

Reading Sacred Scriptures

It's good to ask ourselves and be aware of. . .

- What am I choosing to read?
- Why am I reading?
- How am I reading?
- What do I do with what I'm reading?

Exegesis—“leading out” the message or meaning of the passage
—we seek to draw out what is really there on the page,
in the context (what's being said, how and why)

Eisegesis—“leading into” the passage
—we come to the page with preconceptions, presuppositions,
biases and beliefs about what it says or what it “should” say
(what we bring to the text matters)

Hermeneutics—interpreting the passage
—what tools do we use to make sense of the words?:
Reason? Faith? Meditation? Prayer? Commentaries?
Scholars? Rabbis? Pastors? Who helps or hinders interpretation?

Homiletics—preaching the passage
—homily (discourse, sermon)-instruction for faith/inspiration for action