

Faith in Action Study Guide for:

The Divine Design - How to Spiritually Interpret Your Life, by Carole M. Lunde



“Do not be concerned whether your interpretations will be right or wrong. There is no right or wrong. There is simply your expression at the place in your understanding you have achieved so far. This is an individual spiritual journey, not a contest. You will not be graded or ranked. You will be lifted up to greater understanding than you now have. You are right in the middle of your journey, and everyone else is right in the middle of theirs. Don’t bother to compare yourself to others to see who is farther along. There is no such thing. You may be an old soul learning new things, or a new soul learning ancient things. Only your soul knows for sure, and it is not your spiritual business to worry about it.” – The Divine Design, page 51

Welcome to our Faith in Action Book Study! I first read The Divine Design last year. It was required reading for the SEE course “Metaphysics 1”, which I took as part of my commitment to fulfill the SEE requirements I need to take in order to remain your Spiritual Leader. It was taught by Carole M. Lunde, the author of this book. I remember picking up the book with a sigh, and thinking, “Oh, no, not another book on Metaphysics!” But any reticence I had quickly turned to eagerness, and I found myself devouring each page. The author’s generous and loving way with words drew me in like a warm hug. It quickly became apparent that she lives and moves and has her entire Being in Metaphysics, and that she has found a way to turn every challenge in her life into a triumph. She’s lovable, funny, entirely original, and she makes even the loftiest of Metaphysical concepts understandable.

The second time I read The Divine Design was to help me prepare to write up the discussion guidelines for our FIA gatherings, and I was bowled over once again by the author’s deep inciteful, and playful wisdom. To put it bluntly: the woman knows her stuff!

In order to jump right into our discussion groups, it will help enormously if you come to the experience having already written your life story. For instructions on how to write your life story, please visit chapter 2, pages 8 through 12. During the course of our FIA meetings, you will be writing and examining two stories: your life story, and your cosmic story. The life story is the building block for the rest of the book, so you won’t want to skip that step. Don’t worry if you get stuck in writing either of these stories, as you will have plenty of opportunity to revisit them and tweak them when your heart calls you to do so.

I hope you will enjoy being in the classroom with Carole M. Lunde as much as I have!

And now...

Before doing anything else, let's make some important agreements with each other. Would someone please read these agreements?

Mutual Agreements for "The Divine Design"

Unless I am speaking, I will place myself on mute.

I will turn off my phone or place it on vibrate.

I am mindful that only one person speaks at a time.

I will be a generous listener.

I honor the boundaries of confidentiality established.

I create my own space of safety and personal need.

I use "I" statements when speaking.

I realize that what I share is my personal perception and that everyone has a right to their own perception.

I will respect the time frames established by arriving to our Zoom gathering 5 minutes early. If I am late, I understand that I will be placed in the waiting room and will be admitted into the room when it is appropriate.

I will do my best to have fun with all of the homework assignments, especially the ones I don't feel I need to do.

I will remember that no one is either ahead of me or behind me on the spiritual path.

Thank you! Does everyone say "Yes" to these agreements?



Alright, then! Let's go!

Since we will be meeting 8 times over the course of 8 weeks, I have divided the book into 8 discussion segments.

September 30th – Chapter One: What is Spiritual Interpretation? Chapter Two: What Is In a Lifetime? Chapter Three: Getting to the Blessing

October 7th – Chapter Four: Finding God's Threads, Chapter Five: Faith, Chapter Six: Strength, Chapter Seven: Wisdom

October 14th - Chapter Eight: Love, Chapter Nine: Power, Chapter Ten: Imagination, Chapter Eleven: Understanding

October 21st Chapter Twelve: Will, Chapter Thirteen: Order, Chapter Fourteen: Zeal, Chapter Fifteen: Purification, Chapter Sixteen: Life

October 28th Chapter Seventeen: Creating Your Cosmic Story, Chapter Eighteen: Cosmic Stories by Former Students, Chapter Nineteen: Getting Out Of The Swamp Of Confusion

November 4th – Chapter Twenty: God Bytes, Chapter Twenty-One: Making Sense Of me, Chapter Twenty-Two: Finding Your Purpose

November 11th-Chapter Twenty-Three: Getting Into Heaven, Chapter Twenty-Four: Asking For The Plan, Chapter Twenty-Five: What Is Your Part In The Greater Picture?

November 18th Chapter Twenty-Six: Finding God Or The Glass Ceiling, Chapter Twenty-Seven: Creating The New World, Chapter Twenty-Eight: Choosing The Design

So now that everyone can see what we will be discussing when, let's jump into chapters one, two, and three. Rev. Violet Schonhardt, my beloved teacher from seminary, and Barbara Schafer, our beloved Licensed Unity Teacher, will be on board to help facilitate our conversations.



