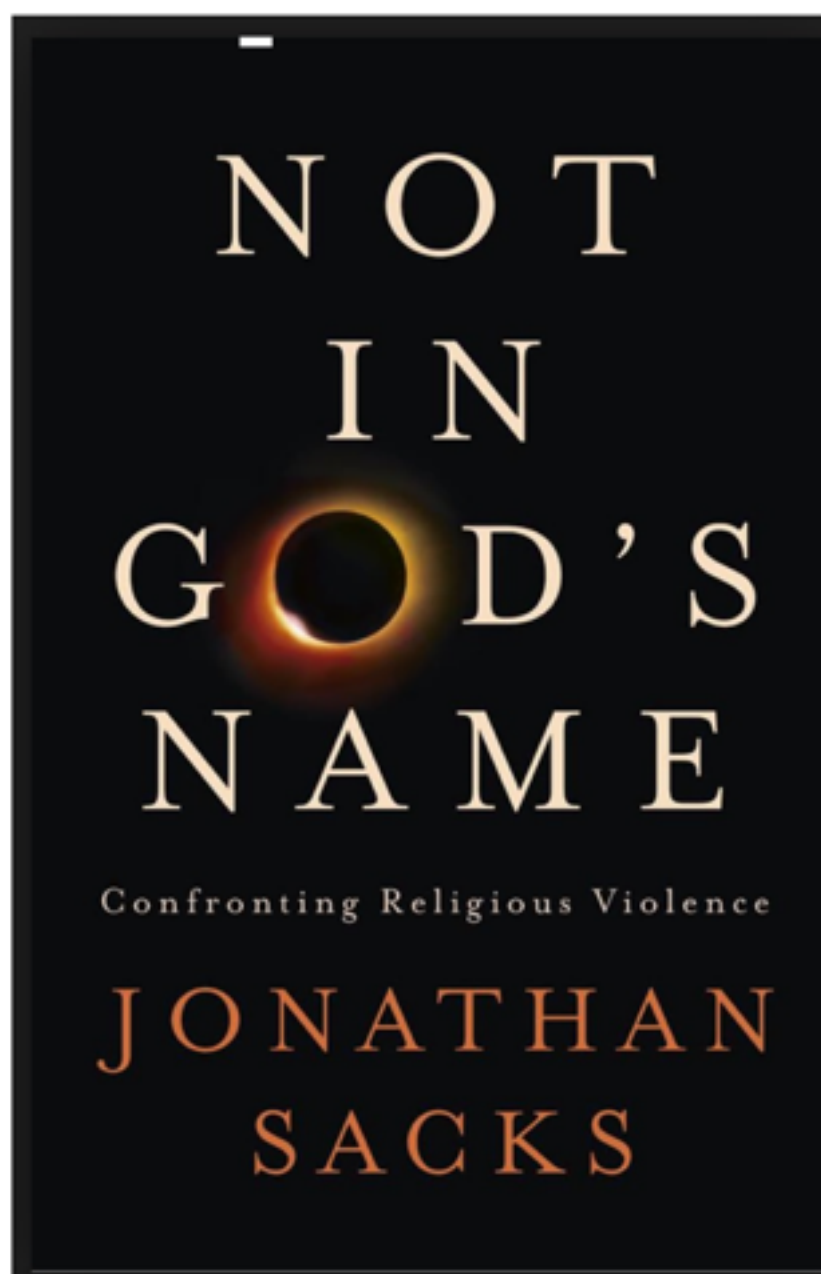


NOT IN GOD'S NAME



ACTS
WINTER 2018

St David's United Church
Calgary



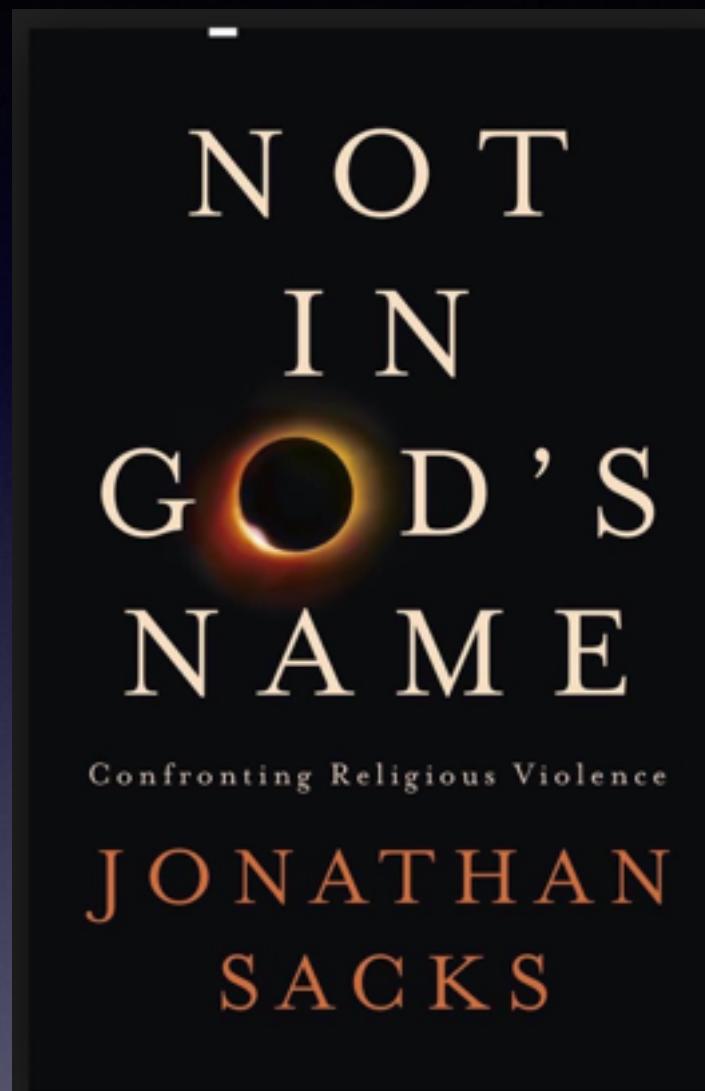
Holy Manners Book Study # 40

Session #6

- House Keeping
- Opening: Frans

Housekeeping

- Please feel free to raise questions as we go.
- March 26 and April 2: Guatemala
- LENTEN RETREAT - MT. ST. FRANCIS on Sunday, March 4th - 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The