

What have you noticed about a Lutheran understanding of the bible?

THE BIBLE IS A DYNAMIC BOOK WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF CREEDENCE BUT JESUS AND THE TEACHINGS OF THE GOSPEL ARE ALWAYS CENTRAL.

That the approach to the Scriptures should be that they point to Christ and the Gospel message. We should read it literately rather than literally and not be afraid to grapple with meaning in the context of the type of Scripture (Book) it is.

The reformers made the Bible accessible to all so that it was not an exclusive book available only based on "hierarchy and privilege".

Jesus Christ is the center of God's revelation of Himself to humanity.

The Bible needs to be read in the context it is written. A poem should be read as a poem and a letter should be read as a letter. Not every verse should be read literally and sometimes the verse describes a bigger meaning.

The Bible is God's living word.

It's not founded in a literal interpretation of the bible, rather revisited, reapplied and challenged regularly based on situations and people's experiences

The Bible contains God's word and is the foundation / starting point for knowing God. Central to the Bible is Jesus.

The bible is a story that is used to reflect on and to discuss . A story that we build on and share with others guiding us on a path of beauty, reflection and faith .

It is for everyone

The Word of God:

Which quote/s resonates with you and connects to your context at Grace?

I love Rob Bell's perspective that the scriptures have seventy faces (like a gem) and like a gem you keep reflecting upon it, 'letting the light refract through the various faces in new and unexpected ways'. We see something new each time.

"your cultural / personal experience, and how you perceive reality is going to determine what you pay attention to in scripture and what you don't pay attention to"

"We read it, we let it read us. We dive into their story, discovering our story in the process."

We read the Bible "literately" rather than "literally".

We don't preach the Bible, we preach the Gospel Biblically.

The whole Bible points to Jesus Christ and His saving message to us. Lutherans are Jesus people and the Bible is a Jesus book. We worship Jesus, not the Bible.

"You read it, and you ask questions of it, and you study and analyse and reflect and smile and argue and speculate and discuss."

"The Bible by very nature invites us to wrestle, doubt, imagine and debate"

"My interpretation can only be as inerrant as I am, and that's good to keep in mind" - everyone will have different views/perspectives based on their background and how we accept that view through grace, care and compassion

"Your cultural/personal experience and how you perceive reality is going to determine what you pay attention to.." Your experience with the Bible will depend on your individual journey and needs.

" It's a living book that can actually change you and guide you....if you let it"

"All who call themselves Christian have Jesus at the centre of their story"

"...it is a starting point, not a destination"

"The fundamental story arc of the Bible is God is passionate about rescuing this world, restoring it, renewing it".

What are you curious about?

I wonder about the balance between discipline and grace?

At what point when we revisit the message and apply it to new situations, as spoken by Kirsi Stjerna, does it possibly become misinterpreted?

As we move further away from a literal interpretation (as much as that is possible anyway), what is the aspect(s) that are non-negotiable before it becomes rather meaningless.

Lutheran services seem to be very traditional in structure. Why have they stuck to this? Do people find it accessible to the young people of today? Is this something Lutheran's think is important?

what scripture is more important than other scripture?

I LIKE THE CONCEPT OF APPROACHING THE BIBLE FROM THE RABBINIC TRADITION OF SEVENTY FACES. FOR ME THIS ALLOWS THE BIBLE TO BE A COLLECTION OF STORIES THAT NOT ONLY PROVIDE RELEVANCE TO PEOPLE FROM ALL CULTURES AND BACKGROUNDS. BUT IT BECOMES A MANUSCRIPT THAT PROVIDES COMFORT AND DIRECTION TO INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT THE DIFFERENT STAGES AND PHASES OF THEIR LIFE. NOT ONLY DO DIFFERENT BOOKS OR VERSES BECOME RELEVANT AT DIFFERENT MOMENTS AND CHALLENGES TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE BUT THE MEANING AND INTERPRETATION OF A SINGLE VERSE MAY TRANSFORM OVER TIME BASED UPON YOUR LIFE EXPERIENCES AND NEW BIAS.

"We worship Jesus, not the Bible" - One of the 5 Lutheran Lenses. I'm grappling with what this means to me, when Jesus is at the centre of the Bible.