

# How to Read *[interpret]* the Bible Syllabus

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## Session 1

- How do you presently relate to the Bible?
- The Interpretation Continuum
- ELCA Constitutional statement
- Inerrant? Literal? or just another old book?
- Types of literature in the Bible
- Bible as cradle

### Reflection Paper (3 to 6 pages)

1. Pick out a book in the Bible to read and ponder.
2. Are there any sections or verses that are best not taken literally? If so give a few examples.
3. What sections, verses, stories or images became “living word” for you? Explain.

## Session 2

- Interpretative tools
- Putting the tools to work
- Interpretative considerations

### Reflection Paper (3 to 6 pages)

1. Each participant will receive a set of interpretive materials.
2. Give examples of sections or verses in which interpretive tools were used by the scholar.
3. Were there new insights to be gained from the interpretive tools?

## Session 3

- Establishing relevance
- Blinding and loosing
- Law and gospel
- Putting these tools to work

### Reflection Paper (3 to 6 pages)

1. Select 3 or 4 portions of scripture from different books of the Bible that are good examples of scripture that may not be relevant to those of us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Give reasons for your thinking.
2. Select a portion of scripture from each of the four gospels and in each discuss where you find law and where you find gospel in each.