theme, led by retreat leader Susan Campbell is "Encountering a Sacred Intimacy With God"
- SDUC.ca



Opening:

Frans Heynen

SIBLINGS

CHAPTER 8: ROLE REVERSAL



“The Joseph story is a major literary construct that is in many ways, similar to other great human-relations stories.”

At the same time, it is a special biblical faith story with unique meaning.



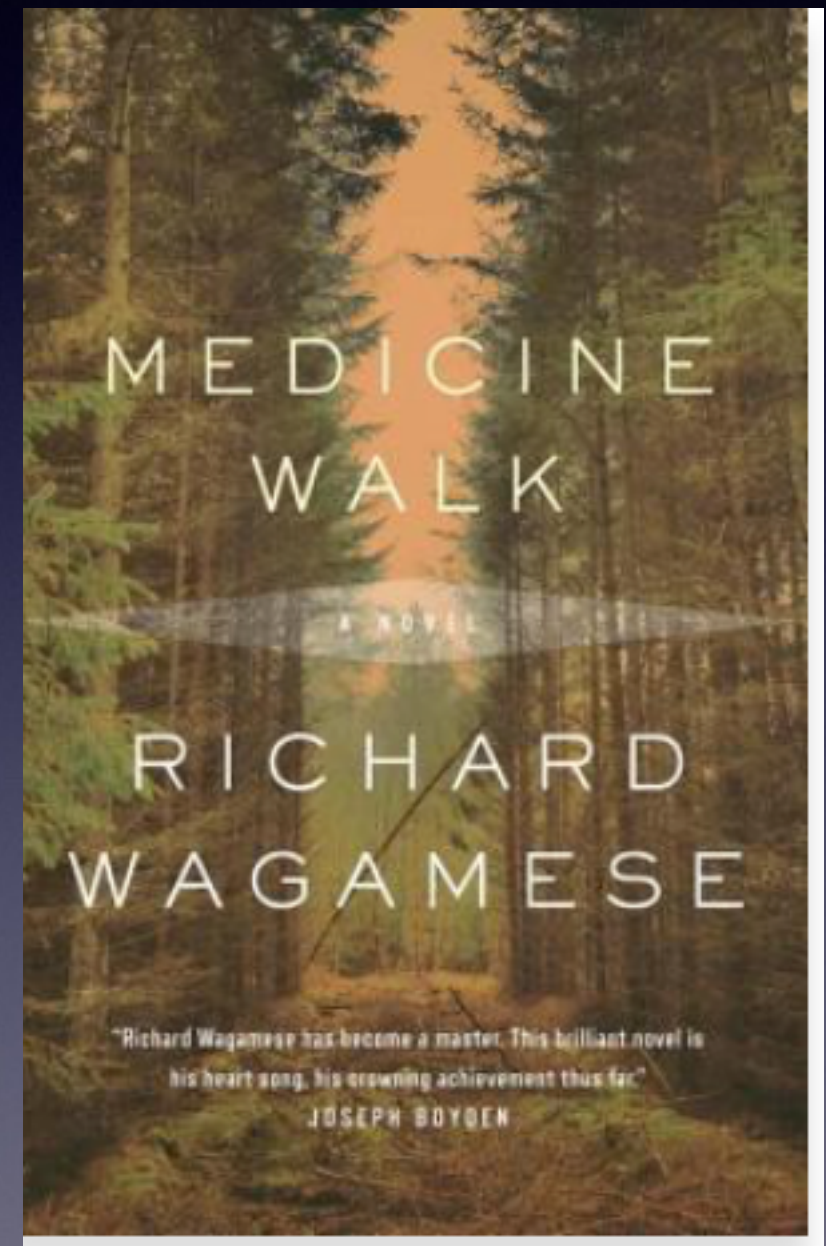
Role Reversal is a more refined way of saying...

