

Lector Training
Questions to Bring to the Text

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Questions for intellectual understanding

- What kind of writing is before us? Does it present as history? Is it obviously poetry or hymnody? Is it wisdom literature? Is it apocalyptic literature, complete with strange imagery and dire predictions of fearsome events? Is it the Gospel? Are we reading occasional letters from a traveling teacher to a congregation of early Christians?
- When was this text written?
- In what language was it written, and what can we know about the social world and culture of the writer(s) and the audience?
- Are there pertinent issues here in translating Hebrew or Greek into English?
- What were the main concerns of the author and the audience? How are those concerns addressed?
- How can we relate our world to the world in which this text was written? What is relevant to our world today?

Questions for spiritual growth (Godly Play)

- I wonder which part is your favorite?
- I wonder which part is the most important?
- I wonder where you are in the story, or what about the story is especially for you?
- I wonder what we could leave out and still have all the story we need?

Questions for spiritual growth (Lectio Divina)

- What word, phrase, or image jumps out at me first? Why? Do I love it or hate it? Am I confused by it? Is it a surprise?
- How does this passage relate to my life today?
- What is God calling me to do, be, or change as a result of hearing this reading?