

# Bible Study Contextual Method – Questions

## Reading us – reading the Bible – reading us

The Bible is not a static text with one correct interpretation. We read the Bible with attention to a web of power relationships in which we exist. Understanding power dynamics in the Bible and in our own context can help us learn to see and use power differently.

### Stage 1 – Self and Context

1. What are you bringing with you today – what joys, concerns, struggles, questions?
2. What are you struggling with in your current personal context? (Family, school, work, church, sociopolitical context)
3. Have you had any critical moments or insights recently about your life?

### Stage 2 – Self and Text

1. Do you have any memories of this text? Do you have a history with it?
2. What do you associate with this text? What are the dynamics between us and the text?

### Stage 3 – Text

1. What voices/interests/theologies/ideologies do we see in the text? How do they relate to each other?
2. Are we aware of different interpretations of the text? How do they relate to each other?
3. Does looking at the power dynamics in the text and its interpretation change how we think about ourselves in relation to the text?

### Stage 4 – Text and Context

1. Is there any relationship between this text and your personal context?
2. Does this text speak to significant moments in your life?

### Stage 5 – Exegeting Context

1. Are there similarities between the dynamics in the text and the dynamics in your context and life experience?
2. With whom or with what words/phrases do you identify in this text?
3. Does your experience of self and identity relate in some way to the struggles/conflicts you see in this text?
4. How does this impact your understanding of your self/identity and personal context? Does this change anything for you? Is there anything you plan to do differently?