



Encountering Scripture

About this Faith Practice

Christian scripture includes books from the Hebrew tradition as well as New Testament stories of Jesus and the early church. Some Christian traditions also include the Apocrypha. Through a divine and human process, scripture is gathered in the Bible. As Christians, we believe that scripture is the living word of God. It is central to our faith as individuals and as a community. In our encounter with scripture, God meets us and we meet God. Scripture is our family story, holding us together in Christian community. These sacred texts help us to listen in our diversity and to find common language amid controversy. We actively engage with the Bible—sometimes we challenge and struggle with scripture and sometimes scripture challenges and unsettles us. Because the Bible has been used to judge, condemn, or hurt, we have a responsibly and a calling as God’s people to remove fear, distrust, and disempowerment and to move toward confidence, empowerment, and love.

Let’s Begin...

Now that you’ve downloaded the files for your faith practice and age group or setting, you can get started planning one or multiple sessions:

- 1 **Open the .pdf file for your age group or setting. Choose an Exploration, the approach you think will help your group to best experience the faith practice. Choose any one of the following Explorations to use for one session:**



Discovery



Scripture



Discipleship



Christian Tradition



Context and Mission



Future and Vision

Note: If you’re planning multiple sessions, you can follow the order suggested above or feel free to use any order that fits the needs of your group. Some groups may choose to start with Scripture and then see where that leads them. Others may be more ready to act in their community and might want to start with Context and Mission.

- 2 **Locate the Exploration you’ve chosen**

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3 Look through all 9 activities and select the ones you would like to do with your group.

- If you're planning a 30–45 minute session, choose 3 activities.
- It is best to select at least one activity from Exploring and Engaging, at least one from Discerning and Deciding, and at least one from Sending and Serving.
- For 45 minutes to 1 hour, choose 4 or 5 activities.
- For a 1½ to 2-hour session, you can use all 9 activities.

Tip: Look for this symbol  to find activities designed for Easy Preparation (able to be done with minimal preparation using supplies normally found at the church).

4 Make copies of any handouts () related to your activities. Order posters () if using art (see “Ordering Posters,” below).

Use of Art, Music, and Scripture in Faith Practices

Faith Practices activities include many opportunities to grow in faith through the use of scripture, music, and art.

Ordering Posters

If you choose activities that use an art image, you or your church will need to purchase posters of the art by clicking on the link provided in the activity. If you wish to use art, you will need to plan ahead, since it takes 1 to 2 weeks for the posters to arrive after you place your order.

Art

Six posters are used with the faith practice Encountering Scripture and may be ordered by clicking on the links provided.

From Imaging the Word Poster Sets:

“No-Traveller’s Borne” by Jess (https://secure3.convio.net/ucc/site/Ecommerce/1282230595?VIEW_PRODUCT=true&product_id=17101&store_id=1401)

“Baptism of Jesus” by Pheoris West (https://secure3.convio.net/ucc/site/Ecommerce/1282230595?VIEW_PRODUCT=true&product_id=17101&store_id=1401)

“Christ Among the Children” by Emil Nolde (https://secure3.convio.net/ucc/site/Ecommerce/1282230595?VIEW_PRODUCT=true&product_id=17101&store_id=1401)

From Art.com

“Naomi Entreating Ruth and Orpah to Return to the Land of Moab” by William Blake (<http://affiliates.allposters.com/link/redirect.asp?item=1590989&AID=1413628417&PSTID=1<ID=1&lang=1>)

“Hidden Depths” (<http://affiliates.allposters.com/link/redirect.asp?item=416482&AID=1413628417&PSTID=1<ID=1&lang=1>)

“Two Women and a Child” by Diego Rivera (<http://shop.famsf.org/do/product/PostersAndPrintsDeYoungPosters/RIVERA--TWO-WOMEN-AND-A-CHILD-POSTER-R1200>)

Music

Three music selections are used with Encountering Scripture. We have selected music which is easily found in many hymnals. A web link is provided to give more information about each music selection.

We Are Dancing Sarah's Circle, Tune: Jacob's Ladder, 8.8.8.5. (<http://www.theinterpretersfriend.org/songs/w-r-dncg-srh%27s-crcl.html>)

As We Gather at Your Table, Tune: Beach Spring, 8.7.8.7.D.
(<http://www.oremus.org/hymnal/a/a366.html>)

Tune: <http://www.ccel.org/cceh/0001/x000147.htm>

Guide My Feet, Tune: Guide My Feet, 8.8.8.10. (<http://www.hymnsite.com/fws/hymn.cgi?2208>)

Scripture

Twelve Bible passages are used with Encountering Scripture, two with each Exploration.

Discovery	Proverbs 2:1-8	John 21:1-19
Scripture	John 1:1-14	2 Kings 2:1-14
Discipleship	Ruth 1	Acts 8:26-40
Christian Tradition	Psalm 96	2 Timothy 1:1-14
Context and Mission	Mark 4:26-34	Esther 4:1-17
Future and Vision	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Hebrews 11:1-16

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