

Reading the Bible Step by Step

- Step 1:** PRAY & INVITE – ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to what God wants to say to you; what encouragement, comfort or challenge God has for you
- Step 2:** NOTICE – what words or phrases tug at your heart? What details need paying attention to? Jot these down. You don't have to know why they stand out yet. Don't filter or analyze.
- Step 3:** Use IMAGINATION – place yourself in the story. Who are you? Who do you feel drawn to? Who do you identify with? Who could you *try* to identify with in the story? What does the atmosphere feel like? What does this text stir in you?
- Step 4:** ASK QUESTIONS of the text – what questions are being asked of Jesus? What assumptions are being challenged? Who's angry? Why? Who's being healed? What are the responses?

Note: It is better to sit and soak in a passage for days or weeks – to read deeply – rather than to read a lot .

Some narrative passages to start with:

Mark 5:21-34 – Jesus heals a hemorrhaging woman

Mark 10:46-52 – Blind Bartimaeus is healed

Luke 7:1-9 – Jesus and the Centurion

Luke 13:10-17 – Jesus heals on the Sabbath

Luke 19:1-10 – Zacchaeus

Luke 10:38-42 – Mary & Martha

John 8:1-11 – Woman caught in adultery

John 9:13-34 – Healed blind man

John 11:1-16 – Death of Lazarus

John 11:17-37 – Jesus weeps for Lazarus

John 11:38-46 – Jesus raises Lazarus