

Fostering Meaningful Engagement with Scripture

God's Purposes & Promises
shape, inspire, & direct
the vibrant church

God's Purposes & Promises: Key questions

After the first read-through:

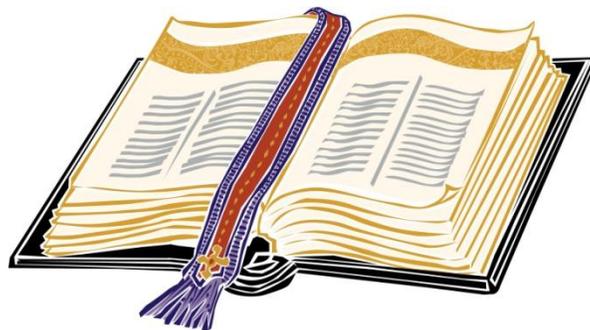
- What word, phrase or image stands out for you in this passage?

After the 2nd read-through:

- Where is God in or behind this text? What is God/Christ/ the Spirit up to in this passage?
- What characteristics of God or The Kingdom are evident?
- What promise for the world do you hear?

After the 3rd read-through:

- Where have you seen or experienced this action of God, tasted this promise of God in your life?
- Where have you seen or experienced this action of God, tasted this promise of God in the Church?
- Do you see God at work in the world fulfilling this promise?
- Is there anything in our worship that this story brings to mind?
- Is there anything in some other aspect of our congregation's life that this story brings to mind?



What To Do:

1. Choose one passage from Scripture for your focus.
2. Begin with prayer.
3. Briefly introduce the passage to the group then divide into smaller groups of 3-5.
4. One member of each small group will read through the passage aloud and ask, "What word, image, or phrase stands out to you from the passage?"
5. Read the passage aloud a second time and discuss the next set of three questions.
6. Join back together as a large group to share what has been discussed.
7. In small groups once again, read through the passage aloud for the third time. Discuss the rest of the questions.
8. Share thoughts as a large group.
9. Close with prayer.

Tips: After you've read through the passage the third time, you don't need to answer the remaining questions in any particular order and you may not have answers for all of them.

If you'd like to address another Scripture passage, give people a 5-minute break and then repeat the process for the next passage.

Encourage people to bring their prayer journals and provide some quiet time for writing. This could be done in between each reading of the passage and/or, if you're having a second passage, you can provide a 10-minute break rather than a 5-minute break.

Remember to set up rules for respectful discussion before you start.



*The goal is not to apply the narrative to our lives, but to
immerse our lives in the narrative,
to allow our lives to be shaped by it.*