

## PRACTICING 'GOD SIGHTINGS'

### Practicing "God-sightings" and "Reign of God-sightings,"

- \* Where do we see Jesus Christ at work in our neighbourhood? Where do we see the Reign of God active in our context? Where do we find God present and active through / in our neighbourhood?
- \* How is Lent present in our streets? Where do we see the journey to the cross? Where is there brokenness and where is there healing? Where is there death and where is there resurrection?

**Brandon Rhodes writes:** <http://www.parishcollective.org/re-placing-holy-week-towards-a-public-local-liturgy>

**"At Springwater this year we'll be letting God's work in our neighborhood take center stage for Holy Week in a participatory reflection on remembering, lamenting, and hoping.** It will focus on interacting with a big butcher-paper **map** of our neighborhood spread across one wall of where we worship. Each day's activity will link a thought or idea written on a note card to a specific location by way of a colored length of yarn.

**Maudy Thursday – Seder Meal:** As the Passover meal remembers God's great deliverance in the Exodus story, we'll



remember the little exoduses of deliverance we've seen on our streets, at our jobs, and in our homes.... and geotag/yarn these memories of gratitude.

**Good Friday – Lament Service:** ...we extinguish candles after reading laments, until the room is dark... we will post notecards of lament — where we have seen darkness and brokenness and fracture in our neighborhood...

**Easter Sunday:** After replacing invasive thistles with native plants in a nearby park, we'll celebrate with food, music, and map-posting hopes for where resurrection and new creation can spring up in our neighborhood in the year to come...

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other

**Epiphany Explorations Lenten Reflections – A Live streaming of the 2013 annual conference – FirstMetropolitan, Victoria, BC.** suggested for use for a Lenten Study. Presenters include **Phyllis Tickle, Bob McDonald, Marie Wilson, Raheel Raza, Moderator Gary Paterson, Linnea Good, Brent Hawkes, and Michael Dowd.** <http://epiphany.firstmetvictoria.com/membership-account/membership-levels/>

#### BOOK RESOURCES:

**Holy Adventure: 41 Days of Audacious Living** by Bruce G. Epperly, (2008, Upper Room Books) - for individual or group use, includes a 6 week discussion guide. "This book is, from beginning to end, a prayer for guidance and inspiration. While I believe that God is constantly blessing us with new possibilities and the energy to achieve them, our prayers awaken us to God's movements in our lives and enable us to be God's partners in bringing beauty, justice, and wholeness to the world." (p22)  
Each chapter includes theological reflection, prayers, spiritual affirmations, invitations to using holy imagination, and suggestions for living adventurously.

**Iona Dawn: Through Holy Week with The Iona Community** editor: **Neil Paynter** - with scripture, reflection and questions for consideration (Wild Goose 2006)

#### ONLINE RESOURCES (primarily for individual use)

**40 Spiritual Practices for Lent ... a daily journey** <http://sacredscreeching.blogspot.ca/2010/02/40-spiritual-practices-for-lent.html>

**Journaling through Lent (explorefaith.org)**  
<http://explorefaith.org/lent04/index.html>



**Ignatian Spirituality.com online practices**  
<http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/lent/>

**d365 Daily Devotional Site** (the link is emailed daily)- by Passport, Inc. - Journey to the Cross. <http://www.d365.org/todaysdevotion/>

FROM THE DESK OF  
LORNA MACQUEEN  
MINISTER-FAITH FORMATION FOR  
DISCIPLESHIP



# Journeying through Lent



Individual and  
Group  
Practices/Studies

## AN EXPERIENTIAL JOURNEY



### Walking through Lent with The Visual Bible

(you may wish to purchase the films if using a large screen)

#### **The Gospel of John (2003) - three hours**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYPQsC3GItQ>

**The complete Gospel is presented word-for word based on the Good News Version of the Bible.**

#### **The Gospel of Matthew (1993) - four hours**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKv5N6SRDqU>

**The complete Gospel is presented word-for-word based on the New International Version of the Bible**

#### **Advantages:**

- These films allow a complete hearing of the gospel in a way that people rarely encounter. The story is told in a way which may allow new entrance into the story and a new hearing of even familiar passages.
- John's theological speeches are still long, but are much more accessible for people to understand.
- The portrayal of Jesus in Matthew challenges stiff stereotypes of Jesus and portrays Jesus in a warm and earthy human manner.
- The films may be broken up for viewing in a series of sessions, and are good fodder for group discussion.
- The films are based word-for-word on scripture with no additions or subtractions.

