

Details on Education for Ministry (EfM)

Overview

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a theological education program designed for laypeople to explore their faith and its connection to daily life with a small group of fellow seekers. Developed by the School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee), the EfM experience involves weekly gatherings, guided readings, and rich theological reflection, through which participants deepen their knowledge and sharpen their sense of calling—not necessarily to ordained ministry, but to a life shaped by intentional discipleship and faithful action in the world.

Both experienced and inexperienced seekers are invited to come together at St. John's on Wednesday evenings, **beginning September 24, 2025**, for a shared meal and theological reflection following Education for Ministry (EfM) curricula.

Registration for the 2025-26 program year—which will focus on the theme *The Journey with God*—**begins July 15, 2025**, through [Pathwright](#). (See more on Pathwright below.)

Program Options: Classic and Wide Angle

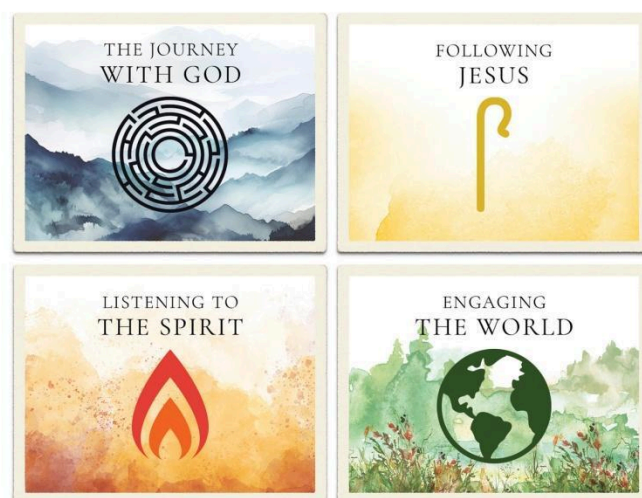
Beginning in the Fall of 2025, EfM will offer two course options: In addition to the four-year "EfM: Classic" program, one can now participate in "EfM: Wide Angle," a one-year introduction to all things EfM. Providing an introduction to scripture, history, spiritual practices, ethics, and theological reflection, Wide Angle is embedded within EfM: Classic. One can thus choose to do the four-year Classic program with Wide Angle embedded, or participate in one year of Wide Angle only.

Both EfM: Classic and EfM: Wide Angle will be offered during the 2025-26 program year as a 36-week curricula, with **27 weeks** dedicated to **Core Studies** and **7 weeks** devoted to **Common Lessons**.

EfM: Classic. EfM: Classic is the traditional four-year program in which participants commit to studying one year at a time. [*You will remain in the year you are eligible for as you process.*]

Each yearly Path has a theme:

- Path A - The Journey with God (2025-2026)
- Path B - Following Jesus (2026-2027)
- Path C - Listening to the Spirit (2027-2028)
- Path D - Engaging the World (2028-2029)



EfM: Classic

Four years. One year at a time.
27 core lessons. 9 common lessons.

EfM: Wide Angle is a one-year commitment that invites participants to experience an introduction to scripture, history, spiritual practices, ethics, and theological reflection. This new one-year curriculum is facilitated by an accredited mentor, and is also embedded within the four-year EfM: Classic.

Wide Angle can be taken at any time—as part of the Classic program, or without ever participating in the Classic program. Wide Angle can also be taken by EfM Classic graduates.

Study Materials

Books purchased by participants are the main texts read by each group, and a variety of vetted materials are available online, some assigned and some as additional resources, such as videos, podcasts, and essays following each year's curriculum. For 2025–2026, the Spiritual Sojourners guide each cohort of participants through essays they have written; they are the Sisters of the Community of St. Mary's Southern Province located in Sewanee, Tennessee.

Community Gathering Experiences at two interludes in the year are based, first, on common video materials and, second, on a book can include as many parishioners (alumni, prospective participants, and other members of the greater community and parish) as want to taste EfM and discuss them with us.

You can explore the books you will buy by setting up a password for Pathwright at linktr.ee/efm.sewanee.edu. (If you do not have an EfM Pathwright account, link to [EfM's Pathwright Library](#) and create your free account. As you register for EfM formation products, the Path product will appear in your [EfM Pathwright Library](#).)

Questions?

Contact parishioner Barbara Ordway.