



Reading the Bible History and Literature

Interpreting the Text:

1. How do scholars of the Bible attempt to locate the stories in the Bible in historical times and places? Why are these efforts sometimes helpful, and sometimes not so helpful?
2. To the surprise of some, the Bible is an action-packed drama full of violence, scandal, love, and miracles. How do these captivating details make the Bible more than a religious handbook? Why might the Bible include such entertaining tales?
3. Miracles take place in both the Hebrew Bible and the Christian New Testament. What are some ways that scholars approach miracles? How have you interpreted miracles in your own reading of the Bible?

Applying the Text:

1. How do you see the Bible, as primarily history (to be treated as an account of actual events that took place) or primarily mythology (to be treated as a source of wisdom or moral teaching stories)? Do you see the two testaments differently?
2. Think of a story from the Bible that you know the best. Why does it stick with you? What is the message of this particular story?
3. Do you consider the Bible “easy” to read? Are some sections more enjoyable to read than others? Why do you think this is? Does hearing these stories read aloud change how you experience them?