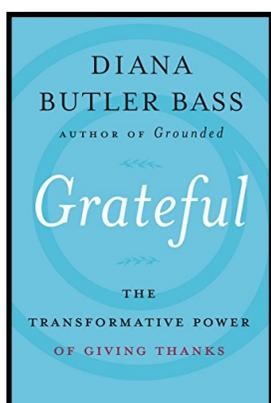
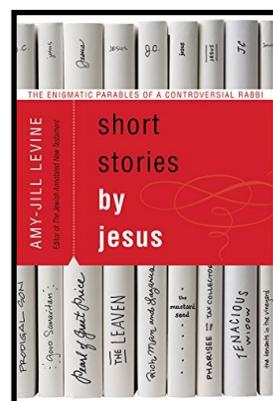


(DVD) Many of you may have heard of or even read Brian McLaren's book, **THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION**. The Resource Center now has the DVD study to accompany the book. The four-session study includes a leader's guide, a participant's book, and a DVD. It is also helpful if the class members have the book to read, but it isn't absolutely necessary. The Leader's Guide gives straightforward directions for leading the class, beginning with a short conversation, opening prayer, then 15 minutes watching the DVD, followed by a 35-40 minute discussion.

(DVD) This one's title alone is enough to make me like it. **SHORT STORIES BY JESUS** is a six-session study based on Amy-Jill Levine's book of the same name. The sessions include a DVD, a leader's guide, and a participant's guide, which each student needs. The leader's guide and participant's guide can be used with either the book or the DVD or both. The Resource Center has it paired with the DVD, though we also have the book available for checkout. The DVD is filmed in appropriate locations, such as a sheep barn for the lost sheep. Each section is told by Ms. Levine and is not a typical "talking head" style video. There are short breaks within each chapter at which time the video may be stopped for discussion, or the class may choose to watch straight through the chapter.

The author, Amy-Jill Levine, is a Jewish scholar who often focuses on the Christian scriptures. Her knowledge of the Jewish perspective of Jesus' first century audience gives participants insight to meaning of the parables.



(BOOK) If gratitude is good, why is it so hard to do? The author of **GRATEFUL: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF GIVING THANKS** was once inspired to keep a gratitude journal after watching a guest on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" discussing the power of gratitude to change one's life. Bass' journal lasted less than a week. Thankfulness is considered a Virtue, yet sometimes seems hard to remember or to express. In her book, Bass leads us to consider our feelings, habits, intentions, and behavior. The Study Guide that accompanies this book is for seven days but could easily be adapted to seven weeks, with participants journaling for at least one day each week. Each participant should have the book, which also comes in an audio CD. The Study Guide may be copied for each student. The author says that writing this book transformed her life; perhaps studying it will transform yours and your class participants.

(BOOK) This eight-week study on Diana Butler Bass' book, **GROUNDING: FINDING GOD IN THE WORLD**, was written by the author. While many of us may feel that religion is declining, Bass argues instead that religion is changing, giving way to a more intimate sense of the sacred with us in the world. She claims that faith no longer means choosing either a mountaintop experience or an institutional practice but that people may connect with God everywhere, experiencing a God who animates creation and community. Participants should each have a book. Only the leader needs the Study Guide.

