

Adult Orthodox Christian Study Class
God's Many Splendored Image
Nonna Verna Harrison

Introduction
Study Guide

For the next 12 weeks we will be reviewing, discussing and digesting a fabulous and inspired book entitled God's Many Splendored Image by Nonna Verna Harrison.

In the first Introductory Class, we will set the stage for what promises to be a moving Great Lenten experience for you and our viewers on line. Each week we will delve into, ask and attempt to answer questions that mankind has pondered for centuries. We won't be doing this alone. With the help of our faith and the Holy Fathers we will find some of the answers we need and possibly even open new vistas in our own spiritual life.

What does it mean to be human? Human identity is an unfathomable depth of mystery... There is always more waiting to be discovered and a further mystery that remains beyond our grasp. We are on a journey of discovering that has no end.

Mother Nonna rightly underlines the uniqueness of each human person. We are all created in the image of God and yet we each realize the images in our own distinct way; this is because every human being is endowed with freedom of choice.

What are people for?

Every day we can find a way to question the value of a person's individual existences.
God provides the foundation, meaning and purpose of life for each individual and community and for humankind as a whole.

Human Nature is a cause of weakness, error, ethical lapses – or is it?

Are Christians echoing the toxic message of today's ailing culture without realizing it?

The Good News is that God created us with an inherent capacity for goodness and Christ can help us.

The popular idea that Christians say "human nature is inherently bad" is actually the opposite of what the earliest Christian theologians believed.

The image of God in which we are created (Gen 1:26-27) is at the core of who we are and defines us as humans. Freedom, spiritual perception, connectedness to God, virtues, royal dignity, a vital connection to the natural world, reason, creativity, personal uniqueness, community, mystery and life.

In each chapter we will explain a different facet of one divine image and likeness and map out a path that will lead us towards wholesome and holiness.