

ADULT EDUCATION

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FALL 2022 --- ISSUE #1



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INAUGURAL ADDRESS

WELCOME to our new venture in Adult Education ministry. We believe a newsletter with diverse resources has the power to serve you better. As a seasonal publication, we will provide updates on our traditional group Bible studies and more resources for growing personally and as a community of faith while honoring the diversity of life rhythms and life experiences of our members.

We realize that making time for our spiritual life often competes with a lot of distractions. Yet Christ tells us that He is our living water ([John 4:13,14](#)). Who can live without water? In this world we can easily become spiritually dehydrated as distractions make us forget to drink. Adult Ed is aiming to find ways to rehydrate you by meeting you where you are on any given day; helping you to grab a quick refreshing sip or drink deeply from the well. Our digital world offers quick access to many resources focused on our rehydration: Apps that include easy access to devotionals and bible study tools, Podcasts that give daily messages we can listen to while we walk, drive, or do daily tasks, and more. We will also offer books for different groups and timeless treasures for everyone. We want to inspire you to discover proven tools for dipping into this deep well of "living water" so we can all remain refreshed and ready for our mission "Shining God's Light by KNOWing Christ, GROWing in His in love, and GOing where He leads".

Let us know how we are doing at adult.edu@firstprescaldwell.org.

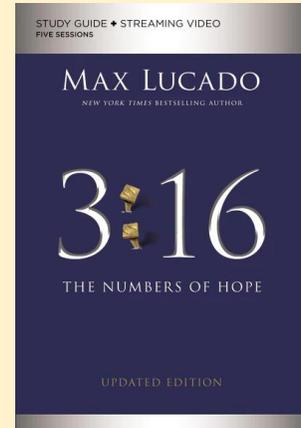
FALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

“3:16 The Numbers of Hope” – by Max Lucado

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
That whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Author Max Lucado describes the primacy of this verse for our faith and invites a wide audience to participate, “This sentence is prolific in our language and culture. But its words are more than a good saying, a favorite memory verse, or a catchy lyric. John 3:16 is the thesis of the New Testament. The climax of a theological moment. It is the Hope Diamond of the Bible... **If you know nothing of the Bible, start here. If you know everything about the Bible, return here.** We all need the reminder. The heart of the human problem is the heart of the human. And God’s treatment is prescribed in John 3:16.”

Click on book to access Video Trailer & Chapter One.



Shining God’s
Light by *Knowing*
Christ, *Growing* in
His love, and *Going*
where He leads.

This is a wonderful book and video study that aligns beautifully with our new First Pres Caldwell mission statement as it specifically addresses our mission to “Shine God’s Light” by “KNOWing Christ”.

Come study with us as we dig deeper into the riches of this verse about the Who and Why of Jesus Christ for us - which Max highlights as “the thesis of the New Testament.”

5 Session Group Study/10 weeks

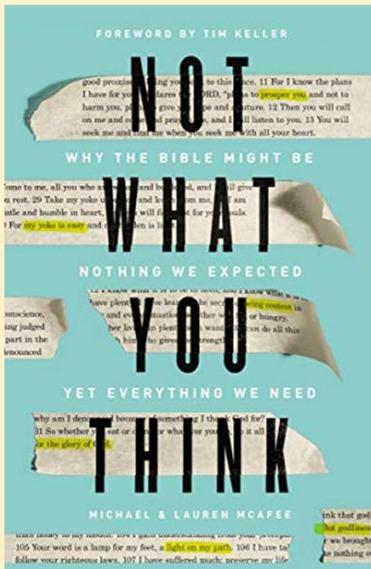
- *HYBRID meetings with Zoom & In-person
- *Sept 21st through Nov. 16th
- *Every other Wed. 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- *REGISTER by Sept 19th at adult.edu@firstprescaldwell.org and include your name, phone #, email

Order Information – Amazon.com

- *Purchase incl. book/streaming videos
- *Paperback: \$16.79/ Kindle: \$9.99
- *Companion Hardcover recommended but not required
- *Adult Education can help support those who need our assistance in making this purchase.

Not What You Think: Why the Bible Might Be Nothing We Expected Yet Everything We Need - by Michael and Lauren McAfee

This book has something for EVERY generation



With disdain for the Bible on the rise, at the center of the confusion is the young adult generation – millennials and gen Z. It is often seen by many contemporary readers as intolerant, outdated, out of step with social norms at best, and a tool of oppression at worst. Millennials

Lauren and Michael honestly wrestle with the relevance of this ancient book in our modern world and raise a few questions of their own.

What if we cleared the deck of our preconceptions and encountered this book anew?

What if we came to this book with the understanding that our questions are not inappropriate but encouraged?

And what if these pages offered less of a morality to master and more of a love story to join, one with an unexpected plot twist that provides everything we need in the form of one person, Jesus Christ?

Lauren and Michael address three distinct groups: current Bible readers, the Bible-open who have lost interest, and the Bible-closed

including atheists, agnostics, those of other “faiths” and “nones” who have just opted out of religion.

While faiths and philosophy have continually considered the mystery of God, Christianity is different. It’s a faith in which God reached out to humankind. **The Bible is a deeply personal story about God reaching out to us.** While it was written in a different time and in a different language, God gave us this timeless message to speak to our story in our day. It claims to be the story about everything, Creator and creation.

