



BeADisciple.com
CHRISTIAN ONLINE EDUCATION

September 2026

***“God doesn’t call the equipped,
God equips the called.”***

It’s likely you’ve heard this quote or one similar and perhaps, like me, resonated with the comfort in these words. Do I have to know everything before I say yes to an opportunity? No. Do I have to be the “expert in the room” at all times? Of course not. Am I called by God at all? I believe all of us are, in a spectrum of wonderful and sometimes nerve-wracking ways.

When opportunities to lead, serve, and care come our way, it’s good to know that help is available that equips us for the task. At

BeADisciple, Ministry Enrichment courses provide focused knowledge and skills that empower leaders in today’s churches and communities. Who qualifies as a leader? You do! God’s call may include

- Serving on a committee
- Facilitating a Bible study or Sunday School class
- Sharing a faith experience with a co-worker
- Walking with someone experiencing loss
- Starting a new ministry or program

Our Ministry Enrichment courses not only enhance your personal discipleship journey but prepare you to confidently say ‘Yes’ when given the opportunity to lead others, without the time commitment of a larger program. They feature

- Short duration – most are one or two weeks in length, with coursework completed at the time that best fits your schedule
- Small group learning – form connections with peers from around the country
- Expert instructors – well qualified in the topic areas they teach



- Practical application – leave every course with solid skills you can immediately apply in your ministry setting

Beginning this month, you'll find Ministry Enrichment courses identified in our Course Schedule with more being added in the months ahead. I invite you to give one a try, so that a Yes, a task, or a commitment becomes that much easier as you live out God's call in your life and impact others for good in the world today.

Peace,



Lori Richey
Director of Online Education, Institute for Discipleship

Check Out These Ministry Enrichment Courses

As described above, Ministry Enrichment courses are short-duration non-certification classes that prepare you to lead, serve, and care. The following courses are enrolling now -- be watching for more to be rolled out in the next few months.



Jesus' Use of Spiritual Gifts August 31 - September 11, 2026

This course is for people who want to examine Jesus' use of spiritual gifts in the Synoptic gospels. The two-week course first explores Scripture to discover how Jesus used various spiritual gifts in his ministry, then in the second week investigates the learner's own gifts, so they can

improve their skills in their own gift-based ministries.

Learners are required to obtain the book *Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts: A Personal Inventory Method* by Kenneth Cain Kinghorn.

[More Course Information](#)



Old Testament Through a Different Lens: Torah and Beyond September 28 - October 9, 2026

Old Testament? Hebrew Bible? TANAKH? What do these three have in common? Do we get any sense

that these three refer to the same set of scriptures? For the next two weeks, we will journey through the first six books of the Bible through a different lens by using the works of rabbis and renowned Jewish theologians and scholars, past and present. Learners will be exposed to Jewish interpretations of Torah and beyond without the requirement of familiarity with Judaism or reading Hebrew. With or without formal academic experience, participants can feel confident of success in the course. The course will not only challenge you to consider scriptures through a Jewish perspective but will also offer you ways to think about how you might use this material to develop learning opportunities for your congregations. It is highly recommended that learners read the text prior to the start of the course.

Learners are required to obtain the book *Reading the Old Testament Through Jewish Eyes* by Rabbi Evan Moffic.

[More Course Information](#)

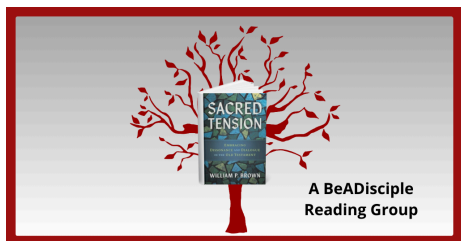


Closing Conversations: An End-of-Life Care Guide October 5- 18, 2026

Some of the most difficult questions a person will ever face may be centered around the end of life. Intended for clergy, chaplains, lay pastoral caregivers, or others interested in facilitating discussions in their congregations, *Closing Conversations: An End-of-Life Care Guide* can help you navigate these questions with compassion and confidence. Whether the central person is you, a family or church member, or someone you know, this course can help with answers to those thorny questions and smooth the process for all involved. Topics will include communication of wishes, helpful documents and resources, telling your story, challenges associated with end-of-life care, and much more.

Learners are required to obtain the book *The Last Things We Talk About* by Elizabeth T. Boatwright.

[More Course Information](#)



Sacred Tension Reading Group October 12 - November 20, 2026

This six-week course is designed for learners who want to read William P. Brown's book *Sacred Tension* in community with an instructor and other learners. The course will provide a schedule for reading the book so you can read and reflect on the material throughout the week, then share your reflections with others. It may be of special interest if you have taken the "Teaching Sacred Tension to Local Congregations" course, allowing you to familiarize yourself with the whole book before leading a course in your local church. This will be a comfortable and relaxed approach to reading the book while still having dialogue with others. You will learn how to view the different perspectives in Scripture as a dialogue instead of contradiction or errors.

