



# book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

## Book of Faith Resources

Increasing biblical literacy and fluency for the sake of the world. Many new studies for Lutherans with beginner to advanced biblical knowledge.

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Evangelical Lutheran  
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AUGSBURG FORTRESS

# Open Scripture

## Four Ways to Approach the Bible\*

### Devotional Reading

- ✿ What scares, confuses, or challenges me in this text?
- ✿ What delights me in this text?
- ✿ What stories or memories does this text stir in me?
- ✿ What is God up to in this text?

### Historical Reading

- ✿ Who wrote this passage?
- ✿ Why was this text written?
- ✿ Where was this text written, and what do we know about that part of the ancient world?
- ✿ How is this text similar to other ancient stories?
- ✿ When was this text written and what do we know about that time in history?

### Literary Reading

- ✿ What is the plot?
- ✿ Who are the characters?
- ✿ What is the theme of this passage?
- ✿ What is the setting for this passage?

### Lutheran Theological Reading

- ✿ In what ways does this text point to or lead us to Christ?
- ✿ Can other passages in the Bible help us understand or interpret this passage?
- ✿ What is the plain meaning of this text?
- ✿ Is the interpretation we are commending accessible to everyone?

\*Taken from *Opening the Book of Faith*, 2008, Augsburg Fortress.

