

# How to Read the Bible

## Part 1: Becoming Aware of Interpretive Lenses

# TOGETHER

### Guiding Principle

*Do not be deceived...you reap whatever you sow. Galatians 6:7*

- What you bring to Scripture has a direct relationship to what you take from Scripture.

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us...John 1:1*

- The Word of God is **Jesus**. The Bible is the word *about* the Word of God.

*Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Colossians 3:12*

- Humility is knowing our limits and playing within them.

### Examples of Interpretive Lenses being used in Scripture

- Genesis 1 & 2
- 2 Samuel 24 & 1 Chronicles 21
- Matthew, Mark, Luke & John

### Discovering what you bring to Scripture.

- Religious Background
- Favourite Bible Story
- Spiritual Trauma
- Spiritual Influences
- Primary Image of God
- Opinion of the Bible
- Ethnicity & Cultural Background
- Family History
- Education
- Economic Background
- Gender Identity
- Sexual Orientation
- Political Philosophy

**Gathering.** Open with a prayer like this,

- Loving God, the well-spring of life, pour into our hearts the living water of your grace. By your light we see light. Increase our faith, and let us walk in the brightness of your presence; with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Listening.** Watch or listen to the message.

**Wondering.** Spend some time in silence and consider the following.

- I wonder what you liked about the presentation.
- I wonder what challenged you about the presentation.
- I wonder what some of your interpretive lenses are, through which you read Scripture.
- I wonder what your favourite part of Scripture is (a verse, a book, a particular story), and why your heart likes it.
- I wonder if there are interpretive lenses you wish to take off.
- I wonder if there are interpretive lenses you wish to put on.

**Sharing.** Choose a question to share with the group.

**Praying.** Practice the Examination of the Day together.

- For what today are you most grateful for?
- For what today do you need healing?
- Where did you see Christ today?
- Where do you pray for Christ's presence today?

**Commissioning.** Take what you experienced today into your week.

- This week, I want to name and examine my interpretive lenses.
- This week, I want to begin reading my Bible regularly.
- This week, I want to ask someone what their favourite Bible story is and ask them why.

