

LENT CONVERSATIONS 2012

Matters of Soul

These begin with a commentary Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. during Lent.

Conversations are initiated by Brian McLaren's book **Finding our Way Again**.

He bases his teaching on Jeremiah 6:16.

Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will rest for your souls.

Most of us, except the perfect, suffer from spiritual disorientation. Our souls are untended. And in this fragmented world, a soul left untended quickly loses direction. It forgets itself and becomes an insubstantial thing, disoriented and unavailable to the truth. And neither scientific secularism nor religious fundamentalism nor vague spiritualities have been able to offer any real answers.

That's why a growing number of Christians are turning to early spiritual practices as a means of tending their souls. For centuries, believers have eagerly submitted to disciplines such as fixed-hour of prayer, fasting, sacred meals, observing the Sabbath, or pilgrimage to create an everyday sacredness, a spiritual rhythm for living within the well-worn grooves of workday life.

In **Finding our Way Again**, Brian McLaren serves as guide to a wide variety of these disciplines, showing how they form character, awaken us to life, and help us to experience God, and each other, in new and fresh ways.

OUR CONVERSATIONS ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

We will be unpacking the text above to understand words and phrases such as *spiritual disorientation, untended souls, fragmented world, direction, truth, substantial soul, scientific secularism, religious fundamentalism, vague spiritualities, ancient practices, etc.*

We will be contextualizing these collective understandings making reference to our lives and the lives of others.

The aim of our conversations is an individual healthy soul that acts compassionately and lovingly and is eager to pursue truth, (rather than singular personal individual opinion), within the worship congregation and the wondering community of God in the world.