



The Art of Engaging Holy Scripture

Small Group Curriculum

St. Matthew's, Austin

2008-2009

Much more than a Bible study, The Art of Engaging Holy Scripture (TAEHS) integrates the ancient practice of praying the Bible with modern approaches to studying the Bible in a small group process. TAEHS awakens participants to the presence of the Holy Spirit in the text, in their own self, in their sisters and brothers, and, finally, in their common life together.

Only after the first series of classes did I quietly find myself very, very engaged with what the Bible has to say to Pat Boon. Now I love to get still and interact with God through the Word. Pat Boon

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TAEHS makes the Bible equally accessible and relevant to beginners and to experienced Bible readers. In The Art of Engaging Holy Scripture small group process each person's response to the text becomes equally meaningful for everyone. Received in silence by the others, each response is sacred, a window to the Holy Spirit to be wholly valued. As comfort and familiarity with the practice of TAEHS and the small group process develops, a beautiful, albeit indefinable, mystery of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the gathered community emerges.

Developed over the last fifteen years and used in five Episcopal parishes, TAEHS has benefited from the feedback of hundreds of participants.

The Art of Engaging Holy Scripture small group curriculum consists of a one year foundational course in three trimesters that totals 30 weeks. It comprises an introduction to the individual practice of the method of TAEHS, the small group process, and an overview of the story of God's people contained in Scripture. The text that is provided includes appendices that help beginners navigate their way through the Bible. The appendices also provide charts and outlines that create a helpful Biblical architecture and connect the Bible with the Episcopal Eucharistic liturgy.

Following the foundational year there are studies of individual books of the Bible that vary in length (e.g. Matthew is 30 weeks, while Galatians is 6 weeks).

The Art of Engaging Holy Scripture Class Schedule 2008-2009

Introductory Course Calendar Guidelines (each small group will work out their own holiday breaks)

I (11 weeks between September 8 and November 21): *The Method and the Meta-Narrative of the Old Testament*

II (9 weeks between December 1 and March 5): *Knowing and Following Jesus*

III (10 weeks between March 9 and May 22): *The Community of the Spirit*

Cost (for the full year): **\$75.00** including curriculum texts and appendices in a custom binder

Location: St. Matthew's. Exceptions: "South" (Kelley and Shirley Meyer's home); "Lakeway" (Betsy and Bob McCraine's)

Classes meet weekly for one hour, and will have 6-10 participants each, so please give us options for class assignments.



Below mark your preferences (1-3) for up to three of the class times and send to Susan Barnes by September

2. Questions? Call Susan: 345-8314

Monday 10-11 _____	Tuesday 10:30-11:30 _____	Thursday 10:30-11:30 _____
12-1 _____	Wednesday 11-12 _____	3-4:00 _____
7-8 pm (Lakeway) _____	1-2 _____	7-8 p.m. (South) _____

If you're interested and can't make any of these, when could you meet? _____

Please write your **name clearly here:** _____ **phone** _____