#### **Limitations:**

- The films bring the contexts and bias' of the gospels, so should be framed in those contexts and bias' before being shown. John in particular is vivid in the portrayal of tension with the Jewish authorities and should be carefully framed.
- Miracles and healings are portrayed literally, and the inclusion of women is largely absent.
- Mostly actors appear 'white' - re-enforcing ethnic stereotypes.
- Actor's/producer's interpretation will obviously and inescapably limit the material.

## AN HISTORICAL / THEOLOGICAL JOURNEY

### Walking through Lent with

*The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*

by **Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan**  
(HarperCollins)

Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan propose a radical and little-known Jesus. They present a day-by-day account of Jesus's final week of life. *The Last Week* depicts Jesus dying to protest power without justice and those who lack concern for the poor. This Jesus offers himself as a model for others confronted by similar issues. Informed, challenged, and inspired, we are invited to not only meet the historical Jesus, but a Jesus who engages us and invites us to follow him.

#### **Online study guide: (pdf)**

<http://www.smallgroupguides.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/The-Last-Week.pdf>

#### **or web page**

<http://www.smallgroupguides.com/guides/the-last-week-by-marcus-j-borg-and-john-dominic-crossan/the-last-week-by-marcus-j-borg-and-john-dominic-crossan/>



#### **YOUTUBE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE BOOK MATERIAL:**

- ◇ **J.D.Crossan introduces the material:** (15 min)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3W666xJCvE>
- ◇ **Marcus Borg at All Saints: "The Passion of Jesus: Holy Week"** (1hr:39min)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMkOUOf-E60>

#### **Book Review** By Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat

<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/books/books.php?id=15452>

#### **Book Review** by Casey Fedde

<http://www.biblewise.com/archives/2011/april/living/book.htm>

## A MEDITATIVE JOURNEY WITH SPIRITUAL PRACTICES



### A Lenten Worship Installation

A worship installation is an open door which invites worshipers to experience, reflect, engage, listen for and speak to the Divine. The physical space, carefully created and set with various stations, is open for people to wander, settle, and explore various spiritual practices. Through music, art, symbols, scripture, prayer, multi-media and other avenues they are invited to reflect, remember, be present and encounter themselves and God.

The worship installation provides opportunity for participants to enter a sacred space *in their own time* and become part of a self-directed journey of engagement *in their own way*. It may or may not be in a church setting.

#### **EXAMPLES:**

\***Holy Week Worship Installation "Every Breath We Drew"** from the congregations of St. Paul's United, Annex Project of Milton and Norval United, Norval : (facebook)  
<https://www.facebook.com/aworshipinstallation>

\***"Encarna" (Christmas) Worship Installation**, St. James United Church in Waterdown:  
[http://stjuc.blogspot.ca/2005\\_12\\_01\\_archive.html](http://stjuc.blogspot.ca/2005_12_01_archive.html)

\***Photos from a Worship Installation** in Atlanta: (flickr)  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/walkercleveland/sets/72157600136862607/>

\***A Worship Installation** from a Baptist Church in the UK: (youtube)  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=Pzb4hoOCIXw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Pzb4hoOCIXw)

**BOOK RESOURCE:** Go Deep: Spiritual Practices for Youth Ministry by Doris Kizinna, offers illustrations of various practices that might become worship stations in a worship installation; engaging the senses, mind, spirit and heart through scripture, meditation, prayer, and visuals.