More Course Information



Old Testament Through a Different Lens: The Prophets/Nevi'im ***October 26 - November 6, 2026***

This course examines Scripture through lenses other than those familiar to us as Christians. It looks at the Prophets—from Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings, to the major and minor prophets of the Old Testament—and connects them to the contexts and experiences of ancient and modern Israel. It will focus on the “bad” kings, the heroes, the judges, the building of the nation into a unified monarchy and its dissolution. You will discover the many times Israel was invaded and dispersed in antiquity and see the role of prophetic voices in the exile/captivity, as well as learning more about how God works in the lives of Biblical figures. Finally, it will bring the insights of these ancient prophets into a modern context. The course will not only challenge you to consider the Prophets/Nevi'im through a Jewish perspective but will also offer you ways to think about how you might use this material to develop learning opportunities for your congregations. It is highly recommended that learners read the text prior to the start of the course.

Learners are required to obtain the book *The Liberating Voices of the Hebrew Prophets* by Rabbi Nahum Ward-Lev.

More Course Information



Old Testament Through a Different Lens: Ketuvim/Writings ***December 7 - 18, 2026***

This course examines Scripture through lenses other than those familiar to us as Christians. It looks at the Prophets—from Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings, to the major and minor prophets of the Old Testament—and connects them to the contexts and experiences of ancient and modern Israel. It will focus on the “bad” kings, the heroes, the judges, the building of the nation into a unified monarchy and its dissolution. You will discover the many times Israel was invaded and dispersed in antiquity and see the role of prophetic voices in the exile/captivity, as well as learning more about how God works in the lives of Biblical figures. Finally, it will bring the insights of these ancient prophets into a modern context. The course will not only challenge you to consider the Prophets/Nevi'im through a Jewish perspective but will also offer you ways to think about how you might use this material to develop learning opportunities for your congregations. It is highly recommended that learners read the text prior to the start of the course.

Learners are required to obtain the book *Illuminating Counsel: How the Least Holy Books of the Hebrew Bible Explore Life's Most Important Issues* by Jonathan Teram.

Enroll in Upcoming Lay Servant Ministry Courses

Each of the following courses has been approved by Discipleship Ministries as an advanced Lay Servant Ministries course, but enrollment is not limited to those needing LSM credit. All learners are welcome.

Beginning September 14

Ministry With People Living With Dementia

Fresh Expressions for Being the Church Today

From Your Heart to Theirs: Delivering an Effective Sermon (Friday Zoom)

From Your Heart to Theirs: Delivering an Effective Sermon (Saturday Zoom)

Come to the Table

Beginning September 21

For the Common Good: Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts

Teaching Sacred Tension in Local Congregations

Teaching Biblical Faith: Leading Small Group Bible Studies

Beginning September 28

Children of Abraham

Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (Heritage course)

Beginning October 5

Leading Worship (Friday Zoom)

Leading Worship (Saturday Morning Zoom)

Leading Worship (Saturday PM Zoom)

Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts

God's Mission, Our Journey

Beginning October 12

Life Together in the United Methodist Connection

Creating a Discipleship Growth Plan to See All the People

Justice and Kindness: Social Principles of the United Methodist Church

Opening Ourselves to Grace: Basic Christian Practices

Beginning October 19

Earn. Save. Give.

Lay Pastoral Caregiving

Beginning October 26

Called to Preach (Friday Zoom)

Leading Missional Small Groups

Certified Lay Ministry Courses Continue

If you are seeking certification as a ***Certified Lay Minister*** in the United Methodist church, check out these upcoming dates. Be sure to read the ***CLM page*** for pre-course requirements, which include passwords for the advanced modules.

These CLM Modules are enrolling now:

CLM Module 1: ***Call and Covenant for Ministry*** (September 21 - October 4)

CLM Module 2: ***The Practice of Ministry*** (October 12 - November 1)

CLM Module 3: ***Organization for Ministry*** (September 21 - October 4)

CLM Module 4: ***Connection for Ministry*** (October 12 - 25)

Wesley Academy Offers Theologically Rich Courses

The Wesley Academy for Advanced Christian Studies — created in partnership with Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. — has created courses and educational materials that are theologically rich and deep. Anyone — lay or clergy — can enroll in any of the courses available from the Wesley Academy, and if desired, can earn a certification in Advanced Christian Studies. For more information, click ***here***.

These Wesley Academy courses begin soon and are enrolling now:

September 14 - November 6: Journey Through the Psalms

September 21 - November 13: Methodist Identity: Our Beliefs

September 19 - December 11: Serious Answers to Hard Questions

October 26 - December 18: Devotion to Jesus: The Divinity of Christ in Earliest Christianity

See All Courses Enrolling

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