

Bringing Sunday School to You

From the Growing Christians Class at Abernethy UMC

September 30, 2020

Over these past weeks of study, members of Abernethy's Growing Christians Sunday School class have pondered ways to improve communication among congregants. During our times together we have shared much wisdom and joy, and we have learned about ourselves - about strengthening our relationship with God through Jesus during this very difficult time. It is our prayer and desire to include as many as possible in Sunday school - now meeting on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom.

In a perfect world, every single member of Abernethy United Methodist Church's congregation would be able to join a Sunday School class; however, because we live in an imperfect world, multiple efforts are under way to bring messages, hope, and love to each of you until we are able to safely return to in-person study and worship.

Another way to manage this challenge is to "bring Sunday School to you" if you are unable to join us. To that end, we will be sharing scripture and a brief summary of the class discussions each week as we begin the study of Sacred Overlap by J.R. Briggs on September 27.

Please turn the page over to see the first summary.

Grace and Peace,

Bill and Cyndi Blake

Teresa Black

Jan and Ann Davis

Richard and Sharon Erwin

Donna Frazier

Clara Harris

Myrna Harris

Roger and Shawn Penny

Judy Shook

Bringing Sunday School to You

October 2, 2020

We had a lively discussion on Sunday, September 27 in our Zoom meeting, with eleven members present. In this class we began the study and discussion of The Sacred Overlap by J.R. Briggs. We covered the introduction, discovering there were 29 Scripture references included that relate to Jesus' Divinity and His Humanity (Listed Below).

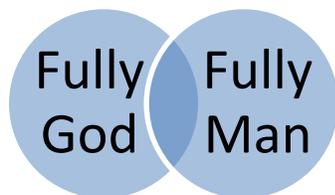
Using a Venn diagram (see below), Briggs speaks to the center, almond-shaped part where the two circles overlap, making his case that Jesus lived in that center part during his ministry. Briggs relates this to the time we are living in today in particular, suggesting that we, as Christians, should strive to live in that "Sacred Overlap" (almond-shaped center) as we navigate the political, racial, and religious differences that can lead us to an "us versus them" attitude. He suggests that in this overlap we will be challenged to become more "both / and" in our actions and out thinking.

Briggs is not suggesting that we pick and choose various religious, personal, and ideological concepts that we like and feel comfortable with, but that we look at the life of Jesus and strive to be more like Him. I love these excerpts from the introduction (p. xx) that describe Jesus:

"Jesus was committed to crossing cultural, social, political, and religious "either/or" waters, engaging in many "and/also" activities..... He comforted the disturbed and also disturbed the comfortable. He was too religious for the pagans and also too pagan for the religious elites..... He hung out with filthy lepers and also dined with the filthy rich. He encouraged common sense, like loving your friends, and also confusing stuff, like loving your enemies.....He followed Jewish Law and also knowingly broke many of the religious rules and customs of the day. He rebuked people and also rebuked people for rebuking people. He was alarming and also disarming at the same time."

Here are the Scripture references included in the Introduction:

Luke 7:1-10	Joshua 8	Mark 12:31
Mark 7: 24-30	Judges 9	Mark 1:15
Luke 7:36-50	Joshua 24:15	Matthew 23:12
Luke 19:1-9	1 Kings 18:21	1 John
Genesis 1:6-8	John 14:6	Proverbs 9
Luke 12:51	2 Corinthians 6:14	Psalm 1
John 7:43	Galatians 5:16-17	Deuteronomy 30:15
Deuteronomy 30:19	Matthew 11:30	2 Corinthians 5:17
Deuteronomy 11, 27	Matthew 10:16	Romans 7:15-23



Venn Diagram:

The almond-shaped area where the circles overlap is where Jesus embraced both – or Briggs' label of "and/also."

We hope you will enjoy reading about our discussions in Sunday School and that you would consider joining us at some point. Grace and Peace from the Growing Christians class.