

Reflection Beginning with Scripture

This method of theological reflection focuses on a selection from Scripture and uses it as the starting point for reflection. The passage may come from the week, or the group may select a passage that is of special interest.

1. SELECT A PIECE OF SCRIPTURE

- A person in the group reads the selected passage of Scripture.
- Be silent for a couple of minutes.

2. FIRST RESPONSES

- What word or phrase stands out for you? Share this in the group.

3. HEAR THE PASSAGE AGAIN

- Another person reads the selected passage again. Perhaps a different translation may be used. The group is silent for a couple of minutes.

4. EXAMINE THE PASSAGE

- What do you know about the meaning of the text or its original setting?
- What is happening in the text? What is going on?
- How have others interpreted this text? What kind of a text is this? (sermon, parable, etc.)
- What might it mean today?

Identifying

Process Note: Beginning a reflection from a Bible passage readings can be very helpful and reassuring to some students. If your group finds it difficult to use

This method is also useful if you encounter a Bible passage of portion of our tradition which needs clarification and exploration.

When the group selects a text to use, be sure that it is sufficient to allow for context. Reading a text “out of context” may lead to misreading and false notions.

Exploring

5. EXAMINE THE TRADITION

- What is the world like in this passage?
- What human predicament in the world is revealed in this passage?
- What indicates a change of mind, heart, or behavior?
- What gives rise to celebration in this world?

Connecting

6. MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH OUR OWN EXPERIENCE (ACTION)

- With whom do you identify in this passage?
- Can you recall a time in your life when you experienced an event or situation similar to the one in the passage? What were your thoughts and feelings?
- What does that event or situation mean to you in light of this passage?
- In what way does the tradition support, inform, and/or challenge your experience?

7. LOOK AT CULTURE

- What does the culture say about the world described in this passage?

8. WHAT IS MY POSITION?

- Where do you stand? What do you believe about the matters or issues raised in the reflection? What is your position on this matter?

Applying

9. IDENTIFY INSIGHTS

- What new insights have emerged as a result of this reflection? What can you affirm or state that you have learned?

Process Note: In the action/ reflection model of education emphasized in EFM, this becomes a very important step. Pursue it carefully lest the reflection remain ethereal and thus lack both substance and results.

Process Note: This is a very broad question. It may help the group to focus on one or two elements of culture. Remember that culture is not something bad.

Process Note: Be sure to allow sufficient time and energy for this step. This is when you will glean the results of your reflective work.

10. IMPLICATIONS FOR ACTION

- Is there anything you intend to do differently as you live out your ministry?
What help might you need to carry out your intentions?
- What are the consequences for others and for the future?

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See page 24ff for variations at www.sewanee.edu/EFM/Forms/MentorManual0207.pdf