

Book Study Group

10:30 am Wednesdays December, 2020 - January 2021

7:00 PM Wednesday January 2021 - February 2021

GROUNDING: Finding God in the World,

A Spiritual Revolution by Diana Butler Bass

Week 1 Questions:

- Where is God for you - now?¹
- Do you trust the “theologian within”?²
- What sentence, statement, topic or question spoke to you most strongly?
- On page 19, Bass writes, “Separating the material from the spiritual is, perhaps, one of the saddest philosophical missteps of Western culture.” In what ways do you agree or disagree with this statement?³
- When you think of God, where do you assume God to be? Where did that idea come from? How might “relocating God” reground your life?⁴
- Bass claims that today our experience of faith and meeting God is coming down off the mountain, meaning that we no longer find God only within the walls of the church. What are your thoughts about this? If you attend church regularly, does it change anything about that experience? If you don’t attend church regularly, how do you feel about faith being accessible around us, in the world and our neighbors?

¹ Crumm, \uc0\u8220{}ReadTheSpirit.Com,\uc0\u8221{} 2.

² Butler Bass, “Grounded- 4 Sessions,” 1.

³ Weir, “First Churches, Northampton,” 1.

⁴ Butler Bass, *Reading and Discussion Guide For Grounded*, 1.

DIRT Chapter

- When you think of the opening passages of Genesis, what images come to mind? Adam and Eve? The creation of the animals? Water? A garden?
- Other than Ash Wednesday, when are we reminded that “From living ground we were made; to living ground we will return” (pg42)? ⁵
- Take time to reflect on theologian Sallie McFague’s question, “What if we saw the earth as part of the body of God, not as separate from God (who dwells elsewhere), but as the visible reality of the invisible God?” (pg51). How does this deepen your understanding of God? Of the earth? Of the interconnection?
- Bass explores the themes of death and resurrection from the perspective of soil. She notes that soil comes from the deaths of many tiny creatures. First paragraph of Pg 52- what are your thoughts?
- What is the impact of equating dirt and soil with sin? Would it change anything to increase positive liturgical imagery of soil? (Pg 54)

⁵ \uc0\u8220{}Grounded Bible Study,\uc0\u8221{} 2.

★ Musicians / Singers! A hymn was written and based upon this book - <https://dianabutlerbass.com/wp-content/uploads/God-We-Wonder-Beach-Spring.pdf>

Is there a desire to learn it and sing it? Let me know and I'll work on getting permission.

→ Want to hear Diana's remarks about the book & how it came to be?
41-minute interview with Peter Wallace of Day1.org
<https://day1.org/audio/user-audio/5d9b9848f719181ccd000921.mp3>

→ An interview with Diana; spoiler alert for a future chapter!
41 minute interview with a youth pastor
<https://newsworthywithnorsworthy.podbean.com/e/diana-butler-bass-grounded/>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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<https://dianabutlerbass.com/wp-content/uploads/A-Simple-Guide-to-Grounded-in-Four-Sessions.pdf>.
- Reading and Discussion Guide For Grounded*. HarperOne, 2016.
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<https://Dianabutlerbass.Com/First-Churches-Northampton-Guide-to-Grounded/> (blog), 2016.
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