September 30th -Questions to Stir the Soul: Chapters one, two, and three:

- **Did you know that the teachings of Unity are “ultimately aimed at the spiritual interpretation of one’s own life, and the practical everyday living of spiritual principle”?** (page 1)
- **What happens when you think about experiencing “a new way of being”?**
- **Why should we bother to spiritually interpret our lives?**
- **Please discuss this sentence found on page 5: “We interpret because we are the curiosity of God discovering who we are.”**
- **How can we neutralize the impact of our early childhood years?**
- **What was it like to write your life story? How did it make you feel?**
- **Please take a moment to ask yourself :“ What story do you need to tell yourself about how you came to occupy your body, be in your particular family, in this century, helping the world to do what it must do?”** (page 14)
- **What did you think of the author’s cosmic story? What did you think of the student’s cosmic stories?**
- **Have someone read the last paragraph on page 19 and then discuss, paying attention to the sentence “We are not all of what God is, but God is all of what we are.”**
- **Homework: Please read the book through chapter seven, or beyond...See you next week!**

October 7th- Questions to Begin Weaving a Pattern: Chapters four, five, six, and seven:

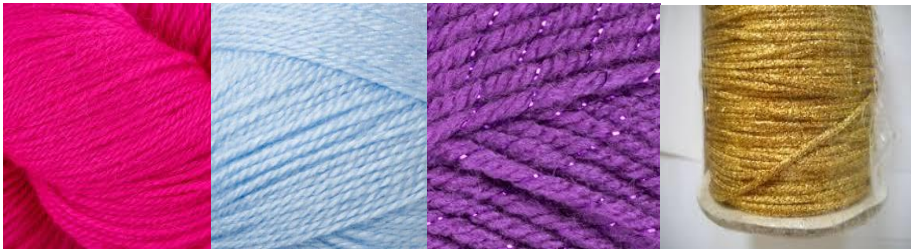


(Note to Students of Paul Hasselbeck: The author’s ordering of the 12 Powers is different from the way Paul Hasselbeck places them in order. Isn’t that interesting?)

- **Can you imagine your “spiritual tapestry” as being woven from 12 different “threads”? What does your spiritual tapestry look like? Are there more colors than 12, and is there a dominance of some colors over others?**
- **Consider this statement made by the author on page 21 and discuss: “Just as one thread cannot make a tapestry, so one power cannot stand alone in a human life.”**
- **Why are there 12 essential threads?**
- **Why do we call upon them in a particular order?**
- **Please describe moments in which you are aware of your faith and moments when you are aware of your doubt.**
- **How is faith “stirred up”?**

- **Why is faith the “starting place of everything you create in your life”?**
- **What is the difference between “blind faith” and “thinking faith”?**
- **The author makes the claim that “Spiritual strength cannot be broken and does not deteriorate the body.” Have you experienced the kind of spiritual strength that Jesus possessed when he went into the desert? (Yes. The more you talk about this with each other, the more you will see your wonderful power of strength.)**
- **Why does faith lead to strength, and why does this power rely on affirmative prayer?**
- **Have you ever prayed for Wisdom? Why?**
- **Why does wisdom bring success?**
- **What is a current belief which is based on the best possible information of our time? Is it true?**
- **Homework: Please read the book through chapter 11 or beyond...See you next week!**

October 14th- Questions to Help Bring In More Color: Chapters eight, nine, ten, and eleven:



- **Why does Love need wisdom, strength, and faith?**
- **The author describes how she temporarily lost her “first love”. Have you ever lost your first love? Are you searching for it now?**
- **Have you ever had an experience where the energy of love was not enough? If so, what could you have done to bring in the “expanded sense of life” that the author refers to on page 31?**
- **Why is “power the most feared, misunderstood, and misused of our gifts from God”? (page 32)**
- **Can your power be taken from you?**
- **What is true power? Why will the tapestry fall apart without it?**
- **Can you describe how “ego power” feels and how true power feels?**
- **What is the difference between “spiritualized imagination” and “imagination misused by the ego nature”?**
- **What is the “fine line between insanity and genius” when it comes to the power of imagination?**
- **How does understanding support imagination?**
- **Can you see how this thread in your pattern has helped you to “reach out and to comfort” others?**
- **Why do we “wander as long as we have not completed the job of understanding.”?**

- *How do you understand Jesus's invitation to "Follow me."?*
- *The Aramaic word "lachma" means both "bread" and "understanding". Why do you think that is?*
- *Homework: Please read the book through chapter 16 and beyond...See you next week!*

October 21st – Questions to Fill Out The Pattern: Chapters twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, and sixteen:



