

Bible Study: The Voice of God in the Silenced

A Look at Women in the Bible and What it Means for All of Us

Having largely been written from the perspectives of men, for the perspectives of men, the Bible is often problematic for women in the Church or those who care about women. It would be easy to simply discard large portions of scripture in order to smooth its many rough edges and make it more palatable to our contemporary sensibilities. This is an entirely understandable and even ethical response to the violence toward--and oppression of--women found in scripture. However, there is another approach that recommends neither uncritical acceptance nor summary dismissal of these stories. This approach requires re-reading these stories from the perspectives of those whose voices are silenced, in order to fully understand what God may be saying in the cracks and margins of the text. Focusing on five women in the Hebrew Bible, in this class we will participate in critical engagement with scripture, learning a new vocabulary of hope for 21st century life, and looking to encounter the God-who-cannot-be-silenced among the voices of women who have been all too often.

Class Schedule:

- April 8:** Eve—the mother of the patriarchy
- April 15:** Hagar (with Sarah)—the intersectionality of otherness
- April 22:** Ruth (with Naomi)—the full agency of women and what that means for everyone
- April 29:** Delilah—the problem with heroes
- May 6:** Wife of Job—suffering and human faithfulness

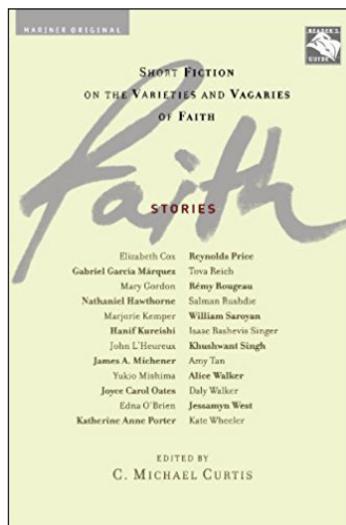
Facilitator: Matt Moorman (UPC Ministerial Intern)

Location: Vance Barron Hall



Faith and the Arts

Faith Stories



This class will continue using a collection of stories by wonderful writers on “varieties and vagaries of faith,” *Faith Stories*, edited by Michael Curtis. These stories draw on worldwide faiths and provoke lively discussions of our own life experiences and questions.

Books (used) are available from Kate Fiedler for \$5 (kate@upcch.org) or you

may read online at [Books.Google.com](https://books.google.com). Come one, come all! Newcomers always welcome; we read a new story each week.

Class Schedule:

- April 8:** “A Night in the Poorhouse” by Isaac Singer
- April 15:** “Fishers of Men” by Amy Tan
- April 22:** “The Welcome Table” by Alice Walker
- April 29:** “I am the Grass” by Daly Walker
- May 6:** “Music on the Muscatatuck” by Jessamyn West

Location: Terrace Room

Facilitator: Nancy Benjamin

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Please contact Kate Fiedler, UPC’s Associate Pastor for Adult Ministries, at kate@upcch.org or 919-929-2102 with questions about adult education classes.

These classes are offered each Sunday during the Sunday School Hour (9:45-10:45 a.m.) through the program year (September-May). To learn more, please visit upcch.org/adult-education.