

## *Important Information for Our BeADisciple Family*

Greetings, friend!

Since it began in 2006, BeADisciple.com has been a space where ministry leaders, faithful seekers, and knowledgeable instructors could learn, grow, and journey together. With the implementation of a new strategic plan, a transition of leadership at the executive director-level, and an upcoming technology update, we have entered a season of change, challenge, and hope. We want to let you know about some changes coming to BeADisciple.com in 2026.



We will continue offering our most popular courses – Lay Servant Ministries (LSM) courses, Certified Lay Ministry (CLM) modules, and Wesley Academy courses – with increased frequency in 2026 to meet your training and continuing education needs. However, our independent, or “stand-alone” courses, with the exception of Lent-focused courses, will not be offered in the first half of the year.

During this time, the BeADisciple staff will be working hard to transition course content to our new Blackboard Ultra learning management system. At the same time, we’ll be refreshing and expanding our catalog with stand-alone courses that provide the skills you need for ministry in whatever context you find yourself – church, office, home, or community.

What does this mean to you? All of our LSM and Wesley Academy courses are open to anyone who chooses to enroll, regardless of denominational affiliation. This means that while stand-alone offerings aren’t available, you may still discover deep meaning and growth while acquiring Continuing Education Units if that fits your needs. You may discover an instructor who sparks joy in your faith walk—these

courses are led by some of our best. And it means that when stand-alone courses return to our catalog, they will be fresh, exciting, and poised to enhance your Christian educational journey in new ways.

It also means that your experience using Blackboard, which has been a source of frustration for some in the past, will now be sleeker, more accessible, and more mobile-friendly. With fewer technical challenges to overcome, you can expect a smooth course experience from start to finish.

To make these improvements possible, increased enrollment fees will be implemented as of January 1, 2026. While providing high-quality training and course content as economically as possible continues to be a priority, we are committed to compensating our dedicated instructors fairly while also meeting the financial demands related to staffing and ever-increasing technology costs.

The Institute for Discipleship and BeADisciple.com exist to equip and inspire you in your journey of faith, and we look forward to meeting your learning and training needs well into the future.

Thank you for being part of the BeADisciple family.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Richey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Richey  
Director of Online Education, Institute for Discipleship

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## ***Explore Options for Faith and Ministry Enrichment***

Stand-alone courses will not be offered by BeADisciple.com during the first half of 2026 but that doesn't mean you can't continue to enrich your faith and ministry life with online learning.

Anyone is welcome to enroll in ***Lay Servant Ministries*** courses. These are wide-ranging and most are applicable across denominational lines. Learn about such topics as personal prayer, ministry for dementia patients, Biblical storytelling, evangelism, and other topics.

The ***Wesley Academy for Advanced Christian Studies*** — created in partnership with Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. — offers courses and educational materials that are theologically rich and deep. Both lay and clergy

enroll in these courses, spurring engrossing online discussions led by well-qualified instructors.

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## ***Prepare Your Heart With These Spiritual Literacy and Advent Courses***

During 2025 BeADisciple.com has placed special emphasis on courses that focus on scriptural literacy. For more information on this theme, visit our web page [here](#). Several of our seasonal courses are also included on this list -- prepare your heart for the Christmas season by enrolling in an Advent course.

**Nov. 3 - 15: *Biblical Storytelling I***

**Nov. 3 - 14: *Old Testament Through a Different Lens: Ketuvim/Writings***

**Nov. 17 - Dec. 6: *Life Together in the United Methodist Connection***

**Nov. 17 - Dec. 22: *Proclaiming Scripture With a Storytelling Spirit for Advent***

**Nov. 24 - Dec. 19: *Taking Back Advent: Moving Toward the Miraculous***

**Dec. 2 - 5: *Joseph: An Advent Story (Microcourse)***

**\*Dec. 1 - 5: *Advent: Getting Ready for Christmas (Microcourse)***

*\*New microcourse--see description below.*

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## ***Enroll Now in These New Courses***



### ***Bridge to Surviving Grief During Holidays November 3 - 14***

Sometimes life crashes in on us like a rolling wave. We think we can handle almost anything, but suddenly something happens that knocks us down. We used to stand strong and manage our next steps but now find it hard to navigate the next hour. What happened?

Losing a loved one is painful. Life will never be the same. And if that wasn't hard enough, the holidays are bearing down upon you—Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. This course will empower you to navigate the holidays by helping you create a proactive plan to care for yourself, honor the one you're missing, and still love those around you. Holidays will be different now, but they can still be good.

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### ***Preaching for Transformation November 3 - December 12***

This course is designed for any layperson who has ever considered preaching. It is a four-week course in which you will learn how to share the Bible's message confidently, even if you



feel you might not know the Bible well enough. In this course, you will learn how to have fun telling God's story in front of others, without feeling like a failure.

You will learn how to move from Scripture to an engaging narrative that engages and transforms hearers. This may involve a new skill—you'll learn to chunk parts of a sermon (as opposed to a traditional sermon outline) so it is easily preached without notes. Finally, you'll discover what listeners need from the preacher to remain engaged through the

entire sermon journey. You'll also receive one-on-one feedback on preaching a sermon in a supportive environment.

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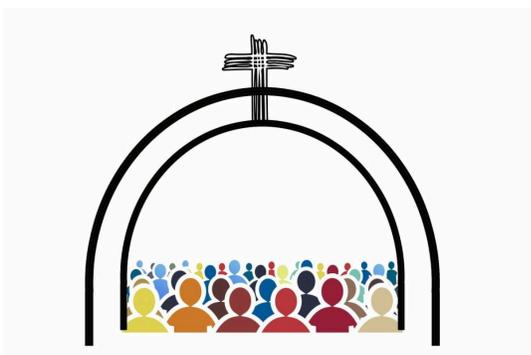
### ***Advent: Getting Ready for Christmas (Microcourse)*** ***December 1 - 5***

Christmas should be one of the most joyous seasons of the year but you may be one of the countless persons who dread the usual run-up to Christmas. Or maybe you are simply hoping for a new experience of Christ's coming presence. This microcourse will provide information about the

liturgical season of Advent, but it also will encourage a healthy and Christ-centered approach to a season that even Jesus-people can find stressful. You will reclaim hope in the midst of seasonal turmoil and learn ways to be faithful during the season's busyness.

What would it be like for Jesus to come to us in a new way this year?

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### ***Safer Sanctuaries (Microcourse)*** ***December 1 - 5***

"Safer Sanctuaries" provides updated resources for implementing abuse prevention plans within faith communities. Based on a culture of flourishing, rather than fear, this approach will help you build plans to provide safety and sanctuary for your community. The microcourse will help you respond to the need for child protection policies set by denominational mandate and insurance

requirements, and will examine the foundations of creating effective policies and procedures. Learning the specifics of building and implementing a plan will shift your focus from fear-based to flourishing.

READ MORE

## *See All Courses Enrolling*

BeADisciple.com

Wesley Academy

CLM Modules

LSM Courses



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