

Dear brothers and sisters of Sherman Oaks Presbyterian Church,

I am so excited to introduce our new mid-week bible study to you! I've been hearing for months from so many of you the desire to have a mid-week study that takes an in-depth look at God's word and answers the hard questions as well as leaves room for meaningful conversation! So your requests have been answered! We're starting our first study this Thursday at 6:00 PM in the Fireside Room and the same study at a later time, 8 PM in the Attic. We'll be looking at the scriptures and seeing what Jesus has to say today about the important issues that we deal with in daily life! All church members and non-members are welcome.



We are so blessed to have the wonderful Lori Koutouratsas to be over this program and to lead it with me! I first met Lori at Fuller Theological Seminary in 2003 and have really been touched by her desire for a deeper walk with the Lord as well as her abilities to teach and go deep into the scriptures!

Lori was born and raised in Santa Monica, California. Her mother was raised in Pennsylvania, where she attended the Lutheran Church and her father was raised in Greece and attended the Greek Orthodox Church. Lori graduated from Mount St. Mary's College in 1988 with a B.S., majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry and English. She married her high school sweetheart a year after graduating from college and four years later they started their family. Zach is 14, Kia is 12, and Kate is 10. When she was 28 years old and Zach was a year old, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She didn't really understand the value and importance of her relationship with God until three years later. At that time, she was five months pregnant with her third child and her husband left her. It was a very challenging time, both physically and emotionally, but her spirit was lifted through that difficult time by the grace and love of our Lord and Savior.

She received a call to enter full-time ministry in 2002 and after wrestling with the idea and exploring if it was her will or God's will for her life, she received confirmation from God. She entered Fuller Theological Seminary in the fall of 2003 and graduated with a Masters of Divinity in June 2008. She is currently seeking ordination in the Presbyterian Church and is in the process of fulfilling her final ordination requirements, including her hospital chaplain internship and ordination exam



Lori's home church is First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills (where my mentor, Jim Sillerud, is the head of staff). Before that Lori was at Brentwood Presbyterian Church. Through her years of service, Lori has participated in or led in every ministry at church, with the exception of Men's Ministry (for obvious reasons!). She has told me that she especially loves helping people get closer to God through prayer, studying the Scriptures, and worship.



Spending time with and raising her three kids has been her greatest joy in life. Lori is also a classically trained cellist! She plays in worship bands, rock bands, and does work in recording studios. She also is a director for a non-profit organization that helps to promote and support school and community orchestras in Los Angeles and Orange Counties to help keep classical music alive! Lori has led many powerful bible studies and really has a passion for them. She comes to us having just completing her Presbytery internship with the 1st Presbyterian Church of Encino!

When asked if she had a direct quote for our congregation Lori replied, "I am excited about and looking forward to meeting you, sharing stories with you, hearing about your journeys of faith, praying and worshiping with you, and diving into and exploring the Bible with you!"

I hope that you will join me in welcoming Lori to our ministry and that you'll take advantage of the beautiful gift of meaningful investigation into scripture that Lori and I will be doing every Thursday evening. If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to call me at the church at **818.788.3330** or email me at Zachary@ShermanOaksPC.org.

I am so exciting and thankful for Lori and this wonderful new Bible study program! I pray that God will bless you all in meaningful ways this advent season! What a magnificent time of year to stop and reflect on God the Father loving us so much that He sent His only Son into the world as an ordinary baby, born to very ordinary people, to accomplish the most extraordinary thing of all! I am constantly reminded of the Angel Gabriel's words in Luke 1:37 when I think about it, "For nothing is impossible with God!"

With love in Christ this Christmas season,

Zachary Kintner
Your pastor at Sherman Oaks Presbyterian Church