



## Discussion Guide for “How to Read Poetry”

### *How the Bible Works Week 7*

Many of us find poetry to be an impenetrable genre. But the purpose of poetry is to point beyond the limits of language to deep truths of our existence. The Bible is more than a quarter poetry - how does biblical poetry invite us to know the God who is beyond our words about God?

#### **Scriptures for Further Reading**

[Proverbs 1:7-9](#)

[Psalm 1](#)

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

#### **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 [Psalm 8](#).

#### **Questions for Discussion**

1. Do you enjoy reading poetry? Why or why not?
2. Tim claimed that the purpose of poetry is to help us connect with that which is beyond words. What do you hear in that statement?
3. Reread Proverbs 1:7-9. What is parallelism and how does it work?
4. Reread Psalm 1. What is a chiasm? How does it work?
5. What does it look like for you to slow down and listen to Biblical poetry?