



book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Dwelling in the Word

four simple questions

Historical

What would you like to know about the historical context of this passage in order to better understand it?

Literary

What literary details would help you better understand this passage?

Theological

How do teachings of the Christian faith, from a Lutheran perspective, help you better understand this passage?

Devotional

What do you hear God saying to you in this passage?

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Dwelling in the Word

Four Ways to Approach the Bible*

Devotional Reading

- * What scares, confuses, or challenges me in this text?
- * What delights me in this text?
- * What stories or memories does this text stir in me?
- * What is God up to in this text?

Historical Reading

- * Who wrote this passage?
- * Why was this text written?
- * Where was this text written, and what do we know about that part of the ancient world?
- * How is this text similar to other ancient stories?
- * When was this text written and what do we know about that time in history?

Literary Reading

- * What is the plot?
- * Who are the characters?
- * What is the theme of this passage?
- * What is the setting for this passage?

Lutheran Theological Reading

- * In what ways does this text point to or lead us to Christ?
- * Can other passages in the Bible help us understand or interpret this passage?
- * What is the plain meaning of this text?
- * Is the interpretation we are commending accessible to everyone?

*Taken from *Opening the Book of Faith*, 2008, Augsburg Fortress.

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