

Sunday Evening Bible Study Series

THE STORIES OF JOB, ESTHER AND RUTH

Sundays, 6:00-8:00 pm, October 4, 11, 18, 25; November 8

Marianne and David Evett, leaders



One of the welcome features of the revised lectionary is the chance it gives us to hear chunks of the Hebrew (Old) Testament sequentially, to follow a story as it occurs in the book.

This October, we hear portions of the powerful story of Job, the perfect servant of God who nonetheless suffers intolerable ills. His questioning of God, the well-meaning but superficial attempts of his friends to console him, and finally the majestic poetry of God's response raise some of the deepest theological and philosophical issues. Why do good people suffer? Does suffering have a meaning? How can we reconcile our suffering with belief in God's goodness?

Marianne and David Evett, who led the course on King David this past July, will lead a study group on Sunday evenings this fall.

In October, we will talk about The Book of Job, beginning with the Sunday Hebrew Testament readings, but expanding to include more of the book to enrich our discussions.

On November 8, the reading comes from The Book of Ruth, whose story has become a paradigm of fidelity and love. We will meet that evening to talk about Ruth, adding a September reading from The Book of Esther – a heroine who saves her people through her wisdom and bravery. Again, we will include more of their stories to spark a discussion on women as depicted in the Hebrew Bible.

The series will be designed so that each unit is self-sufficient, and people who cannot attend all four meetings can be sure that any single one of them will be rewarding. **NOTE:** We will meet on October 11 (Columbus Day week-end)

SCHEDULE: 6 PM a simple potluck supper – bring something to share (food or drink), if you can.
6:30 to 7:45 PM discussion of the topic of the evening.
7:45 PM closing with a brief but beautiful service of Compline from the Prayer Book.

October 4 Prologue - Satan's wager with God and Job's affliction (Job, chapters 1-3)
October 11 Job's "comforters" (Job, chapters 4-27)
October 18 Poem on Wisdom, Job's final speech and Elihu's response (Job, chapters 28-37)
October 25 God's answer (Job, chapters 38-42)
November 8 Women in the Hebrew Testament - Ruth, Esther, Proverbs 31:10-31

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