



book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Scripture _____

Date _____

FOUR WAYS TO LOOK AT A TEXT

LITERARY

HISTORICAL

THEOLOGICAL

DEVOTIONAL



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THREE GRIDS FOR EXPLORING A TEXT

FIRST GRID

- (1) **Law**
whatever demands, judges or critiques us
- (2) **Gospel**
whatever loves, forgives or encourages us

SECOND GRID

- (3) **Common Motifs**
thematic connections with real life
- (4) **Unique Anomalies**
peculiarities exposing exciting possibilities

THIRD GRID

- (5) **Personal**
what addresses our private and family lives
- (6) **Social**
what addresses our corporate and political lives



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STORIES ON THE JOURNEY OF LIFE

EVENTS IN THE STORY

List the events in order in this narrative.

EVENTS IN MY LIFE

List the important events in your own life during the past week or month.

See if there are any similarities or connections between the two columns.
Draw lines or arrows between them, and discuss the biblical implications for your own life.

TIME FOR JOURNALING



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THE FOUR QUESTIONS*

FIRST: What does God want for us, according to this text?

SECOND: What hinders this from happening among us?

THIRD: What has God done about this—especially in Christ Jesus and through the cross?

FOURTH: How do we get to respond to and participate in what God is doing in this text?

*based on "The Four Questions," by Dennis Maurer (*Lutheran Partners Online*, Sept./Oct. 2008)



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BIG PICTURE, LITTLE PICTURE

THE BIG PICTURE

List the events or ideas in the order they occur in this larger section.

THE LITTLE PICTURE

Focus on a single specific passage or incident from the larger section.

KEY VERSES

Reflect on one or two verses which are worth remembering.



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SUMMARIZE THE IMPACT

Next to each paragraph in your reading, place a plus sign if it sounds like Gospel, a zero if it sounds like Law, an exclamation point if it offers directions, and a question mark if you don't understand it.

PERSONAL AND FAMILY

COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY

ENCOURAGE - +

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CRITIQUE - 0

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CHALLENGE - !

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PROBE - ?

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