

## 2019 St. James United Church – Regina, Saskatchewan, Lenten Study Guide

The Lenten Study for 2019 is based on a Netflix four-part 2018 BBC series **Collateral**. After all episodes have been viewed, there will be a group gathering to discuss where the Lenten Journey is found.

The group discussion will occur on March 24 after church. Bring your lunch. For those who do not have Netflix, Episodes 1 & 2 will be shown on March 10<sup>th</sup> and Episodes 3 & 4 will be shown on March 17<sup>th</sup> after church. Bring your lunch as each episode is 45 minutes in length.

Lent, as described by Marcus Borg<sup>1</sup>, is reliving the journey of Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem ending in his death and resurrection. The journey included 40 days in the wilderness; travel on a donkey to Jerusalem where he arrived to praise and support, where he challenged the leaders of the local authorities and the Roman Empire; the last supper; a trial; an abandonment by his followers; his crucifixion and the resurrection.

### **Selected Scriptures for Lent for 2019**

#### **Week One:**

Roman's 10: 8b-13 Jesus raised from the dead; you will be saved; no distinction Jew or Greek

Luke 4:1-13 The temptation of Jesus: 40 days in the Wilderness

Psalms: 91: 1-2 and 9-16 Assurance of God's protection

Deuteronomy: 26: 1- 11 You are to celebrate the bounty of God by giving part of it to God.

#### **Week Two**

Philippians 3: 17-4/1 By breaking with the past Jesus suffered loss

Luke 13:31-15 Lament over Jesus; prophets not killed outside of Jerusalem; blessed is one who comes in the name of the Lord

#### **Week Three:**

Luke 13 1-9 Repent or Pariah: Parable of the Barren Fig Tree- do not cut down tree unless nurtured, if nurtured and doesn't thrive then cut down

Psalm 63:1-8 Comfort and assurance and love surrounds those who trust God

#### **Week Four:**

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Once knew Jesus as human, no longer, old has passed away; Christ Reconciled world to God – ambassador

Luke 15: 1-3 11B-32 Sinners welcomed- seeks out missing sheep: Parable of the Prodigal Son celebrated the son who was lost and now found brother upset he who remained was not celebrated

Psalm 32: joy of forgiveness; many are torment of wicked; love surrounds those who trust in the Lord

#### **Week Five**

John 12: 1-8 Mary anoints Jesus; used costly perfume that Judas asks why not sold and give money to poor; you have poor with you always but not Jesus

Philippians 3: 4b-14: Christ lost everything & gained righteousness from God; obtain personal resurrection– press forward with the heavenly call

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<sup>1</sup> Marcus Borg (1942-2015) was an American New Testament scholar and theologian. He wrote extensively about Jesus and reimagining Jesus and Christianity.

Psalm 119: 9-16: How can young people keep the way; Fix your eyes on your way

Psalm 126: A harvest of Joy: may those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy

Isiah 43:16-21: Do not remember former things; make way in the wilderness

### **Week six**

#### *Liturgy of the Passion*

Luke 23:1-49 Pilate turns Jesus over to Herod, will flog and release; returned to Pilate people demand release of Barbaras and execution of Jesus; Jesus don't weep for me – weep for others; asks for forgiveness for his executioners, those being killed with him would be in paradise with Jesus

Luke 22: 14 -23 and 56: Lord's supper; drink wine I will not drink again until the kingdom of god comes; take bread eat in remembrance of Jesus – a new covenant woe to the who betrayed him; he is among us

Philippians 2: 5-11 Be same as Jesus don't exploit relationships – be a human, humbled and obedient, every knee bend to Jesus; confess Jesus is Lord

Psalm 118: 1-2 19-29 A song of victory; thanks to Lord he is good, love endures forever; righteous enter gate; give thanks love ensures forever

Isaiah 50: 4-9a Servants humiliation & Vindication: Lord given me tongue of teacher, wakens ear to listen, I did not hide my face from insults & spitting- it is God who helps me

#### *Liturgy of Palms*

John 12: 12-16 Jesus entry into Jerusalem to palms and hosannas, riding on a donkey

Luke 19:28-40 Jesus asks for colt be found for him down from Mound of Olives – told to stop journey

Psalm 118:1-2 and 19-29 God love endures forever

### **Questions to Consider while viewing Collateral**

1. Brené Brown<sup>2</sup> describes wilderness as both trial and beauty. How do you see wilderness? Who experienced wilderness in Collateral? How did they respond to it?
2. Jesus spoke of the risks of going to Jerusalem where he would confront the domination powers- the prophet could be killed in Jerusalem. Who challenged power in Collateral? What were the consequences?
3. The Lenten scriptures and others refer to God as encompassing love and compassion. Where in Collateral do you see compassion and love?
4. Were there people who like the fig tree should have been/were cut down or should have received more nurture?
5. What other aspects of the Lenten journey are present in Collateral?
6. What does it say about our time and place and current relationship to God and Jesus?

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<sup>2</sup> Brené Brown Braving the Wilderness: The Quest For True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone 2017 : Brown is a sociologist; a professor at the University of Houston who has spent two decades studying courage, vulnerability, shame and empathy.

## **Characters in Collateral**

Kip Glaspie	Rakhee Shah
David Mars	Tim Dyson
Karen Mars	Phoebe Dyson
Jane Oliver	Sam Spence
Nathan Bilk	Berna Yalaz
Sandrine Shaw	Suki Vincent
Laurie Stone	Peter Westbourne
Abdullah Azif	Mickey Gowans
Fatima Azif	Eleanor Shaw
Mona Azif	Deborah Clifford
Linh Xuah Huy	Mehmet Akman
Jack Haley	Alice Stone
Euan Johnston	Jill Leong

Not all characters listed.