

# Rooted

Finding a relationship with God

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I'm Feeling Lucky



## Discussion Guide for “Is the Bible Literal?”

### *Rooted* Week 14

When do we take the Bible literally? Do we have to believe the whole thing is literal truth? We dive into the book of Jonah for an example of how to read the Bible while taking genre into account. How can reading literarily - not literally - help us know God better?

#### Scriptures for Further Reading

[Jonah 1-4](#)

[2 Timothy 3:15-17](#)

[Psalm 119](#)

[Matthew 5-7](#)

#### Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. You can find a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week’s sacred reading is [Jonah 1-4](#).

#### Questions for Discussion

1. What does it mean to read literally? When is reading literally important?
2. Think about some different genres of writing. How do you distinguish among them when you read?
3. Do you think about genres of writing when you read the Bible? Why or why not?
4. Why is reading *literarily* important? When is it a bad idea to read literally?
5. What is the purpose of the book of Jonah? Discuss how reading Jonah literally impacts this meaning. Discuss how reading Jonah as a novella or short story impacts this meaning.
6. What is the purpose of Scripture? How can you keep that in front of you as you read Scripture this week?