

Adult Sunday School

A Renewing of the Mind

Dec. 2020 – Feb. 2021



Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing, and perfect will.

Salem Covenant Church

[November 29, December 6–20, 2020:](#)

“The Mourning After: Grief, Humor, and Purpose”

[Speaker:](#)

Dr. Melissa Mork
Professor and Chair, Department of Psychology, Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement at the University of Northwestern, St. Paul

[Introduction:](#)

In this presentation, we will discuss patterns, processes, and obstacles to grief and look at the value of humor in the process. Finally, we will explore a way to find purpose in our pain.

[Speaker Bio:](#)

Melissa was orphaned when she was in college. Her best friend caused her own death by suicide. Then Melissa's husband died of an aggressive cancer (when she was far too young and attractive to be called “widow”) leaving her to parent their two teens alone. With an abiding faith, strong social support, and a questionable sense of humor, Melissa has been resilient.

She served as the Director of the Humor Academy, a three-year college-level program through the Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor. She is a Certified Humor Professional.

[January 10–31, 2021:](#)

“Deuteronomy's Vision and the Christian Church”

[Speaker:](#)

Dr. Peter Vogt, Dean of Bethel Seminary, St. Paul.

[Introduction:](#)

We live in a complex and ever-changing society. It can be challenging as followers of Jesus, to know how to live faithfully while still serving as witnesses to the world around us. Though often relegated to being a cure for insomnia, the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy offers insights for how to live in a faithful counter-cultural way that can have a profound impact on the world around us. This series will explore the overall message of Deuteronomy and consider how this ancient book is relevant for contemporary followers of Jesus.

[Speaker Bio:](#)

Dr. Vogt was Professor of Old Testament at Bethel Seminary and taught courses in Old Testament, biblical Hebrew, and biblical interpretation. From 2014-2019 he was Senior Pastor of LifePoint Church, Maplewood. He left LifePoint to become Dean of Bethel Seminary.

February 7–28, 2021:

“The Gospels as Stories”

Speaker:

Dr. Jeannine Brown, Director of Online Programs and Instructor, Bethel Seminary, St. Paul.

Introduction:

Dr. Brown is an expert on the Gospels. Her book, *The Gospels as Stories*, will serve as the basis for this series. She will apply four key areas of narrative analysis and show how they bring the text to life, and how these tools offer a corrective to our tendency to read the Gospels one story at a time.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Brown has taught at Bethel for over 20 years. She teaches in the areas of New Testament, hermeneutics, and Greek. She has published several books, and numerous journal articles and book essays on the Gospels of Matthew and John, 1 Peter, and topics of hermeneutics. She is a member of the NIV translation team and is a part of the revision project for the NIV Study Bible.

Adult Sunday School Ministry Team

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