

Assignment for Biblical Foundations, Year Four, Hermeneutics

Books: *The Blue Parakeet: Rethinking How You Read the Bible*, by Scot McKnight (2008 Zondervan).

Write a brief paragraph on each of the following topics, and discuss with your mentoring partner or group:

1. McKnight wants us to think about how we are currently reading scripture. Fill out the questionnaire in Appendix 1 and write a short reflection on the assumptions you are bringing to your own reading of scripture.
2. Thinking about your experience of the use of scripture in your local church, what issues have you encountered with regard to the way scripture is being used? Reflect on at least three different ways that you have seen scripture being used. Feel free to refer to McKnight's shortcuts as mentioned in chapter 3.
3. On page 56 McKnight claims that "context is everything". What does that statement mean? What are the implications for how scripture is read and used in the church?
4. One of the purposes of reading a book like this is to help us see that there are multiple ways of reading and interpreting scripture. While this shows the amazing ability of scripture to speak powerfully at any moment in history, it also reveals a possible weakness in that we can too easily assume our reading is the only legitimate reading. As McKnight cautions us, the opposite is also a danger, not all readings are equally valid. This is the challenge most of us face today in relating scripture to our communities. Reflect on the role that the community could play in interpreting scripture. This question goes beyond McKnight's work, I would also suggest Tim Condor's book *Free for All* (2009) for further exploration.
5. To receive a THOUGHTWORKS Certificate of Completion, please turn in your completed work to your regional THOUGHTWORKS coordinator.