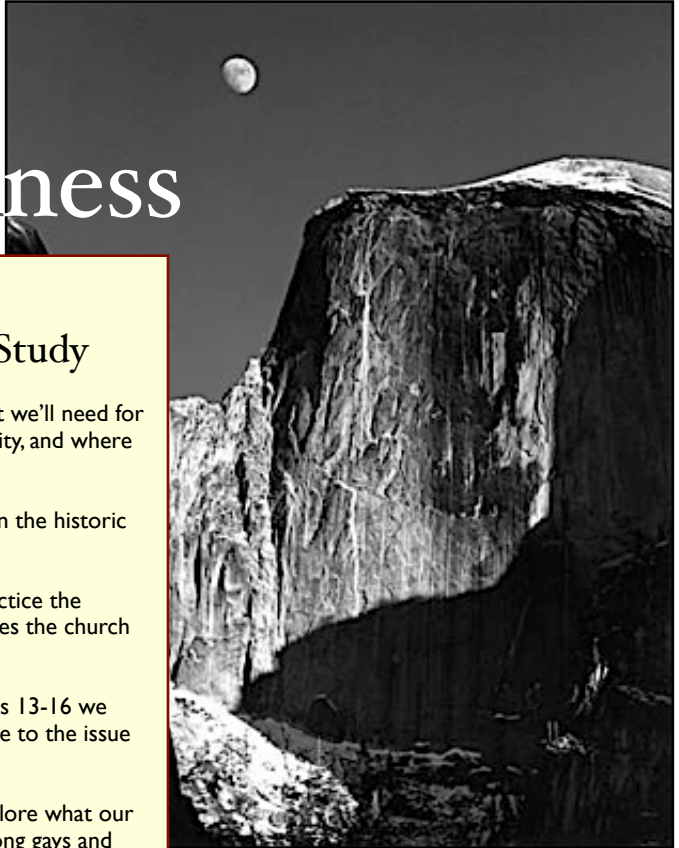


The Path of Faithfulness



The Bible and Homosexuality | A Brief Guide to Our Congregational Study

Part 1: Getting Ready. In sessions 1-4 we pull together what we'll need for our study--what is the ultimate call of our hearts, the role of humility, and where we must look to know God's will.

Part 2: Learning to Read the Map. In sessions 5-8 we learn the historic principles of understanding and applying the teachings of the Bible.

Part 3: The Climb to Vernal Falls. In sessions 9-12 we practice the principles of understanding and applying Holy Scripture to challenges the church has faced in the past.

Part 4: The Big Climb, Ascending Half Dome. In sessions 13-16 we begin to apply the principles of understanding and applying the Bible to the issue before us: homosexuality and the Christian faith.

Part 5: Back Down in the Valley. In sessions 17-20 we explore what our obedience to the Bible's teachings means as we live the gospel among gays and lesbians, their families and their friends.

As we walk this path, seeking to live in fidelity to Jesus Christ and our tradition, we hold these 7 convictions at the center of our life together. And we trust that this journey will make us stronger and wiser, with deeper convictions and better understanding of what obedience requires of us.

DEFINING THE CENTER/SKETCHING THE BOUNDARIES

1. We love and follow Jesus Christ
 2. We love and follow the Scriptures
 3. We trust the Holy Spirit to work in and among us
 4. We trust that the life of discipleship is difficult, but its path leads us to health and holiness
 5. We trust that through humility and in the midst of our sinfulness God will show us how to live in ways pleasing to Him
 6. We commit ourselves to listen to and respect each other even in our differences of opinion and to strive for the unity of the Holy Spirit
 7. We trust that God will be with His Church now and until Christ returns
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Schedule

The Bible and Homosexuality Congregational Study. A series of Sunday morning meetings at UPC (still in planning stages).

Part 1: Getting Ready.

1. **January 18, 2009 | 5pm. The Call of the Heart.** A congregational dinner and lecture. Dr. Chris Erdman teaching. UPC's Great Room.
2. **February 8 | 9:45 am. Humility: The Foundation of All Virtue.** A Christian Education program. Hilary Chittick teaching. UPC's Great Room.
3. **February 22 | 9:45 am. God, God's Will, and Our Obedience.** A Christian Education program. Pastor Tedd Lyons teaching. UPC's Great Room.
4. **March 8 | 9:45 am. UPC @ Prayer.** We join for a time of guided prayer. Led by our prayer team.

Part 2: Learning to Read the Map.

5. **March 22 | 9:45 am. Scripture: The Expressed Will of God, Part 1.** Christian Education program. Pastor Tedd Lyons teaching. UPC's Great Room.
6. **April 5 | 9:45 am. Scripture: The Expressed Will of God, Part 2.** Christian Education program. Dr. Chris Erdman teaching. UPC's Great Room.
7. **April 19 | 9:45 am. Scripture: How It Plays in Our Lives.** Christian Education program. UPC's Great Room. -
8. **April 26 | 9:45 am. UPC @ Prayer.** We join for a time of guided prayer. Led by our prayer team.

Part 3: The Climb to Vernal Falls.

9. **May 3 | 9:45 am.** A Case Study: Applying Principals of Understanding to a Historic Issue.

Resources

Presbyterian Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture | Biblical Authority and Interpretation

Adopted by the General Assembly 1983 (38 pages, available from the church office). An good overview of historic Reformed teaching.

Scripture and Homosexuality | Biblical Authority and the Church Today.

By Marion Soards, 1995. 84 pages. Available used on Amazon.com. A traditional view.

Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality.

By Jack Rogers, 2006. 126 pages. Available used from Amazon.com. A progressive view.

Homosexuality and the Bible | Two Views.

By Dan Via and Robert Gagnon. 105 pages. Available used from Amazon.com. A debate from the Left and the Right.

Videos: Available for short-term check out in the office.

Speaking a Mystery | What is God's Design for Human Sexuality?

Presbyterians for Renewal. 45 minutes. A traditional view.

For the Bible Tells Me So.

Daniel Karlslake Film. 98 minutes. Several traditional families wrestle with their child's orientation and their traditional views.

“Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.”

1 Peter 3.8
