

The Worst Bible Stories and What We Might Learn from Them



Peter Paul Rubens. *Massacre of the Innocents*, 1636–38 (Alte Pinakothek).

Sundays, 9:15 a.m., in the Assembly Room,
unless otherwise noted

We all know the Bible is full of quiet love, knitting grandmas, good people, and a smiling Jesus. But this January we're overlooking the Bible's abundant tame stuff and digging into the difficult and troubling corners of our sacred scripture. What might we learn?

Jan
7

Murder in the Royal Loo

Jacq Laplsey

You can't make this stuff up: While on the toilet, an obese king is killed by a disabled assassin, and there's a mighty mess to clean up afterwards. What does this smelly, violent murder in the bathroom have to do with God? Come find out as we look together at this scatological story in Judges 3!

Jacq Laplsey wears many hats, including being mom to Emma and Sam Bezilla. She has loved traveling with the church youth on their adventures. By day, she teaches Old Testament at Princeton Seminary.

Jan
14

God Made Me Do It

Shane Berg

9:15 a.m., Niles Chapel

King Herod, in a fit of murderous rage, orders the execution of all infants in the town of Bethlehem. Matthew tells us that this barbaric act fulfills a prophecy from the book of Jeremiah. Does this mean that God uses evil to accomplish divine purposes? Come and explore the question of the relationship between God's will and human evil.

Shane Berg is best known around Nassau as Corrie Berg's husband and the father of Anders, Mathias, and Soren. But his other hats include former NT professor and current Executive Vice President at PTS.

Jan
21

Bashing Babylonians

Nancy Lammers Gross

Perhaps the most avoided verse in the entire Psalter: "Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock!" (Psalm 137:9) What's the story here? And what is it doing in our Bible?

Nancy Lammers Gross teaches Speech Communication in Ministry at Princeton Seminary and last year was promoted to the two-year-old Sunday School class here at Nassau.

Jan
28

Pay Up or Die!

Eric Barreto

It's hard enough to imagine that we would, like the earliest believers in Acts, choose to sell our possessions and trust the church to take care of our every need. Harder still is making sense of the strange story of Ananias and Sapphira whose deceptions and deaths don't exactly seem to function as a lesson for us today. Join Eric as we read these puzzling texts together.

Eric Barreto is Weyerhaeuser Associate Professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, an ordained Baptist minister, and a Nassau parent.

ANNUAL MISSION FAIR

Jan
14

Mission Fair

10:15 a.m., Assembly Room

The Membership Committee hosts the Mission Fair, a celebration of our ministries and missions. It's an opportunity to learn more about our myriad outreach programs and how to become involved. Come join us and enjoy the next step in your journey of faith.

Jan
14

The Lady, the General, and the Rohingya

Lex Rieffel

12:15 p.m., Assembly Room

What has happened to democratic reform in Myanmar? In light of what the United Nations has called ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya population in Rakhine state, many are asking what kind of democracy perpetuates violence against its own people. Why does Aung San Suu Kyi seem unwilling, or unable, to oppose the military campaign against the Rohingya? Is it time for the international community to abandon her government, or is there a constructive role we can continue to play?

Lex Rieffel is a nonresident senior fellow in global economy and development at the Brookings Institution. His recent work has focused on the economy of Myanmar during the period of democratic transition. Rieffel has held positions at the Institute of International Finance, the U.S. Treasury Department, and USAID. He served in the Peace Corps and as an officer in the U.S. Navy. Mr. Rieffel is a graduate of Princeton University and the Fletcher School, Tufts University.

In-depth Bible Study with George Hunsinger

1 Corinthians

Sundays, 9:15 a.m.

Maclean House (Garden Entrance)

Will not meet January 14

George Hunsinger leads a verse-by-verse examination of the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. In this epistle the Corinthian congregation wrestles with doctrinal and ethical issues in conversation with their “founding pastor,” Paul, and Paul offers compelling good news in his understanding of the cross, the resurrection, worship, and life together in Christian community.

George Hunsinger is Professor of Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. He is the founder of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Lauren Yeh

Nassau Presbyterian Church
61 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ
nassauchurch.org

Thinking about February...

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(CORONATION)**