

Book Study – “The Universal Christ” by Father Richard Rohr
a book club approach

Week One – Chapters One and Two

What makes the title of chapter one a “no-brain-er”?
What changes in your own perspective, have come about from these chapters?
How do you define acceptance/what is your experience of acceptance?

Week Two – Chapters Three and Four

What do you think about the idea that God's Glory came into being in the beginning and remains in the present?
What is revealed in us?
What the heck is “Original goodness”?

Week Three – Chapters Five and Six

How do we see God's Glory manifest?
If love is the meaning, what is the purpose (if any)?
What stands between me and sacred wholeness?

Week Four – Chapters Seven and Eight

Are we part of God's Glory? (why yes/why no)
In “Going somewhere good”, what is the destination and how do we get there?
Is there a discrepancy between what is done and what is said?

Week Five – Chapters Eight and Nine

What is your understanding of a covenant with God?
Isn't a superficial understanding and response more than enough?
Given that our reference text was written in a culture that was warrior dominated, what is the place of the feminine incarnation?

Week Six – Chapters Ten and Eleven

How do you relate to divine influence?
What was Jesus doing during those four chapters in John that relate to the Last Supper?
Why did Jesus die? What did Jesus live to accomplish?

Week Seven – Chapter Twelve and Thirteen

How do you see Jesus of Nazareth in the context of the historical period that gave rise to the gospel narratives?
What is important about easing another person's burden? Why is it good to accept help?
What do we mean when using the term “resurrection” beyond reference to the resurrection of Christ?

Week Eight – Chapters Fourteen and Fifteen

Is there a difference between Jesus of the gospels and Christ as presented in the Book of Acts of the Apostles, and in the writings attributed to Paul? If so how is this so? If not, why not?
What vehicles do we have to render ourselves more open to Christ and to begin to embody the qualities of the hero of the gospel narratives?

Week Nine – Chapter Sixteen and Seventeen

How do you interpret the situation in the upper room in which Jesus Christ appeared despite the doors being locked and the disciples recognizing his woundedness?
Why is practice more important than the theory behind theology?

Afterword: Love after love.

What happens when we share our experience with people who are seeking answers to the apparent unfairness of bad things happening to good people?
What happens when we let people know that their grief is real and that they have been heard?
At what point, can a wounded person become a healer?

Week One – Chapters One and Two

Volunteer required! - This is how I encountered the sacred earlier this week.

Round table discussion: What do you have in common with: a) Pontius Pilate; b) Judas Escariot; c) Mary, Mother of Jesus?

What makes the title of chapter one a “no-brain-er”?

What changes in your own perspective, have come about from these chapters?

How do you define acceptance/what is your experience of acceptance?

Use this space for notes/comments/thoughts:

Week Two – Chapters Three and Four

Volunteer required! - This is how I saw divinity in action this week.

Round table discussion: What challenge do you see in accepting that the soldiers were just following orders?

What do you think about the idea that God's Glory came into being in the beginning and remains in the present?

What is revealed in us?

What the heck is “Original goodness”?

Use this space for notes/comments/thoughts:

Week Three – Chapters Five and Six

Volunteer required! - This is what I understand by the word “Lord”.

Round table discussion: What challenge do you see in accepting that the soldiers were just following orders?

How do we see God's Glory manifest?

If love is the meaning, what is the purpose (if any)?

What stands between me and sacred wholeness?

Use this space for notes/comments/thoughts:

Week Four – Chapters Seven and Eight

Volunteer required! - This is what I'd like to ask of my chosen biblical figure/author.

Round table discussion: What was Jesus' relationship with institutionalized religion?

Are we part of God's Glory? (why yes/why no)

In “Going somewhere good”, what is the destination and how do we get there?

Is there a discrepancy between what is done and what is said?

Use this space for notes/comments/thoughts:

Week Five – Chapters Eight and Nine

Volunteer required! - This is how I encountered the sacred earlier this week

Round table discussion: How do you envision the kingdom of God in the present?

What is your understanding of a covenant with God?

Isn't a superficial understanding and response more than enough?

Given that our reference text was written in a culture that was warrior dominated, what is the place of the feminine incarnation?

Use this space for notes/comments/thoughts:

Week Six – Chapters Ten and Eleven

Volunteer required! - This is how I encountered God this week.

Round table discussion: What does the word “spiritual” mean with respect to God?

How do you relate to divine influence?

What was Jesus doing during those four chapters in John that relate to the Last Supper?

Why did Jesus die? What did Jesus live to accomplish?

Use this space for notes/comments/thoughts:

Week Seven – Chapter Twelve and Thirteen

Volunteer required! - This is what I understand by the word “Lord”.

Round table discussion: What challenge do you see in accepting that Christ had to die?

How do you see Jesus of Nazareth in the context of the historical period that gave rise to the gospel narratives?

What is important about easing another person's burden? Why is it good to accept help?

What do we mean when using the term “resurrection” beyond reference to the resurrection of Christ?

Use this space for notes/comments/thoughts:

Week Eight – Chapters Fourteen and Fifteen

Volunteer required! - This is what I understand by the word “Redeemer”.

Round table discussion: How can I forgive Judas Escariot?

Is there a difference between Jesus of the gospels and Christ as presented in the Book of Acts of the Apostles, and in the writings attributed to Paul? If so how is this so? If not, why not?

What vehicles do we have to render ourselves more open to Christ and to begin to embody the qualities of the hero of the gospel narratives?

Use this space for notes/comments/thoughts:

Week Nine – Chapter Sixteen and Seventeen

Volunteer required! - This is what I'd like to ask of my chosen religious figure/leader/mystic.

Round table discussion: This is what challenges me to embody Christ for the sake of the rest of the world.

How do you interpret the situation in the upper room in which Jesus Christ appeared despite the doors being locked and the disciples recognizing his woundedness?

Why is practice more important than the theory behind theology?

Afterword: Love after love.

What happens when we share our experience with people who are seeking answers to the apparent unfairness of bad things happening to good people?

What happens when we let people know that their grief is real and that they have been heard?

At what point, can a wounded person become a healer?

Use this space for notes/comments/thoughts:

The following is the table of Contents for the Universal Christ by Father Richard Rohr.

Before We Begin

Part 1: Another Name for Every Thing

- Christ Is Not Jesus's Last Name
- Accepting That You Are Fully Accepted
- Revealed in Us—as Us
- Original Goodness
- Love Is the Meaning
- A Sacred Wholeness
- Going Somewhere Good

Part 2: The Great Comma

- Doing and Saying
- Things at Their Depth
- The Feminine Incarnation
- This Is My Body
- Why Did Jesus Die?
- It Can't Be Carried Alone
- The Resurrection Journey
- Two Witnesses to Jesus and Christ
- Transformation and Contemplation
- Beyond Mere Theology: Two Practices

Epilogue

Afterword: Love After Love