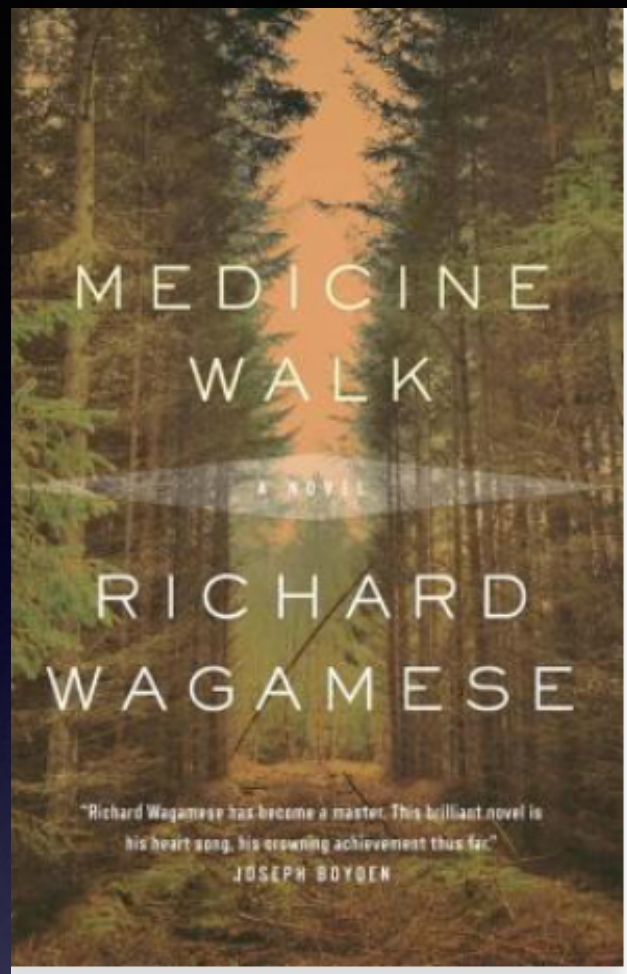
- **see yourself as others see you**
- **see yourself in the destructive behaviour of others**
- **Repent, change your behaviour, experience the freedom of forgiveness.**

RIVALRY - REPENTANCE - FREEDOM

Richard Wagamese:
October 14, 1955 – March 10, 2017)

To be alive is to be vulnerable to the myriad shocks and disappointments of the human condition, but *Medicine Walk* is also testament to the redemptive power of love and compassion.





ROLE REVERSAL AND RECONCILIATION

**"It's all we are in the
end. Our stories."**

Wagamese understands that the stories we don't tell are as important as the ones we do. "Mosta the big talk in my life got left unsaid," Eldon says. "Makes it tough to say anything real or hard."



