

Wednesday Evening Speaker Series

This year we welcome an outstanding line up of guest presenters, each helping us consider various aspects of “Loving God” and “Loving Each Other.”

First Session: “Love God”

September 22, 29 Ed Dobson Making Room For God

How did Christ make room for God in his life? What can we learn from his example? Dr. Ed Dobson leads us in an exploration of these two very relevant questions as we think together about the difficulty and the necessity of making room for God in our lives.

Ed Dobson for many years served as senior pastor of Calvary Church, one of the largest churches in Grand Rapids. He is author of numerous books including *Prayers and Promises When Facing a Life-threatening Illness*. Now retired, he serves as an advisory editor for *Christianity Today* and is a consulting editor for *Leadership* magazine.

Ed’s newest book *The Year of Living Like Jesus* will be given free of charge to the first 100 people to attend.

October 6 Dale Cooper Courting God

Two favorite Biblical descriptions of God’s relationship to his people are parent-child and husband-wife. Both imply the invitation to grow and mature in this relationship. This growth, however, is neither automatic nor instantaneous. How do we grow in our relationship with God? What are some of the time tested practices by which we can “court” God?

Dale Cooper is a former chaplain of Calvin Colleges and now serves on the staff of the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship. He is the owner of a 1941 John Deere “B” tractor, whose engine – to his ear – produces a sound “than which none greater can be imagined.”

October 13 Jolene DeHeer Overcoming Worry/Strengthening Our Trust

Worry often pulls us away from loving and trusting God. How can we constructively deal with worry and doubt in our lives and in the lives of our children? Jolene DeHeer helps us think about impact of worry, stress, and doubt and offers practical ideas for strengthening our faith and trust so that the promise of Philippians 4:7 can be experienced in our lives.

Jolene DeHeer’s spiritual journey began at 19 when she met Christ through a suicide attempt. She has experienced God’s grace through many personal difficulties including an air plane crash, a near death encounter with acute pancreatitis, and the grief of 12 miscarriages. Through it all, Jolene has developed a wonderful perspective on facing the difficulties and challenges of life which she shares with a marvelous sense of humor.

October 27 Georgetown Panel Cultivating Spiritual Growth in Family Life

Selected members of Georgetown will share their wisdom offering best practices and what they would have done differently in both raising their families and cultivating spiritual growth as a family.

November 3 Dan Vandersteen Loving God by Loving Our Neighbor

Jesus said to love God is to love our neighbors. The two are inseparably linked. How do we love those whom God places in our lives who very different than us? How do we love those who are difficult to love?

Dan Vandersteen is a counselor at Calvin College's Broene Center. He loves connecting with people and has a passion for helping those who are marginalized or rejected by society or the church. An avid runner, Dan is a veteran of thirty River Bank Runs.

November 10, 17 Book Study Year of Living Like Jesus

A study of Ed Dobson's book in which he chronicles his humbling and inspiring year emulating Jesus' life and teaching. One reviewer states, "You seriously cannot read this book without really growing in your passion to live more like Jesus in the realities of everything we do day to day." This book will be given free of charge to the first hundred people to attend Ed's presentation on September 22.

December 1, 8, 15 Brad Gray First Century Biblical Insights

Understanding the Bible in its cultural, historical, and geographical context provides a depth and richness of understanding Scripture in compelling and often awe-inspiring ways. Brad Gray's presentations explore the first century background of the Bible offering new insights into many familiar passages.

A graduate of Western Theological Seminary, Brad attended the Jerusalem University College and has studied under Ray Vander Laan, founder of That The World May Know Ministries. Brad regularly leads study trips to Israel.

Second Session "Love Each Other"