

Appendix B A Different Way to Read the Bible: A 3-Step Process

Step 1. Read the selected scripture (the “story”).

Step 2. Ask “Why” 5 times (or more).

- Why? Why did the author feel the need to write this down?
- Why? What would this story have meant to the audience of that time (i.e. context)? Why is it important? (E.g. Was the audience under suppression? Was their society in upheaval at that time? Are there competing alternative responses to the situation?) Review a *Bible* commentary, *Wikipedia*, *Google*, or other resources. Look for original Hebrew or Greek translations of key words. Attempt to identify any cultural context of the times.
- Why? Examine the wording or phrases. Do any seem out of place or hint at a deeper meaning. Look for hidden meaning. E.g. What did Jesus write in the dirt when he bent down as the Pharisees questioned him about what the Law commanded be done with the adulterous woman? (Jn 8:1-11) Why?
- Why? What are the sections before and after the scripture? How does the book begin & how does it end? Are there other similar stories in other books of the *OT* & *NT*? Why was this story placed in this order in the book?

Step 3. How does this story relate to our lives today? How might we behave differently & communally as a result of this story? Why?

Bell, 15, 78

Source: *A Different Way to Read the Bible Syllabus, Study Guide, and Meditations*.
www.christchurchchattanooga.org, “Christian Education”, tab “A Different Way to Read the Bible”.

Application Homework: *Jesus, the Pharisees, & the Adulterer* (Jn 8:1-11). Complete the 3-step process, record your discoveries, & bring to class.

Step 1. Read the Scripture.

Step 2. Ask “Why” 5 Times. Record your insights below.

Step 3. How does this story relate to our lives today? How might we behave differently & communally as a result of this story? Why?
