**Discussion questions for September 10, 2022**

**Session 1: Discussion questions**How would you explain the claim that the Bible, read and interpreted, is “the word of God”?

How do you understand the relationship between the Old and New Testaments?

**Session 2: Discussion questions**When you read or hear biblical stories, how do you imagine the scene, and what factors have shaped your imagination?

What do you make of the fact that almost every part of the Bible uses ways of communication and religious concepts borrowed from the surrounding “pagan” culture?

**Session 3: Discussion questions**What do you think of the commonly made statement that Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are “Abrahamic” and hence monotheistic religions?

What are some of the major differences between Second Temple Judaism and Rabbinic Judaism?

How would you describe the transition from Christianity as a movement within Judaism to Christianity as a movement distinct from Judaism?

**Session 4: Discussion questions**Do you think it is possible and worthwhile to interpret a text in accord with the writer’s intention?

Can a text have implications for matters that it does not specifically address?

What do you think of interpretation that is admittedly done from the perspective of a particular interest group?