



Recovering Our Public Voice

G26080402

with Jeff Cover

August 23-29, 2026

Welcome to “Recovering Our Public Voice”

What do arguments at the dinner table over religion and politics, attending school board and town council meetings, volunteering in your community and issues of church and state have in common? They are all aspects of public life.

We might expect Scripture to have something to say about this controversial part of life, and it surely does. But we have to dig a bit for its guidance. The Bible’s context and ours are quite different. It turns out though, that all sorts of biblical people were called by God out of private life into the challenges of public life. Most of them resisted mightily.

Our spiritual ancestors have much to teach us about trying to be faithful to Jesus Christ today in the world he came to love, serve and bring back into relationship with God. Our study book, *Going Public: How Biblical People Help Us Find Our Voice for Public Life*, will get you thinking and acting on your



beliefs in new ways, giving you resources you may not have realized you have for being a person of faith in a democracy today. Spiritual resources for social compassion are especially needed for this trying time in our national life. This discussion-based workshop will give you encouragement to engage your own faith environment in a similar adventure.

By the end of this workshop you will have:

- discovered role models in Scripture with whom you identify
- practiced three ways of discerning God's call in your life
- learned which approach to public life is favored in your faith community
- outlined which steps are next for you in your public calling

I look forward to having this conversation with you as a community of learners.

Jeff Cover

Workshop Itinerary:

Sunday Afternoon

3:00 pm Check in

6:30–7:00 pm Ghost Ranch Orientation

7:00–8:30 pm Intro/Course Overview

Preface/"Defecting in Place" (Shiphrah & Puah) 1.5

GHOST RANCH



Monday

9:00-11:00 am Reluctant Spokesperson for God (Moses) 3.5

2:00-4:00 pm "A Mother of Israel" (Deborah)/"A Reluctant Hero" (Gideon) 5.5

Tuesday

9:00-11:00 am "Who Struggles for God" (Elijah)/"Unseen Hosts Around Us" (Elisha) 7.5

2:00-4:00 pm "On Not Leaving It to the Experts" (Amos) 9.5

Wednesday

9:00 am-noon "The Experience of Exile" (Isaiah) 12.5

2:00-4:00 pm "Reluctant Prophet for God" (Jeremiah) 14.5

Thursday

9:00-11:00 am "Prayer in Persecution" (Daniel)/"For Such a Time as This" (Esther) 16.5

2:00-4:00 pm "A Fish Tale" (Jonah)/"The Ministry of Standing By" (Mary) 18.5

Friday

9:00 am-noon "The Paradigm for Public Life" (Jesus) 21.5

2:00-4:00 pm "Fear God. Honor the Emperor" (Peter & Paul) 23.5

Saturday Morning

8:30-10:00 am "How, Then, Shall We Live?" 25.0

10:00 am Check-Out



(How and where to integrate spiritual practices: Lectio Divina, Great Ball of Merit, Intercessory prayer for our leaders, our adversaries and the world, Lament, Start Close In exercise)

Please Bring:

Notebook for taking notes and writing implement

Your Bible (feel free to bring various translations)

Going Public: How Biblical People Help Us Find Our Voice for Public Life

(Available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble or Outskirts Press)