



THE RESTORATION PROJECT: The Basics

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM, Fireside Room

Basic Bible

Part Two: *Reading Together*

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Some Refresher

- Ways Episcopalians read the Bible
 1. Biblical-Critical or Historical-Critical Method
 2. In Worship – Eucharist, the Daily Office, Rites of Initiation, and Pastoral Offices
 3. In private devotion
 4. In Communal Study – Lectio Divina, Gospel Based Discipleship, Dwelling in the Word, African Bible Study
- Bible as Scripture, part of Three-legged Stool – Anglican sources of authority
- Bible as God's Word – God is speaking to us if we are willing to enter into the story, to ask what it is we need to hear, where we fit, relate, and connect with the text
- Bible as a diverse compendium of sources – like an English Literature Anthology, but covering a much larger stretch of time
- Bible as History – Read *Being Christian* pp. 31-33
- Bible as the story of God most clearly expressed in Jesus

“Before they left the garden, God whispered a promise to Adam and Eve: ‘It will not always be so! I will come to rescue you! And when I do, I’m going to do battle against the snake. I’ll get rid of the sin and the dark and the sadness you let in here. I’m coming back for you!’ And he would. One day, God himself would come.” (*The Jesus Storybook Bible*, Sally Lloyd-Jones)
- Reading the Bible as faithful discipleship – Reading the whole, not just the parts that seem to fit.

Dwelling in the Word

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

*What words or phrases, ideas or concepts, caught your attention and your imagination?
What questions or ideas would you like to revisit with a Biblical scholar or look up in a Bible concordance or scholarly text?*

Resources for Further Study

Being Christian, Rowan Williams

Opening the Bible, Roger Ferlo

Engaging the Word, Michael Johnston

The Heart of Christianity, Marcus Borg

The Meaning of Jesus, Tom Wright and Marcus Borg

Reading the Bible Again for the First Time, Marcus Borg

Scripture and the Authority of God: How to Read the Bible Today