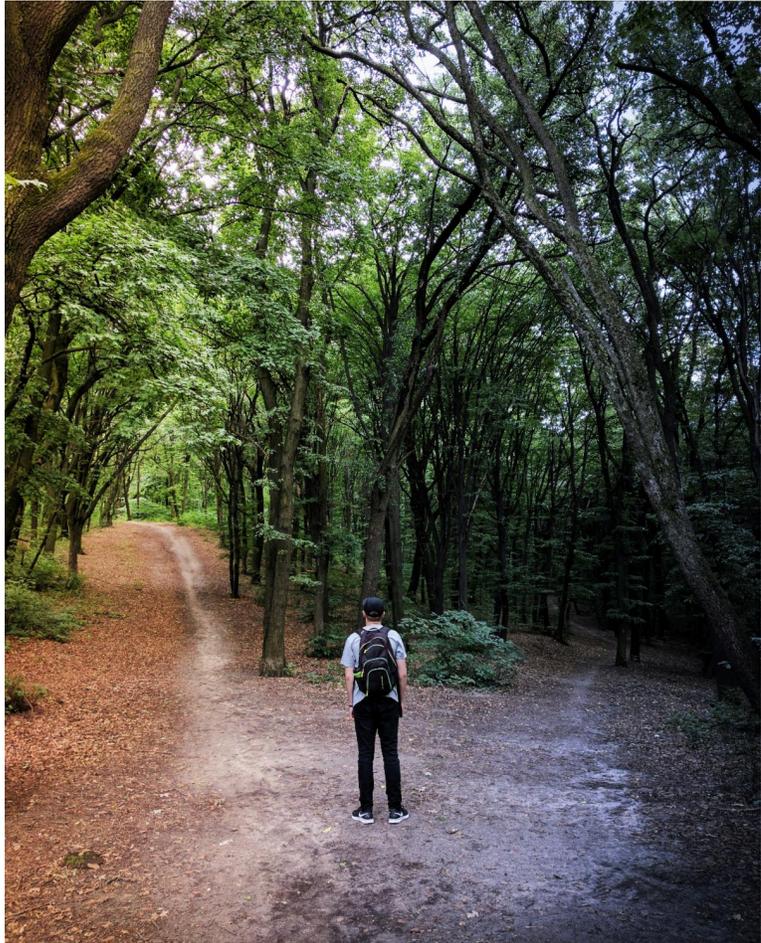


A Guide for Your Spiritual Journey

Greetings, friend!

Like some of you, I work remotely – from my home in Wichita, which is an hour north of Winfield, Kansas. Many of you know that BeADisciple.com is a program of the Richard and Julia Wilke Institute for Discipleship, chartered at Southwestern College in Winfield back in 2001. Early this week, I drove down to the campus for in-person meetings and it was wonderful to see all of the excitement on campus as students old and new returned to their studies after summer break.



Twice in the short time I was there, hesitant students asked for help in finding their way. Bright smiles flashed with relief when they were pointed in the right direction or guided personally to their destination.

This resonates with how I sometimes feel about my journey of faith. Challenges can bring uncertainty and often hesitation. A personal invitation can inspire movement and motivation. A smiling guide brings comfort, a sense of direction, and a reminder that I am never alone.

Whether you identify more with a cautious freshman or a confident senior, BeADisciple courses are a safe space to learn and grow. Join us!

Peace,



Lori Richey

Director of Online Education, Institute for Discipleship

Check Out These Scriptural Literacy Courses Beginning in September and October

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](#).

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

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

Sept. 15 - 26: *Sacred Tension*

Sept. 15 - October 17: *Children of Abraham*

Sept. 22 - Nov. 14: *A Journey Through the Letters of Paul*

Sept. 19 - Oct. 17: *Dangerous Religious Ideas*

Sept. 29 - Oct. 10: *Proclaiming the Word From Mark's Gospel*

Oct. 7 - Dec. 1: *Devotion to Jesus: The Divinity of Christ in Earliest Christianity*

Oct. 6 - 20: *Teaching Biblical Faith: Leading Small Group Bible Studies*

Oct. 20 - 31: *Abiding in Christ Together: Creating Gospel-Centric Retreats*

Oct. 27 - 31: *Biblical Women in Pentecost (Microcourse)*

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



Contemplative Photography as a Spiritual Discipline (New Course) September 8 - 19

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.

[READ MORE](#)



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.

[READ MORE](#)



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.

[READ MORE](#)

Fundraising Beyond Spaghetti Dinners and the Collection Plate (New Microcourse) **October 6 - 10**

This microcourse will help clergy and lay people identify possible funding sources beyond the congregation. Participants will learn how to understand the communities they serve based on data, and examine their own congregational passion to identify funding sources. An experienced fundraiser, the instructor will introduce you to tools that could unlock additional funding opportunities, including funding sources outside the church. She will



help you look at a bigger picture of scriptural focus, collaboration, data exploration, and dreams of building the Kingdom of God.

[READ MORE](#)



Clergy and Musicians as Models for Leadership (New Course) **October 6 - 24**

This three-week course is for pastors and musicians who seek to improve their shared worship ministry. It will be a time of self-reflection based on the Enneagram, a time to dialogue with each other about their God-given personality traits, and time to explore case studies and how the learners would work together to address the issues presented. You will develop strategies for interacting with personalities unlike your own, identify barriers to communication and strategies to overcome them, and develop strategies for building and maintaining supportive relationships. Whether you are looking to remedy conflicts or simply wanting to improve already-meaningful interactions, this course will enrich your ministry life.



Biblical Women in Pentecost (New Microcourse) **October 27 - 31**

This course is for busy Christians who want to stay spiritually and scripturally centered during the long season of Pentecost. This microcourse provides an opportunity to focus on your ministries, even if your calendar is crowded, while digging into the ministries of Deborah and similar biblical characters, and without the stress of a longer course commitment.

[READ MORE](#)

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