

Questions of Faith

Discussion Questions

October 25, 2026

How Can We Approach the Bible?

1. What impacted you most during our worship service together this past Sunday? How would you describe what you experienced? In what ways did you experience encouragement, and in what ways did you experience discomfort?
2. In the message on Sunday, we considered how the Bible approaches us, i.e., the process and history behind how the words on the page (or screen) of the Bible we are reading today came to us. Discuss this process specifically with the words of Jesus in mind. From the moment Jesus spoke, what are the various stages of memory, verbal sharing, writing, copying, translation, etc., that have taken place for us to read them? How might this affect how we approach what we are reading?
3. With the above in mind, why do you think Jesus didn't write a text himself as part of his ministry?
4. In the message on Sunday, we explored various ways we might approach the Bible:
 - a) Like treasure
 - b) With humility and careful respect
 - c) As literature
 - d) As inspired and human
 - e) Individually and in community
 - f) With Jesus as our hermeneutic
 - g) As a faithful and varied practice

Discuss each of these and how they have or could help as you read the Bible. What do you find unhelpful about any of these? What other approaches would be more helpful to you?

5. The speaker on Sunday suggested we might view the Bible as both finite and fathomless. How might this tension impact how we approach Scripture?
6. Take some time to do a sacred reading of Scripture together, as outlined below in the prayer practice for the week. Choose a passage together and appoint a reader. After the practice, share your experience of it with one another, and then spend some time praying for one another.

Practice for This Week: Imaginative Reading of Scripture

Set aside some time this week to read a story from the Bible using your imagination. This is a modified form of an ancient method of reading Scripture developed by Ignatius of Loyola in the 16th century.

Choose one of the following Scriptures (or another one if you'd prefer), and feel free to listen rather than read by using a Bible app or website like www.biblegateway.com.

- Matthew 8:23–27
- Mark 2:1–12
- Luke 15:11–32
- John 21:1–19

Read the Scripture three times. Don't try to think about it or analyze its meaning, but just try to feel it. In the first reading, let yourself sink into the story, immerse yourself in the scene, and become aware of what you see, hear, smell, taste, and touch. Who is there, and what are they doing? How does the situation make you feel? Let the story wash over you and take some moments of silence afterwards. Let yourself become aware of who you identify with in the story. This could be one of the specific characters or someone just present and observing. Who are you drawn to?

Then read the story again. This time, allow yourself to be that person with whom you identified. Experience the story from their perspective, through their eyes, and let your imagination engage with their thoughts and feelings. Again, take some moments of silence after this reading to reflect on the experience.

In the third and final reading, imagine that Jesus is communicating with you in this scene. How does Jesus look at you? What does he say? What do you hear, and how does it make you feel? Sit in silence for a moment after the reading and invite God to speak to your heart.