

SURFACE TO SOUL

Live Well | Lead Well | Coach Well

Five Ways to Engage with Scripture

1 | GET TO KNOW THE STORY OR TEACHING:

- A. Read the story and study it.
- B. Put the story aside and recall it as best you can word for word.
- C. Look to see what you forgot, changed, or added.
- D. Study the story again then recall it again, without looking.
- E. Check again to see how faithful you were to the story.

2 | THINK ABOUT THE STORY AND ASK QUESTIONS.

- A. Pose questions line by line without trying to answer them.
- B. Open up the story in your imagination.
- C. Think about who you resonate with in the story.
- D. Think about the characters and their attitudes and actions.

3 | PRETEND YOU WERE A DIRECTOR INVITED TO STAGE THIS EPISODE.

- A. Imagine the places, the people, the clothes, and the events.
- B. If need be, look some of these things up in a Bible dictionary.
- C. List the characters in the story.
- D. Read the story as if you were one of the characters. Change the pronouns where necessary.

4 | ASK, "WHAT IS IT ABOUT?"

- A. Trace the story line by line, noting what each line means, what happens next, and why.
- B. Ask, "What is at stake in a conflict? What is the solution to a problem?"
- C. Ask, "What are some scenarios for how the story could unfold?"
- D. Ask, "What is the point?"

5 | RELATE YOURSELF AND YOUR LIFE TO THE STORY

- A. How are you like each of the characters?
- B. How does the story suggest you change? Stay the same?
- C. How do the characters relate to each other? Do these relationships suggest changes?
- D. What is the point of the story? How does that point relate to your life?
- E. Close your eyes. Imagine yourself as one of the characters.
- F. Take a theme from the story and state it in a word or phrase.
- G. Think about your own experiences in life of this subject.
- H. Ask yourself: What does this passage have to say to me?



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