- *Why is the disciple Matthew aligned with the power of will?*
- *Why is will "the cause of our defeat until we put 'ing' on the end of it."?*
- *So... are you willing to be healed?*
- *The author makes the claim that will is often the thread that "tends to knot up." Why is that?*
- *How do we will to will God's will?*
- *How does order help us weave our divine pattern?*
- *Is order an easy or a difficult power for you to access?*
- *You are an artisan. How are you helping to weave a new order of humanity?*
- *How is that zeal can either "light up or burn up"?*
- *When have you felt the power of spiritualized zeal?*
- *Why is it that zeal cannot be used alone?*
- *The author claims that "Every one of us has the power to become a genius when we call forth our zeal through our spiritual nature in our chose field of action." Are you a genius?*
- *The author uses the word "purification" and many other metaphysicians use the word "renunciation" in reference to this next thread. Is there any difference in meaning?*
- *"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." What did Jesus mean by that?*
- *How do you activate the thread of purification?*
- *What is life as you now know it?*
- *What is life as you can create it?*
- *Are you ready for a "more abundant life"? What will you do to co-create it? Are you twelve years old now?*

- **Homework: Please read the book through chapter 19 or beyond. Please begin to write your cosmic story as described in chapter 17 and 18. See you next week!**

October 28th- Beginning to Weave the Cosmic Story: Chapters seventeen, eighteen, and nineteen:



- **What did Jesus mean when he said, “I go to prepare a place for you.”?**
- **Can we do the same for ourselves?**
- **How comfortable are you with knowing that you are a multidimensional being?**
- **How many dimensions do you feel yourself inhabiting today?**
- **What does “preparing your place” have to do with your cosmic story?**
- **Does your cosmic story explain why certain things have happened to you, to those you love, or to the world at large?**
- **As you look at the spiritual vocabulary the author shares on page 50, can you think of any other terms that fit your experience?**
- **What does the author mean when she says, “To interpret our lives is to continue the creative plan for human life, the Divine Design.”?**
- **How much thread do you need in order to create your Divine Design?**
- **Of all the cosmic stories that the author’s students wrote, which one resonated with you the most? Was there a particular story that seemed to have the threads you are hoping to weave into your life?**
- **If God is not confused, why is our confusion about the state of affairs on planet earth helpful?**
- **“...life is not fair. We just have to learn to be fair in it.” What does this mean to you?**
- **When does right win?**
- **Please describe what “being in the world but not of it” means to you.**
- **Please describe what happens when we decide that only our own interpretation of affairs is right.**
- **When you try changing the words “power and control” to “empowerment and command”, what happens inside you?**
- **What does the author mean when she says on the bottom of page 63, “Don’t blame the level. This is its lesson.”**
- **How does God “vindicate” us?**

- **Homework: Please continue reading the book through chapter twenty- two and beyond. And: please do the “Application” on pages 65 and 66. See you next week!**

November 4th – Give Your Cosmic Story a Purposeful and Happy Ending: Chapters twenty, twenty-one, and twenty-two:



- **The author has a wonderful way of inviting us to recognize that “God gives us exactly the wisdom and information we need at the moment we need it.” (page 67) Between “God bytes”, “Flashes”, “Hunches”, “Dreams” , “Guesses”, and “The Open Channel”, how do you practice allowing the wisdom you are to guide you to your greatest good?**
- **Is there one of these doorways that is beckoning to you right now?**
- **Do you have a “code” or a “philosophy” that you use to make sense out of life? What happens when the “code” or “philosophy” doesn’t work anymore?**
- **How can we “open out the way” to our “imprisoned splendor”?**
- **Do you notice that you say “no” to your good? If you do, why do you think this is?**
- **Where do you hide?**
- **We all have moments in which we identify with our Divine Self. When was the last time you identified with yours?**
- **Have you met your “boogie man”? How are you two getting along?**
- **The author states “The fears are perhaps something we will always have with us, but they don’t have to control our lives.” Do you agree or disagree? (no right or wrong answer here, just doors opening to more doors...)**
- **What do you like most about Jesus? What do you like most about yourself?**
- **What would it take to see yourself as a “saint” or a “holy one”, swooning and enthralled with your own soul as the place where the Presence of God is?**

- ***On page 83, the author states “Your purpose has been inside you, calling to you throughout your life.” How do you relate to this statement?***
- ***How does it feel, knowing that your purpose comes from within you, and not from a God on High? Can you identify the “summons from within you”?***
- ***As a “qualified participant” in a universe that could not exist without you, what verb best describes your purpose?***
- ***Jesus said, “I go so that the comforter will come to you.” The author states that “The comforter is the development of our own Christ nature.” How does your purpose encourage your “comforter”?***
- ***What’s the difference between a vocation and a purpose?***
- ***Homework: Please continue reading the book through chapter twenty-five and beyond. Please do the “Activity” on pages 90 and 91. See you next week!***

November 11th- On Earth As It Is In Heaven: Chapters twenty-three, twenty-Four and twenty-Five:



- ***Are you in heaven now?***
- ***What do you think of the author’s statement: “Heaven is the state of mind in which we can see our divinity in all facets of our living.”?***
- ***Let’s ask ourselves the question again: Are you in heaven now? How would you describe your heaven?***
- ***How do you keep yourself out of heaven?***
- ***What does being “teachable, willing, and childlike” mean to you?***
- ***On pages 96 and 97, the author lists several descriptions of heaven. Which of these do you resonate with the most?***
- ***Why did we leave the garden of Eden? Are you glad we did?***
- ***Have you ever asked God for a plan? Why or why not?***

- ***On page 103, the author says, " Asking God is equivalent to staking a claim for what you want." Is it arrogant to claim what we want?***
- ***On page 104, The author states, " You become persuaded by your belief about the area that your prayer is focused on." What does this mean?***
- ***On page 108, the author states that "A paradox is a statement that is seemingly self-contradictory, an argument that arrives at opposite conclusions, seemingly equally valid." Why does paradoxical thinking prepare us for a 4th dimensional point of view?***
- ***Who is your hero or heroine? How are you most like him or her?***
- ***Please ask yourself "Who am I? "and then get up out of your chair right now and walk around your room backwards for a few moments. This is an easy way to get a feel for the 4th dimension. Come back to your chair and let yourself write today's answer for three minutes. What have you written?***
- ***If you were to create a new civilization, who are the two people you would take with you?***
- ***The author asks, "What theme runs in your heart? What has been your deepest longing? What speaks to you from everywhere as goodness? What always causes your soul to light up? What makes you sit up and take notice?" If your life had a theme... what would it be?***
- ***Do you have a spiritual "rags to riches" story?***
- ***The author lists some dragons she has faced. What are your dragons? What are your helpers?***
- ***Homework: Please continue reading the book through 28 and beyond. (You may have finished reading the book, but there is always a beyond!) Please do the "Activity" on pages 104 through 106. See you next week!***

November 18th- The New World Has Begun: chapters twenty-Six, twenty-Seven, and twenty-Eight:



- ***How do we "develop our godlikeness by using God Mind instead of ego mind."?***
- ***What are you willing to do to develop Universal Consciousness?***

- *What does the author mean by “the glass ceiling”? What do you mean by it?*
- *On page 119, the author states, “Partnership is not an absolute, but a relative term that is developed by choice. Oneness was God’s choice. Partnership is our willing response.” What does this mean to you?*
- *How would you describe “Being God”?*
- *On page 121, the author states, “We, in our original perfect vibrational Christ nature, created and manifested a world, an Earth school in which all things are part of our co-creator’s laboratory and textbook.” Wow. What does this mean to you, oh fabulous creator?*
- *What does it mean that “God doesn’t choose the qualified. God qualifies the chosen.”? (page 122)*
- *Does God forgive us?*
- *What will we take with us into the next dimension?*
- *On page 126, the author states, “The clashing of opposites is being softened.” She wrote those words around 13 years ago. Has the world changed since she wrote those words?*
- *The author reminds us that we can create a new world, but that we can’t do it by “abandoning our planet and leaving the mess behind.” How do you feel about this?*
- *If indeed we do “bring with us what is inside, and we unconsciously recreate the same where -ever we go”, what is our responsibility to the world?*
- *How is anger energy useful?*
- *Can you think of 5 happy events that have happened to you so far today? What does this do for you? What does “to be faithful over a few” mean to you right now?*
- *How does your “good” get in the way of your “greater good”?*
- *Why are we shown the past?*
- *Have you ever asked to see the next dimension that Jesus said he was preparing for us?*
- *Take a few moments and look your life story. Can you thank it and let it go now? Now look at your cosmic story. Is there anything that needs to be changed?*
- *Thinking on into your next dimension, is there anything you “don’t want” there? How can you flip those “don’t wants” into positive affirmations?*
- *Please share what the next dimension will feel like for you, answering some basic questions along the way “Will you have a body? Will you have a voice? Will you be married or in any kind of partnership? Will you have children or a family of any kind? Will you be a particular sex? What will you know about God then that you don’t know now?*
- *The next stage has been called by many names. What do you call it?*
- *The author leaves us with some stunning statements on page 139. One is “God is fascinated to experience the design through us, as us.” Another is “We are the hand of God stretching forth through eternity into creation so that God can experience as well as BE.” Pick either one of these statements or another one of your own choosing and share with us how these words will help you with your Divine Design.*

- ***Finally, the author shares with us this final stunning ribbon to pull through our tapestry: "I believe you can really make a transformation within yourself by spiritually interpreting your life." Do you believe this, too?***
- ***Wow, thanks Devine Designers!! This has been an awesome experience! Give yourselves a huge hug and a big round of applause!***

