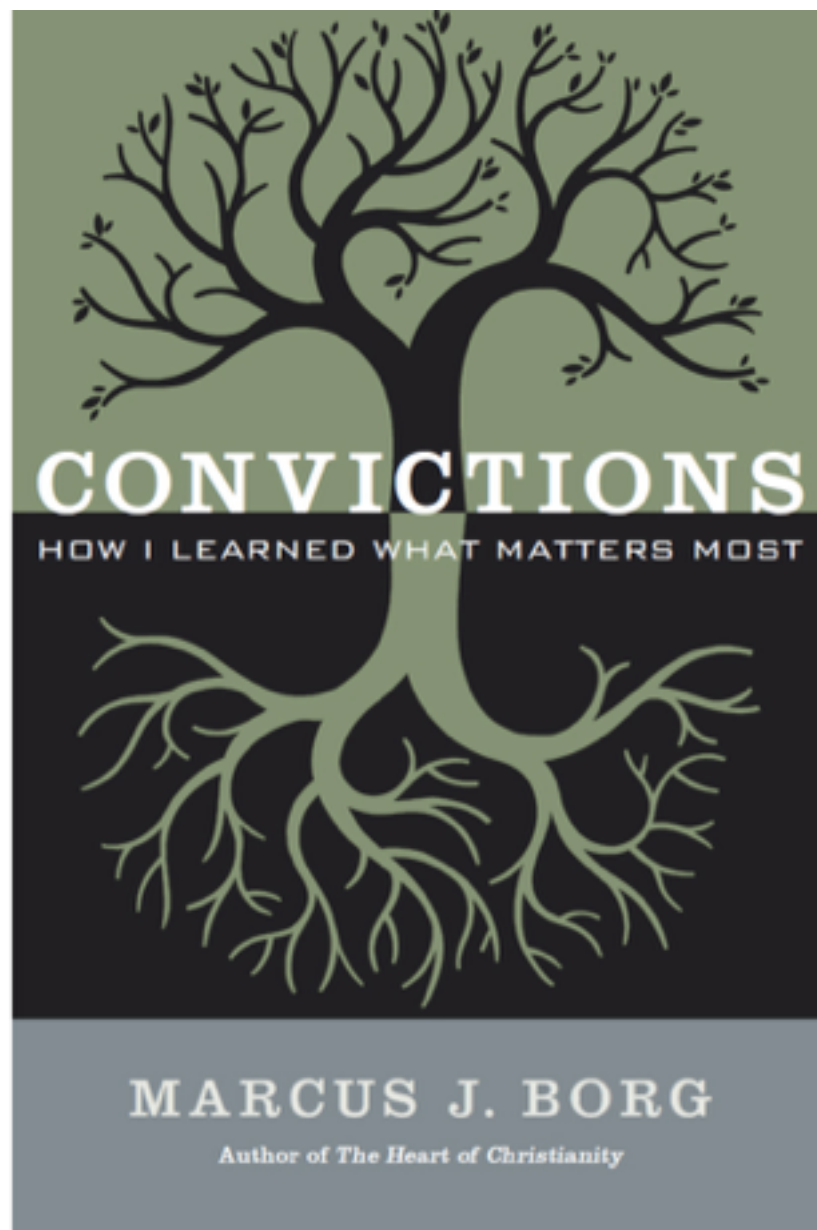

“Convictions”

Marcus Borg

Fall 2017 Monday Night Book Study



NOVEMBER 27, 2017

Our 10 sessions of Monday Night Book Study flew by and, suddenly, last night, we were concluding our study of Marcus Borg's "Convictions." Participation has been incredible as we have discussed so many issues relevant to our time. You might enjoy winding up your study by listening to the following video that is found on the Marcus Borg website.

<https://marcusjborg.org>

You will also find attached as "file attachments" below, the powerpoint/keynote presentations and Ken's Closing Summary.

NOVEMBER 20, 2017

Session #9 tackled Chapters 8 and 9: "The Bible is Political" and "God is Passionate about Justice and the Poor." Discussion ruled the day. If you would like to see all of the powerpoint we had prepared for you, it can be found below as a "File Attachment."

We are reading chapters 10 and 11 for next Monday night which will be our last session. So fast!

NOVEMBER 13, 2017

Session #8 welcomed Wayne back to the leadership role, Marlene to the hostess role and fellow travellers' in our group upon their return from the Spiritual Travellers' trip to South Africa. The Chapter was an challenging one and the group rose to the challenge as they discussed, "Jesus' Death on the Cross Matters - But Not Because He Paid for our Sins. Heather M. opened and Deb. C. closed.

Wayne raised the question as to why Jesus was crucified and why so many popular explanations seem inadequate. Borg's conviction is that the focus on Atonement obscures and render invisible the historical reasons for his crucifixion and the theological significance of why it happened. He asked us to consider: - Is Jesus the Sacrificial Lamb who substitutes to us before God? - Is Jesus a heroic example for us to follow and to pattern our lives after? - Did he die as a rebel or as a model for us of transformed living?

