

What is the Bible? (Answers from Rob Bell, others, and you!)

FCCLA Seeker's Class - Fall 2017

Full schedule and all articles are linked here: <http://jlharmon.com/bible>

November 19: Where do we go from here?

What is the Bible? chapter 41 “What’s the Best Question to Ask When You’re Reading the Bible?” pp. 289-292

“United by the Word: Finding common ground in lectio divina” by Stephen J. Binz

Video: “Lectio Divina: How to Pray through the Bible” by Christina Miller

<http://blog.bible/bible-engagers-blog/entry/lectio-divina-how-to-pray-through-the-bible>

Rob Bell p. 292: Why did people write this down? What was going on in their world that this was important to them? Why did they feel the need to put words to this? Start with that question. Start with those questions. And see what happens.

Stephen J. Binz: Lectio divina teaches that reading Scripture is less about finding information and more about being formed and transformed. Rather than keeping Scripture at a safe analytical distance, formational reading leads to our encounter with God’s word, opening us to personal engagement with God through the text. We involve ourselves intimately, openly and receptively through what we read. Our goal is not to use the text to acquire more knowledge or to get advice or to form an opinion about the passage. Rather, the inspired text becomes the subject of our reading relationship and we become the object that is acted upon and shaped by Scripture.

The steps of lectio divina:

1. “Lectio” (reading): read the text slowly, pay attention to words/phrases that strike you, picture yourself in the scene. Consider the original context of the passage.
2. “Meditatio” (meditation): Meditate on a word or phrase that stood out to you. What did that word mean to the original audience? Why was it important? Then, what does that word say to you today? Why is it important to you personally?
3. “Oratio” (prayer): Respond to God in prayer. Listen for what action God might be calling you towards.
4. “Contemplatio” (contemplation): Stop and rest in God’s presence, invoked by the reading, meditation, and prayer.

Discussion questions:

1. When you read the Bible, what questions do you come to the text with?
2. How can we figure out “why did people write this down?” when we are reading the Bible for ourselves?
3. What do you hope to get out of reading the Bible?
4. Have any methods or practices for Bible reading been particularly meaningful for you?