

Adult Education Session VIII

Sundays
9:45 a.m. -
10:45 a.m.

May 6, 13,
20, 27

**Ladue Chapel
Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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Contemporary Issues

Crisis in the Middle East & North Africa

We will learn about and discuss:

- 1)the Middle East & North Africa since the Arab Spring,
- 2)the crisis in Syria,
- 3)the crisis in Yemen, and
- 4)the prospect for the Middle East & North Africa.

Leader: Dr. Krister Knapp, *Senior Lecturer in the Department of History at Washington University, Executive Coordinator of the Crisis and Conflict in Historical Perspective initiative*

Religion

Genders in the World of the Bible

1. **Biblical Bodies: What's an Eunuch?**—Did you know that the Bible assumes more than two genders? This morning's lecture will examine the complex ways in which the Bible categorizes bodies, what that meant in the world that produced the Bible, and how such knowledge can intersect with our own expanding understanding of gender.

2. **Working It Out: Gender Division of Labor**—It can be easy to assume the "traditional" gendered division of labor is universal across cultures, but the Bible presents a far more nuanced picture. From agriculture and childbirth to religious and political leadership we will explore the cultural expectations of the ancient world and the ways in which God interrupts that order within biblical text.

3. **Getting Dressed: Putting on Gender and Beauty in the Bible and Today**—What makes a person attractive? This can mean any number of things today, often following our cultural gender norms. This morning's presentation will note the similarities and differences between our ideas of beauty and those in the Bible, taking note of the ways in which beauty functions in biblical narratives.

4. **Beyond Binaries: Gendering God**—When using expansive language for God, we sometimes run up against the question, "but what does the Bible say?" This morning's adult education time will go deeply into this question including the use of metaphor, the difficulty of translation, and how the complexity of gender in the Bible can feed our understanding of the divine.

Leader: Rev. Dr. Laurel Koepf Taylor, *Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Eden Theological Seminary, author*

Arts

Seeking Redemption in the Midst of the Profane: Caravaggio's Life and Art at the Edge

This lecture course will explain how Caravaggio seems to have been the right man for the right time. As the Catholic Church marshaled its energy to repel corruption charges from the Protestant Reformation, it needed sacred visual drama to bring the masses back into its fold. Caravaggio's brand of sacred visual drama included the faces of vagrants, pilgrims, prostitutes, and laborers who filled the streets of Rome. For the first time, they saw themselves reflected in the stories of scripture. It worked, and Caravaggio emerged as the early seminal artist of the Counter Reformation in Italy influencing artists throughout Europe for more than a century, his work continues to reverberate into our own time. This known murderer's life's work teaches us deep lessons about our own humanity.

Leader: Peggy Carothers, *former instructor at Maryville University*

Family Matters

May 6 – Discipline with Children: Using Natural & Logical Consequences

We will discuss information regarding discipline with children, as outlined by the STEP Program. We will also talk about goals of misbehavior and how to apply logical and natural consequences.

Leader: Jean Harmon

May 13 – Transforming Loss: Finding Potential for Growth

Leader: Kavitha Lakshmanan

May 20 & 27 – Social Media and Pre-Teen/Teen Mental Health

Leader: Amy Stark