

Bible Study Series

**DREAMTHINK.
BE.DO.**

Session Three – Reconciliation

Being Human - longing for meaning; spiritual connection to others
-our ancestors told stories

Biblical themes (macro-stories): *Marcus Borg*
-story of the Exodus from Egypt (primal narrative of Israel) - need liberation from bondage
-Exile - maintaining identity in foreign land
-problem of sin & guilt; solution was forgiveness

-experience of liberation from “-isms” *Minerva Carcaño*
-feeling of being beloved child of God - feeling of being freed
-liberation of being free from all that pushes us down
-creating freedom together
-freedom from our tendency to think of God being a god of scarcity when, in fact, God is about abundance

Stories of the Divine-human relationship *Marcus Borg*
in the past as well as the present
-example of the story of the Exodus - not true just about our ancestors, but about us today! ...in every generation!
-the intrinsic result of socialization is bondage - we all need liberation!

Bondage and Liberation
Exile and Return
Sin and Forgiveness
...individually and collectively, these themes serve as the foundation of all the major stories of the Bible.

Visions of the promised land
Exile and return - metaphor for life with God
...seeking rootedness.

The Priestly Story
The human problem is sin and guilt

Jesus died *because* of the sin of the world *Culver “Bill” Nelson*
The old notion of God needing to beat his child for the sins of the world - portrays God as an abusive parent.
Jesus turning the tables - a protest to the nature of the institution itself (that it would require sacrifice)

Animal sacrifice
“Atonement” achieved through Jesus - Christians have tried to make sense of this idea... has lead to a fixation on sin

When the priestly story dominates, it leads to unfortunate *Marcus Borg* consequences about sin and guilt
In fact, what we need is a path of return; a way of being reconnected to God

The human predicament is diverse; we have different needs.

We need deliverance, but we also need
-forgiveness
-liberation
-belonging

The Bible offers us different ways of reconnecting



For discussion:

What are the implications for your personal spiritual journey?
For Christianity as a whole?

