



Discussion Guide for “How to Read Epistles”

How the Bible Works Week 11

Faith doesn't have to be an esoteric, theoretical thing. In fact, the letters in the Bible present us a window into how the earliest followers of Jesus navigated the complexities of faithfulness in the real world. How can these letters help us navigate our own faithfulness today?

Scriptures for Further Reading

[Galatians 1:1-7](#)

[Galatians 3:23-29](#)

[Galatians 5:22-23](#)

[1 Thessalonians 1:1-3](#)

[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 [1 Thessalonians](#).

Questions for Discussion

1. Have you ever thought of reading the epistles in Scripture as ‘reading someone else’s mail’? How does that impact how you read them?
2. How does the format of a letter help us begin to interpret the meaning?
3. What issue was facing the Galatian Christians? How did that manifest in their churches?
4. Why was Paul so concerned about this issue? What did he remind them? How is that relevant to our church today?