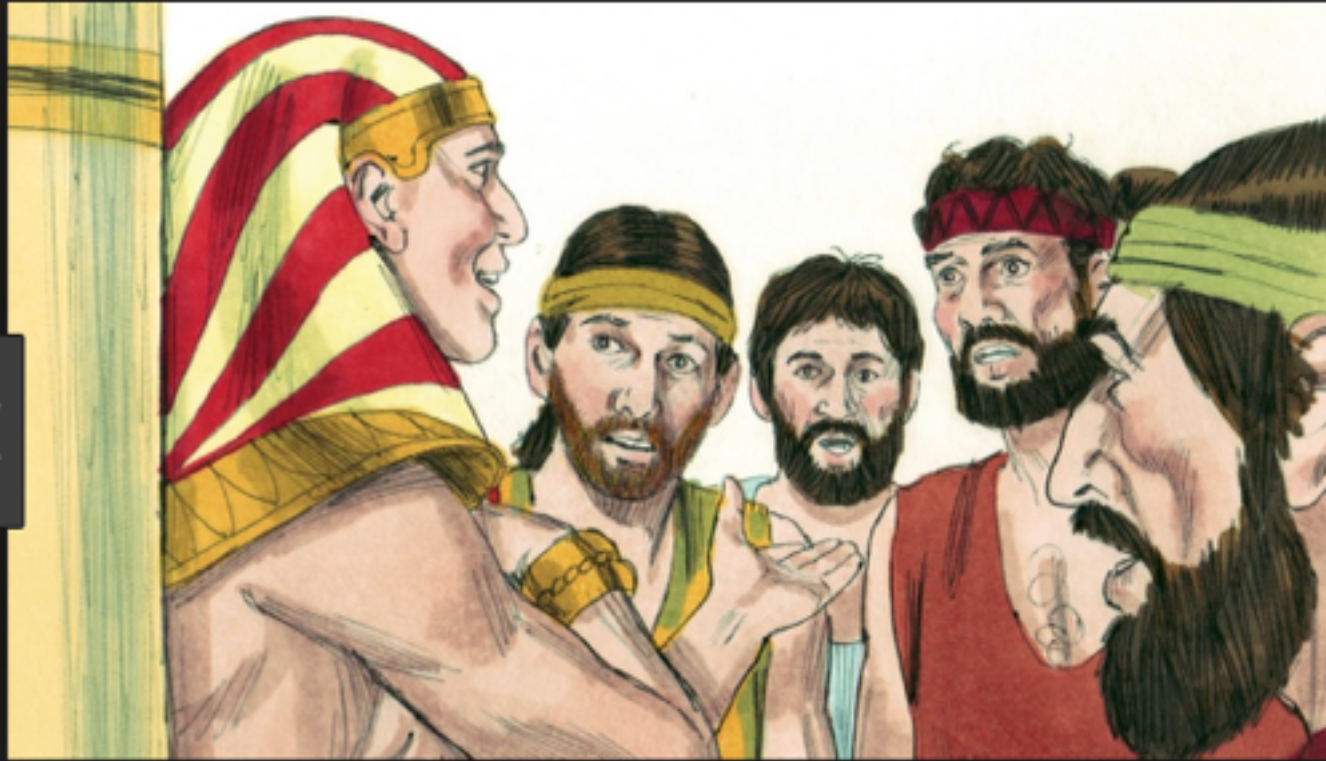
His childhood was dreadful. He recounted having his left arm and shoulder smashed as a toddler. And how when he was almost three, the adults left him, his two brothers and sister alone in the bush on a bitterly cold winter day. They ran out of food and firewood. His older sister and brother hauled the two younger boys across a frozen bay and they huddled at the railroad depot. A police officer took them to the Children's Aid Society. "I would not see my mother or my extended family again for 21 years," he wrote.

- **We come to understand the meaning of forgiveness after destructive family behaviour, as we engaged in the Medicine Walk with Eldon and Frank - who become for us meaning from the experience of “the Other.”**
- **As we read this story we observe Role-Reversal, in terms of interpersonal, intergroup and international justice.**



Through the extensive exchanges between Joseph and his brothers in Egypt we discover how Joseph was able to lead them through a process of realizing the negative aspects and results of their actions, when they were ready to learn.

“In the voice of the other, we can hear the voice of God.” (160)



Genesis 45: 1-15 (144)
Genesis 50: 19-21 (156)

The poignant, gripping words of Joseph when he reveals himself to his brothers -
“Am I in God’s place? I am Joseph your brother. What you want for evil, God meant for good.”(144)

- **Joseph helped his brothers by skillfully moving their perspective from horizontal to vertical when thinking about each other.**
- **Discuss the power of a religious vision, transcending the fray, to reframe inter-personal relations and history itself.**

REPENTANCE DEFINED

- **“REPENTANCE IS THE PROOF THAT WE CAN CHANGE.” (157)**
- **“THE WAY WE LEARN NOT TO COMMIT EVIL IS TO EXPERIENCE AN EVENT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE VICTIM.” (158)**



Eventually, Joseph forced them to recognize that just as a brother can be a stranger... so a stranger can be a brother. (159)

LOOKING BACK IN ORDER TO LOOK AHEAD

What applies between siblings can also apply between cultures and faith groups. The Joseph story, honoured by all three Abrahamic traditions, helps us recognize the importance of engaging in role-reversal dialogue together.

**Small group
discussion to
follow**



DISCUSSION ISSUE

Talk about a major event in your life, causing a family rift that has never healed.

Talk about a major family rift that was resolved as a result of profound forgiveness.

SHARED EPIPHANIES

“Why I Am a Jew”

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=CAbiFbpQP8o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAbiFbpQP8o)

Expanding our **encounter with Sacks and his book**

Jonathan Sacks: “Not in God’s Name”

A Video Presentation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oK3PK_qHkrs

18:30 - 26:00

DEB'S CLOSING

Next Week: Session #7

Opening: Marilyn and Colin
Reading Assignment: March 5

II: SIBLINGS

**Chapter 9: The Rejection of
Rejection**

Closing: Mike Grammar

- **Have a great week!**
- **See you on March 5th.**