

Pastor's Winter Book Club 2022

Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again

By Rachel Held Evans

Session #5

February 2 at 6pm on Zoom and February 3 at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall

For Session #4 Read "The Beast" and "Resistance Stories"

Zoom Link for Wednesday, February 2 at 6pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84865582248>

Or use meeting ID: 848 6558 2248

Opening Prayer

Warm up questions:

What are some of your favorite resistance stories?

Who are some people you consider to be modern-day prophets—men and women willing to challenge the powerful and speak up for the marginalized?

"The Beast"

1. Read "The Beast" out loud together. What's the imagery in this poem that caught your attention or caused you to stop and think?

"Resistance Stories"

2. What challenged you or resonated with you in this chapter? What did you highlight or hope to discuss with the group?

Read Isaiah 25:6-12

⁶On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. ⁸Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. ¹⁰For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain. The Moabites shall be trodden down in their place as straw is trodden down in a dung-pit. ¹¹Though they spread out their hands in the midst of it, as swimmers spread out their hands to swim, their pride will be laid low despite the struggle of their hands. ¹²The high fortifications of his walls will be brought down, laid low, cast to the ground, even to the dust.

3. What do you notice about this scripture?

4. What hope is contained here? What warning is contained here?

5. What do you think about the Biblical prophets and their words as “resistance” stories?
6. Do you ever feel hopeless or cynical about the injustices you observe in the world around you? Does anything from this chapter encourage you?
7. What do you think of the author’s decision to include Esther as a resistance story? Have you ever thought about that story in this way?
8. What’s your experience with the book of Revelation? In the past, have you found it scary? Bizarre? Inspiring? Confusing? How has your interpretation of that text changed and evolved?
9. In what ways has Jesus started the revolution—“it just doesn’t look the way anyone expects?”

Creative Interaction with Scripture:

Make a sketch of the Great Beast from Revelation 13:1-10, using the biblical text for details and inspiration. If you do this before we meet, bring your sketch to share!

Closing Hymn: A song for the Resistance

*O Christ, the great foundation on which your people stand
To preach your true salvation in every age and land:
Pour out your Holy Spirit to make us strong and pure,
To keep the faith unbroken as long as worlds endure.*

*Baptized in one confession, one church in all the earth,
We bear our Lord’s impression, the sign of second birth:
One holy people gathered in love beyond our own,
By grace we were invited; by grace we make you known.*

*Where tyrants’ hold is tightened, where strong devour the weak,
Where innocents are frightened,, the righteous fear to speak,
There let your church awaking attack the powers of sin
And, all their ramparts breaking with you the victory win.*

*This is the moment glorious when he who once was dead
Shall lead his church victorious, their champion and head.
The Lord of all creation his heavenly kingdom brings:
The final consummation, the glory of all things.*

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Closing Prayer

For Session #5 read “The Water” and “Gospel Stories”