

Reading Theologically

Keys to Good Theological Study



- Pray before you begin

OPENING PRAYER FOR STUDY

We gather together to learn, to grow and to change. Gracious God, help us to move into a deeper understanding of your truth. We lay our lives down before you and ask that you would move amongst us. May we all feel safe with each other. Safe to think and question, safe to ask for help, and safe to share our lives with each other and with you. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, Redeemer, Saviour, Pattern of Life. Amen.

- Keep an open heart and mind.
- Remember that there is no one correct interpretation of the sacred text. Allow yourself to hear others thoughts, and heartfelt beliefs.
- Ask lots of questions.
- Share only what you feel comfortable sharing.
- Hug the details. Pay attention to what sticks out to you in the biblical narrative. Notice what grabs your attention. And, in particular, focus on those elements of the story that you just plain love or find absolutely vexing, because at those places of great joy and challenge you will most often find answers (or more questions, or both).
- Take some notes.
 - A 2-sided note taking sheet has been included in this package. You may need to make multiple copies.

- Read different versions of the sacred text and take note of the differences. Identify whether you are reading a translation or a paraphrase.
- Explore the historical and cultural context of what you are reading.
- Consult a wide theological diversity of commentaries. Traditional and contemporary thoughts.
- Make study a regular part of your faith journey.

- End with prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER FOR STUDY

God of all Creation, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Thank you that we can live in your light and walk in your truth. May the things that you have revealed and thoughts that we have shared dwell in our hearts and stir us to action. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, Redeemer, Saviour, Pattern of Life. Amen.

HUG THE DETAILS

Citation

PAY ATTENTION ~ WHAT GRABBED YOUR ATTENTION? WHAT DO YOU LOVE AND WHAT CONCERNS/CONFOUNDS YOU?

HISTORICAL, CULTURAL CONTEXT - AUTHOR AND AUDIENCE

MAIN PLAYERS IN THE TEXT - WHO, WHEN AND WHERE

WHAT I LEARNED AND QUESTIONS I HAVE

HUG THE DETAILS

Commentaries

OTHER RELATED SCRIPTURES

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED ABOUT THE DIVINE - GOD, JESUS THE CHRIST, SPIRIT?

DOES THIS ANCIENT TEXT HAVE ANY RELEVANCE FOR MY LIFE AND LIVING TODAY? IF SO WHAT?

OTHER QUESTIONS AND THOUGHTS
