

TOOL: Who/What Has Shaped Your View of Scripture

Scripture before screen • Daily



Introduction

The Bible is a complicated book. It can represent transformative experiences, painful memories, redeeming moments, and sometimes, all three at once. We've seen it used in different ways - some as a guide, some as God's Word, some as a weapon, some as a healing balm.

The goal of this resource is for us to begin to open ourselves to noticing who or what has shaped our view of the Bible, and also - begin to notice what we ourselves believe.

Pause and consider

- Before we dive in, take a minute to be honest with yourself and one another. Perhaps we've been a part of cultures where there was a spiritual or social danger in wrestling with scripture. Perhaps, we have felt like scripture was for those who had their lives together or were scholars. Try to notice any fears you have about this conversation.
- What resistance or fear do you have around a conversation about the scripture?

Practice

Instead of practicing a specific tool to use with scripture, we're going to explore how our worldview around scripture has been formed, and how it might shape our interaction with God and the Bible.

Process through the worksheet below:

	Space/community 1	Space/community 2	Space/community 3
What spaces/communities have you been a part of in your life that have shaped you the most? (e.g. your family, churches, friend groups...)			
What would that community say they believe about the Bible?			
From being in this culture, how would you summarize what is believed about the Bible (not what they would say, but what you experienced)?			
What was your view of scripture/the Bible going into this culture/space?			
What was your view of scripture/the Bible coming out of this culture/space?			
What things did you learn that you want to hold on to?			
What things did you learn that you want to leave behind?			

There are two ways we tend to let cultures/spaces shape us: either by conforming to their perspective, or – in our attempt to avoid their way of thinking – we form an opposing view as a reaction.

Keeping that in mind, which of the cultures above are still shaping your view of scripture? Which are you conforming to, and which are you reacting to?

How would you summarize your view of the scripture now? Are there issues that you are working through? And finally, how does this inform your active reading of scripture? This is for you alone – be honest with yourself.

Debrief your experience

After practicing with this tool, debrief your experience with your Praxis Group. Below are some questions to process together:

- Check in on life. (Where are you experiencing Christ's presence this week? What burdens are you carrying?)
- What did you learn from this practice?
- Describe your experience with this practice. (What feelings came up, what went well, what got in the way? How has it impacted your relationship with God?)
- What is the next step for you?