Crucifixion was a punishment for sedition and disobedience of authority. The gospel was an anti-imperial vision of what the world could be like. Early Christianity was anti-imperial and that's why Jesus was sacrificed and Christians persecuted. Jesus' death was about personal

transformation - a dying to the old and arising to a new way of living. The Cross Matters and is the heart of Christianity.

Summary: The good news was about the transformation of life on earth and to follow in Jesus' way means to live a transformed life personally and politically.

Tonight's focus will be on chapters 8 and 9.

NOVEMBER 6, 2017

Session #7 focussed on Borg's Chapter Six: "The Bible can be True without Being Literally True." Brenda opened with an article written by Rev. Roger Wolsey, a United Methodist Pastor from Boulder, Colorado. He offered 16 ways that progressive Christians can approach, discern and interpret the Bible. As well, Brenda's notes from chapter six have been attached as a file below. Our video featured John Crossan. Jack McFarquhar's closing included an article which is attached below as well.

OCTOBER 31, 2017

Last night, we tackled Chapter 5 of Marcus Borg's book. Colin opened with an overview of the chapter along with three Punch cartoons published during the 19th century that lent insight into issues raised in Chapter Five. I have included them in the file attachment below with notes on Session #6. If you wish to check out the Spong video, here's the link. Spong Video (p.s. Session #5 is there, too, as is the Herald article regarding Biblical Wife-Abuse Defence.) Tonight's reading is Chapter 6.

Jock and I have been working together to get easier access to Monday Night Book Study Sessions and Book Study Archives. Watch for the fruition of our efforts over the next few weeks.

OCTOBER 11, 2017

Thursday Morning Book Study will continue its study of the gospel John and the Johanne Letters. Monday Night Book Study concentrated on turkey and trimmings this past Monday but reconvened on Monday, October 16 with Chapter three. Some links you might like to explore are <http://www.patheos.com> and <http://www.marcusjborg.com> as well as <http://www.azquotes.com>.

Colleagues list

OCTOBER 7, 2017

It was a dark and stormy and icy and miserable night when our Monday Night Book Study-ers gathered for Session #3 which evolved into an exercise of remembering our respective journeys from school days onward. In chapter 2, Borg discusses how "Ancestry mattered" in his spiritual path. My favourite quote, "My curiosity was greater than my fear!" had special meaning to me.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

Session #2 was filled with conversation, video and an investigation of the Fowler/Fleming Six Stages of Faith Development. It truly is the place to be on Monday evenings at SDUC.

As well, Thursday Morning Bible Study this semester will be studying the Gospel of John.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

An enthusiastic group of 31 St. Davidians and friends gathered for session #1 of ACTS Monday Night Book Study. We were introduced to the author of our book through a video presentation during which Marcus Borg introduced the ideas supporting his book, "Convictions." If you would like a copy of the book, already have your book and would like to follow along with the 10 sessions, you are invited to click on the following link: conv.stdavidscalgary.net (watch for this site to come online soon.)

Leaders, Jock McTavish and Wayne Holst, Spiritual Education Ministry at SDUC, are amazing with their abilities to draw out conversation and enhance our reading through video. P.S. Hostessing skills of Marlene and her side kick, Bonnae, are pretty awesome too. See you Monday night at 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

There are only 5 copies of our book still available for the fall season of ACTS Monday Night Book Study. We have 33 registrations for the fall session which begins Monday, September 18, 2017. See you there.

The Spiritual Travellers met last Monday evening to review and make plans regarding their upcoming trip to South Africa.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

We are so excited about the upcoming season as we gather to study Marcus Borg's "Convictions." Registrations show that we will be quite the crowd. Our first evening is September 18. See you there.

Last night the Spiritual Travellers gathered for an evening session of preparation for their trip this fall to South Africa.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

Registrations continue to come in for Monday Night Book Study. It looks like more books will need to be ordered to meet demand. Watch for Minute Speaks over the next three weeks and/or speak to ACTS members in the foyer after services. P.S. We have a new banner on display.

AUGUST 27, 2017

Registration began today for the Monday Night Book Study that will begin on September 18, 2017. So far we have 18 registrations - a record number for our ministry. "Convictions," written by the late Marcus Borg, promises to be well-worth the study. See you there.

JULY 24, 2017

The books are in for this fall's Monday Night Book Study. Watch for these to be available as September 18, 2017 approaches.

We have had a busy summer as we prepared to preside over the July 23rd Sunday morning service. Our theme was "Awakening Compassion." Readings came from the ancient scriptures of the world's faith traditions.

As well, we were delighted to show off our new banner, designed and donated by Dave Layton.