

Lutheran FAQ: How Do Lutherans Read the Bible?

If you had a friend who was just starting to read the Bible, what advice would you give them?

Who are some of the people who help you understand what God is saying to you?

What books of the Bible are especially meaningful for you right now? _____

Luther talks about the Word of God being (1) Jesus Christ, (2) the spoken tradition, and (3) the written Scripture. When have you heard a story that has "official" and "unofficial" versions? (Many family stories, for example, have different details depending on the teller.) _____

When you hear two friends tell different versions of the same story, how do you know what to believe? _____

What Bible verses or stories are a struggle for you? _____

How does it help to think that the Scriptures center on Jesus? _____

Why is it important to read the Bible with other Christians? _____

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If you had a friend who was just starting to read the Bible, what advice would you give them? _____

What questions do you have about how Lutherans read the Bible? _____

Luther talks about the Word of God being (1) Jesus Christ, (2) the spoken tradition, and (3) the written Scripture. When have you heard a story that has "official" and "unofficial" versions? (Many family stories, for example, have different details depending on the teller.) How do you know which one to believe? Which one to share? _____

How does it help you understand hard passages in the Bible to know that the Scriptures center on Jesus? _____

Which parts of the Bible are easiest for you to understand? Which ones are harder? _____

Why is it important to read the Bible with other Christians? _____

Deeper Dive:

- The Lutheran Study Bible (sold by Augsburg Fortress) has an excellent introduction to this topic.
- *Sanctified Vision* by O'Keefe and Reno presents the ancient four-fold way of interpreting Scripture.
- Other writings can be found by looking up "hermeneutics" (her-man-OOH-ticks).
- EnterTheBible.org is a wonderful resource from Luther Seminary on the Bible itself.