

Discussion Questions

July 26, 2020

- 1) What role has studying the Bible (individually or with others) played in your relationship with God? Has it been a significant part of your spiritual journey? Why or why not?
- 2) After trying out one of the methods of Bible study listed below, reflect on that experience. Was this method helpful? Could you see yourself using it again? Do you think this would be a beneficial way to study the Bible with others?
- 3) Prayerfully consider how God might be inviting you to make Bible reading/study a more regular practice in your life. If that were to happen, what do you anticipate you might gain from it?

Studying the Bible for Spiritual Formation

Allowing the Holy Spirit to TEACH, SHAPE, and GUIDE our lives through the study of Scripture

For a narrative text (*a passage that tells a story*):

Tell what happened: *Summarize the passage in your own words.*

Empathize with the characters: *Put yourself in the shoes of each character in the story. What are you thinking and/or feeling?*

Acknowledge what you know and don't know: *What things do you know for sure? What questions do you have?*

Central Point(s): *What main point(s) do you think we can take away from the passage?*

How it relates: *How does this passage relate to your life, or our shared life together, in light of what you/we are currently experiencing?*

For an instructional text (a passage that is part of a letter or sermon):

Summary: *Explain the passage in your own words.*

How it fits: *How does this passage fit within the context of what was happening and/or what was being addressed by the author? How does it fit within the rest of the letter or sermon?*

Acknowledge what you know and don't know: *What things do you know for sure? What questions do you have?*

Point(s): *What is the central point(s) being made?*

Examine & Enlighten: *As you consider the things that are happening in your own life (or in our world), how does this passage speak to your situation and/or feelings? What is God revealing to you through it?*

For a poetic text (ex. a psalm):

Genre: *What genre is the poem (hymn of praise, lament, prophesy, etc.)?*

Underlying Circumstances: *What situation prompted the writing of the poem?*

Images & themes: *What prominent images & themes are present?*

Direction: *What is the movement of the poem? Are there any repeated elements or patterns?*

Examine & Enlighten: *As you consider the things that are happening in your own life (or in our world), how does this passage speak to your situation and/or feelings? What is God revealing to you through it?*