

BOLD

Becoming





Participant Learning Guide & Journal

#WeCanDoBoldThings

Join this bible study series on Wonderful Wednesdays!

January 14, 2026 – February 18, 2026

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM (EST)

Location: New River's Zoom Room

For zoom link, go to www.newriverphilly.org

Teacher/Facilitator: Rev. Eustacia Moffett Marshall, PhD, Senior Pastor

About the *Bold Becoming* Bible Study Series

Greetings!

Thank you for your interest in bible study. The *Bold Becoming* series invites learners into a season of holy formation as we explore who God has called us to become so that we can take *bold steps forward*.

Over six weeks, we'll reflect on:

- How God meets us in struggle and shapes us through it,
- What we must release to move forward with freedom,
- The power of faithful small steps,
- How to wait for God's vision without losing hope,
- Why disruption can be a doorway to transformation, and
- How grounding our identity in God and embracing sacred boundaries gives us courage to take bold steps forward.

Following this series, we will transition into a Lenten-themed study, *Bold Steps. Sacred Boundaries*, where we will glean from Jesus' journey to the cross and discern what God is calling us to carry, what we must release, and how faithful limits support our faith, our well-being, and our movement forward.

My prayer is that these bible studies will strengthen our faith and prepare our minds, bodies, and souls for the holy, bold work God is doing within us and among us.

Grace and peace be with you,



Rev. Dr. Eustacia Moffett Marshall

Week 1 | January 14, 2026

Becoming Begins with Encounter

Scripture · Genesis 32:22–32

Big Idea:

Bold becoming begins when we stop running and stay present with God. God often meets us most deeply in struggle, rather than certainty.

Reflect:

- Where in your life are you wrestling right now?
- How has struggle shaped your faith? What has struggle taught you about yourself or God?

Practice:

Name the wrestling: Name one unresolved place you want to bring before God this year.

Pray: “God, I bring you this place of struggle. Meet me here.”

Blessing

May the God who meets you in the struggle, bless you as you walk forward.



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Week 2 | January 21, 2026
Becoming Requires Release
Scripture · Exodus 3:1–6

Big Idea:

Bold steps require releasing what cannot travel with us. Before God sends us forward, God often asks us to let something go.

Reflect:

- What might God be asking you to take off?
- What makes release difficult for you?

Practice:

The Open Hand Prayer: Hold your hands open and silently name what you are releasing.

Blessing:

May God loosen your grip and free your hands so you can receive what comes next.



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Week 3 | January 28, 2026
Becoming Happens in Faithful Small Steps
Scripture · Ruth 1:16-18; 2:2-3

Big Idea:

Not all boldness is loud. Bold becoming is often quiet, faithful, and unseen.

Reflect:

- Where are you being called to faithfulness rather than visibility?
- What small step feels costly right now?

Practice:

Faithful Step Reflection: Write one small faithful step you will take this week.

Pray: "God, grant me grace to take the step that pleases you."

Blessing

May God meet you in the field where you faithfully labor.



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Week 4 | February 4, 2026

Becoming Means Learning to Discern God's Vision

Scripture · Habakkuk 2:1-3

Big Idea:

Bold becoming requires learning how to wait, see, and trust *God's* vision—especially when fulfillment feels delayed. Waiting on God is disciplined attentiveness, not inactivity.

Reflect:

- Where are you tempted to rush God's timing?
- What does it look like to stand at the watch post?

Practice:

Write the Vision: Write one sentence naming what God is forming within you and/or our church.

Pray: "God, form me as You will."

Blessing

May God give you the patience to wait, the courage to trust, and the faith to believe that the vision (though slow) is sure.



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Week 5 | February 11, 2026

Becoming is Shaped Through Disruption

Scripture · Acts 9:1-9

Big Idea:

Sometimes bold becoming involves being stopped. God stops us in order to realign us.

Reflect:

- What disruptions have reshaped your life?
- What certainty might God be inviting you to re-examine? Where you have been certain but possibly misaligned?

Practice:

Holy Pause: Sit in silence and invite God to reveal needs realignment.

Pray: Speak Lord, your servant is listening.

Blessing:

May God interrupt you only to realign you.



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Week 6 | February 18, 2026 (Ash Wednesday)

Becoming Leads to Bold Steps Forward

Scripture · Matthew 4:1-11

Big Idea:

Bold steps are grounded in a clear sense of identity. The wilderness is often the place of identity formation. We become through the wilderness

Reflect:

- What does the wilderness represent in your life right now?
- What bold step is God calling you to take?
- What temptation or fear threatens to pull you off course?

Practice:

Naming Sacred Boundaries: Name one boundary you need to embrace in this Lenten season—rest, prayer, saying no, limiting distractions, or fasting—in order to take faithful and bold steps forward.

Pray: “Lord, teach us to embrace sacred boundaries that return us to who you created us to be.”

Blessing:

As you step into this wilderness season, may you trust who God says you are, honor the boundaries that guard your soul, and take bold steps forward into God’s purpose.



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