger faith narrative. However, the Old Testament is vitally important to the Christian

faith. This four-week course helps integrate the Old Testament into the arc of Christianity by using the concepts of redemption and covenant. Whether you have been a Christian all your life or are just beginning your Christian faith story, this class will help you connect your faith to the Old Testament and further enrich your faith in Jesus Christ.

This will be a course for Certified Lay Ministers in the Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church. However, anyone can sign up for it.

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***Preaching and Reaching:
Communicating Across Generational
Divides (New Course)***
August 18- 29

In an era when age diversity in the pews has never been greater, church leaders face a unique challenge: how to effectively preach, teach, and minister across generational lines. From the Greatest Generation (born 1901-1927) to Generation Alpha youth (born 2013-2025), each group brings different expectations, communication styles, and spiritual needs.

“Preaching and Reaching: Communicating Across Generational Divides” is designed for pastors, lay speakers, educators, and ministry leaders seeking to bridge these divides. Participants will explore the characteristics and values of the seven living generations within the church, adapt preaching and teaching methods for greater impact, and build inclusive strategies for communication and outreach. By the end of the course, learners will leave with practical skills and customizable action plans to help every generation feel heard, valued, and spiritually nurtured.

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***Jesus' Use of Spiritual Gifts (New
Course)***
August 25 - September 5

This course is for people who want to examine examples of Jesus' use of spiritual gifts in the Synoptic gospels. The two-week course explores scripture to discover how Jesus used various spiritual gifts in his ministry, with an opportunity in the second week to investigate the learner's own gift, all while in a supportive community, and without a long-term commitment.

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***Contemplative Photography as a
Spiritual Discipline (New Course)***
August 25 - September 5

Have you ever seen a sunset and felt God's presence? Have you wanted to share the deep feeling you have as you take a picture of that sunset, wishing you had a way to share both the photo and the feeling later with friends who appreciate God's ongoing message of love and presence? People are naturally drawn to images. Living, breathing photos that come alive with

contemplation will open hearts with new vision and new joy. By learning and blending the beauty of contemplative photography, mindful practices, and Scripture, you will have the tools to enhance your walk with Christ through photography and sharing with others, who will then be able to share with still others.

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Sacred Tension (New Course) ***September 15 - 26***

This Lay Servant Ministry Advanced course is for clergy and laity who want to have a dialogue with Scripture, even if they've never before thought of the Bible as a discussion. While providing a new framework for looking at repeating themes in

Scripture, it will show how the Bible is in dialogue with itself and with us, teaching us how to be in dialogue with it and with each other.

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Dangerous Religious Ideas (New Course) ***September 29 - October 17***

The recent emphasis on Christian nationalism underlines a fact that the faithful often don't want to acknowledge: Religions include qualities that can make belief a dangerous and destructive force. (Gender issues are one example.)

Based on the book by Rabbi Dr. Rachel Mikva, "Dangerous Religious Ideas" will examine four issues in the Abrahamic faith traditions (Judaism, Islam, and Christianity). It will challenge assumptions about which religious ideas are dangerous, analyze the way in which religion causes harm and destruction, argue that all three Abrahamic religions developed methods for self-critique, and finally, encourage examination of interreligious ideas and engagement.

One need not read Hebrew, Arabic, or Greek to fully engage in this course. All it takes is a deep interest in and love for theology, desire to engage in dialogue on religious matters, and have an openness to new idea.

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