

Sharing Stories • RESONANCE
“On Scripture”

Questions for Reflection & Discussion:

1. What is scripture? Come up with your own definition of scripture.

2. Why is scripture important?

3. Dr. Hogan believes scripture is inspired by God both in the writing and in the reading, past and present. What do you believe it means when we say that scripture is inspired by God?

4. Many Christians believe scripture is some sort of mixture between divine and human elements. Discuss what this means to you.

5. There are many different interpretations and understandings of scripture. How do you approach people who believe in a different interpretation of scripture than you? How can we read scripture faithfully despite our differences in understanding?

6. How can we read scripture in community with one another in ways that build God’s kingdom?

7. Each person in this video presents a different metaphor for scripture—a window in a cabin in the woods, bread/food, Eastern Orthodox Iconography, and a tree by the water. What speaks to you about these metaphors? What metaphor would you use to describe scripture?

Disciplines for Practice:

1. Read

Sometimes it's as simple as opening a Bible and prayerfully reading.

2. Presence

When you read scripture, be present to the time and place you are reading. Don't be in a hurry, or read with the intent to finish reading, but really slow down and be present to the words in front of you.

3. Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is an ancient practice meant to help us engage scripture in community and reflect deeper on God's word. This practice has a reader read a passage of scripture four times while the others listen. The first time everyone is simply listening to what is being read, hearing the story. After a brief moment of silent reflection, the passage is read a second time while people meditate on a word or phrase or image that stands out to them. They are then invited to share the word or phrase or image with the rest of the group. Then the passage is read a third time as we pray to discern what God is trying to speak to us through the word or phrase or image that stood out. Again, we are invited to share this with the group. The passage is then read one final time as we contemplate, simply listening for God's voice.

4. Study

Sometimes God calls us to discern deeper knowledge in regards to a passage of scripture. In these cases look to resources such as commentaries, traditional interpretations, and other written works that seek to study the passage you are reading. You can also meet with a small group and study the Bible together.

Bible Passages to Consider:

1. 2 Timothy 3:10-17
2. Romans 10:14-17
3. Psalm 119:105-112
4. Hebrews 4:12-14
5. Matthew 4:1-4
6. Deuteronomy 6:5-8
7. Colossians 3:12-17
8. 1 Peter 1: 22-25

Additional Resources to Consider:

1. How We Got the Bible by Neil R. Lightfoot

2. The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today by Meghan Larissa Good
3. What Do We Do With the Bible? by Richard Rohr
4. Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today by Adam Hamilton
5. The NRSV Renovaré Spiritual Formation Bible
6. Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster
7. How We Got Our Bible by Ralph Earle
8. Grace in the Sermon on the Mount by Charles H. Talbert - <https://www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php/57705.pdf>