The authors hope that this book will inspire conversation between all 3 groups, encourage questioning about the Bible’s relevance within a millennial mindset. The authors challenge the young to be who they claim, the open-minded generation.

The Hiding Place (an amazing story of faith)

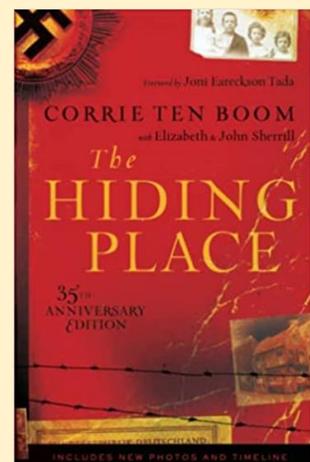
By Corrie ten Boom, Elizabeth & John Sherrill

Corrie ten Boom’s memoir begins in the Dutch city of Haarlem in 1937, on the morning of a party celebrating the 100th “birthday” of the ten Boom family’s watchmaking business. As the memoir opens, readers meet the ten Boom family: Father and siblings Corrie, Nollie, Willem, and Betsie. The family are devout Christians who help any and all who are in need. The ten Boom family and their friends sense Hitler’s foreboding rise in Germany, but no one comprehends the tragic events soon to unfold.

As the Nazi’s persecute the Jews, the family is known to help hide. After the Nazis discover the hiding place where the ten Boom family shelters Jews, the story follows the path of Corrie and sister Betsie through a series of camps where they witness and endure the devastating physical and emotional loss told and retold by Holocaust survivors. Seeing this cultural devastation through another viewpoint is always worthy, and being witness to this first-person story of faith is incomprehensibly beautiful. An important and timeless classic memoir unlike any other. A testament to lives full of service and gratitude to God. So inspiring!!

Click here for questions that aid in personal reflection or for a book club study.

<https://hopeminnewaska.org/blog/2022/04/02/lessons-learned-from-the-hiding-place-by-corrie-ten-boom>



GIVE GOD HIS TIME: GOING DIGITAL

As we mentioned in our inaugural address, there are a lot of daily distractions that can leave God at the end of the line and us feeling parched - not the least of which are how our mobile phones or web surfing can hijack our brains and lead us down time-wasting pathways. Does "Squirrel!" from the movie "UP" make a connection with you?

But seriously, the digital world also has an abundance of places we can take advantage of and even enjoy. We might even enjoy them enough to make them a daily "distraction" and move God up to the front of the line. Here are a couple of places for a refreshing visit. Give them a CLICK.



YouVersion (YV) Bible App

Wow! YV is already installed on over 500 million unique devices all over the world, the Bible App offers a FREE Bible experience for smartphones, tablets, and online with multiple Bible versions and over 1600 languages. You can **READ or LISTEN** to Bible passages, take notes, and highlight almost like a real Bible in your hands.



Scan this QR Code with your mobile device to download the FREE YouVersion Bible app.

YV includes daily devotionals and select features that you can customize for your particular interests: Bible plans by topic, prayers, podcasts, videos and images. Check out www.Bible.com for the online experience and see this video, **The Bible is Alive**, on their YouTube channel for some feel good vibes. [Click Here](#).



The First15 podcast is a very highly rated daily devotional that includes Scripture, devotional thought, guided prayer, and action steps with light meditative music. Its focus on weekly Biblical themes like Forgiveness, Grace and more can really enrich your daily experience. It's great for a "First15", a last 15 or any time of the day when you need an opportunity to step back and reorient yourself with your Christian identity.

Click the icon above and listen to one or more of the devotionals

Scan this QR Code with your mobile device to download the FREE First15 Podcast



INSPIRATION

On our INSPIRATION page, we hope to provide inspiration for your day, week, month. It can be hard to stay uplifted in our walk with God. We often hear news in the world, in our community, within our families, that makes it hard to persevere and we need reminders to keep our eyes on God - reminders of what his son, Jesus Christ, has done and how his Holy Spirit yearns to live and grow within us. This page is a place to celebrate our faith and support each other. It may come from inspiring stories, videos, articles, testimonies, prayers ...anywhere. And we would REALLY like to include YOU! If you have a faith walk story, your own or someone else's, that you would like to share then we would love to post it here.

It can be anonymous.

Here is a trailer from a StudyGateway.com series called **Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus**. Nabeel has a faith that I want. His love inspires me to know more of the Bible. Imagine the power within the Bible that would call on the heart of a devout Muslim, at such a cost.

<https://watch.studygateway.com/seeking-allah-finding-jesus/videos/seeking-allah-finding-jesus-trailer>

If you want to know more about Nabeel's story, just go to the SG website. He has quite a lot to tell us. I can add your name to our church subscription. I will also be reviewing his book in our next newsletter.

WE NEED HELPING HANDS

- If you are interested in being a part of the Adult Education ministry, making contributions to the newsletter, or just want to learn more, we would love to talk with you.
- If you have feedback or suggestions, contact us!

Email us at adult.edu@firstprescaldwell.org

Jeannine Archibald (chair)