

# Stepping into Your Journey

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Rev Dr Grace Bally-Balogun

# Stepping into God's Story

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## Learning Outcomes:

- Identify the significance of some root metaphors in the Biblical narrative
- Reflect on their own story and journey of faith in the context of the Biblical narrative
- Making connections between the liberation of the people of Israel in Exodus, the Great Commission and ministry today



# Stepping into God's Story

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Stepping into your Journey

Stepping into Calling

Stepping into Freedom

Stepping into the Wilderness

God's Story: Challenges of the Journey

God's Story: Coming Alive

God's Story: Being Sent Out

God's Story: What's your Part?

# Evening Timings

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7.15pm	Welcome & Worship
7:20pm	Teaching
8:30pm	End of teaching

# Module Certificate of Attendance



- Minimum attendance met (6 out of 8 sessions)
- Tracking of attendance – first name & last name on your account

# What is Theology?

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“Whenever we speak about God we are engaged in theology...”

Kelly M. Kapic. *A Little Book for New Theologians, Why and How to Study Theology*, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2012, p. 15

Theos = God + Logos = a word or doctrine

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”  
(2 Timothy 2: 15, NIV) :

“theology is reflection upon the God whom  
Christians worship and adore.”

Alister E. McGrath. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*, 3rd ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 2001,  
p. 137

“Theology is all about knowing how to sing the song of redemption: to know when to shout, when to mourn, when to be silent and when to hope. But in order to enjoy the song and sing it well, we must learn the words and the music.”

Kelly M. Kapic. *A Little Book for New Theologians, Why and How to Study Theology*, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2012, p. 22



## 1 Peter 1:18-21 The Message (MSG)

Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep consciousness of God. It cost God plenty to get you out of that dead-end, empty-headed life you grew up in. He paid with Christ's sacred blood, you know. He died like an unblemished, sacrificial lamb. And this was no afterthought. Even though it has only lately—at the end of the ages—become public knowledge, God always knew he was going to do this for you. It's because of this sacrificed Messiah, whom God then raised from the dead and glorified, that you trust God, that you know you have a future in God.

# Redeemed Calling & Vocation

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## Corporate Calling & Vocation

*In Christ, the original calling of humanity in creation is restored, not taken away in order to be replaced with something superior or less material: to bear the image of God in the world, living under God's reign, and serving as a royal priesthood for creation...It is in union with him that we can begin to recover our calling to let the image of God shine though the whole of our lives in this world, illuminating the political, social, economic, domestic and cultural environments in which the body of Christ lives and is daily transformed into his likeness by the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification.*

- Kingdom Calling: The vocation, ministry and discipleship of the whole people of God. The Faith & Order Commission, (Church House Publishing, 2020) pp. 19-20

# Journey

- a pulling up (of stakes), breaking camp, setting out
- walk, journey, going, place to walk.
- “wayfaring man”
- “prosper” three times, and “have a prosperous journey” once. **1** to grant a prosperous and expeditious journey, to lead by a direct and easy way. **2** to grant a successful issue, to cause to prosper. **3** to prosper, be successful.



# cross-road \ 'krɒs- , rɒd also - 'rɒd\ *noun*

**1:** a road that crosses a main road or runs cross-country between main roads

**2** *usually plural but singular or plural in construction*

**a:** the place of intersection of two or more roads

**b (1):** a small community located at such a crossroads

**(2):** a central meeting place

**c:** a crucial point especially where a decision must be made

Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). *Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary*. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc.



## Jeremiah 6:16 (NIV)

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

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*But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'*

# Journeys – Old Testament

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Noah's descendants, from Mount Ararat to Babel	Gen. 11:1–9
Abraham, from Ur of the Chaldees to Canaan	Gen. 12:1–9
Joseph, from Canaan to Egypt	Gen. 37
Jacob and his family, from Canaan to Egypt	Gen. 42–46
Moses, from Midian back to Egypt	Exod. 3–4
Israel, from Egypt to Canaan	Exod.—Josh.
Ruth, from Moab to Bethlehem	Ruth 1
Samuel, from Ramah to Bethlehem	1 Sam. 16
David, from Hebron to Jerusalem	2 Sam. 5:7
Solomon, from Jerusalem to Gibeon	1 Kings 3:4–5
Elijah, from Mount Carmel to Mount Horeb	1 Kings 19
The captives of Judah, from Palestine to Babylon	2 Kings 24–25; Ps. 137; Dan. 1
The captives of Judah, from Babylon to Jerusalem	Ezra 1; Ps. 126
Nehemiah, from Babylon to Jerusalem	Neh. 1–2

# Journeys – New Testament

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Jesus, from the glory of heaven to this sinful earth	Luke 2:7; Phil. 2:5–8; Gal. 4:4
Joseph and Mary, from Nazareth to Bethlehem	Luke 2:4
The wise men, from Persia to Bethlehem	Matt. 2:1–12
Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, from Bethlehem to Egypt	Matt. 2:13–14
Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, from Egypt to Nazareth	Matt. 2:23
Jesus, from this sinful earth to the glory of heaven	Acts 1
Philip, from Jerusalem to Samaria	Acts 8:5
Philip, from Samaria to the Gaza desert	Acts 8:26
Paul, from Jerusalem to Damascus	Acts 9
Paul and Barnabas, from Antioch to their first missionary trip	Acts 13–14
Paul and Silas, from Antioch to the second journey	Acts 15:36–18:22
Paul, from Antioch to his third journey	Acts 18:23–21:15
Paul, from Jerusalem to Rome	Acts 21:16–28:31

## Breakout Room Question

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**What journey stands out for you  
where you experienced God's  
direction?**

# Thinking Theologically about Journey

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"calling in the context of God's evolving, truth-telling word" – Derek Walmsley , xi

- **Walking** – towards the Promised Land
- **Following** – *“For there to be calling there must be a caller. Without God, the individual becomes the called and the caller.”* – Derek Walmsley, God Calls Everyone, pp2-3
- **Discovering** – Finding God’s story and how we fit into it
- **Stewards** – delegated responsibility, the basis of our calling
- **Rest** – “Vocation must begin with rest” – p.28

# Paul from Jerusalem to Damascus

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## 1. Paul: Pharisee, Teacher, Tentmaker

- Experience
- Gifts
- Skills

# 3 Key Truths in seeking God's plan

- First, God calls..
- Second, God can...
- Third, God's plan...

*- Andy Rider, Life is for Giving: A Toolkit for Exploring your Calling*

Breakout room  
activity:

**Where are  
you on  
your  
journey?**



# Journeying

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- What other Biblical journeys can we recollect?
- How can we relate these stages in our Christian journey?
- What maps, landmarks, guides have helped you on your journey?

