

# Reading God's Word for Transformation



## Approaching the Text

Read the text. It may even be helpful to you to read it aloud. As the text is read, let it capture your imagination. Follow wherever it leads. After you read, make a few notes about what you discovered.

- 🕯 What is remarkable about this text?
- 🕯 What arrests your attention?
- 🕯 What aspects of the text excite your imagination?
- 🕯 Which parts of the text pose the greatest difficulty?
- 🕯 Where do you recognize your own life in this text? Where do you recognize your family? Your friends? Our congregation's life?

As an additional aid, place a "C" (for "C"apturing the Meaning) in the margin beside places in the text that grab your attention.

Pray about what you have learned.

## Discovering What God Is Doing

Read the text again. As you read this time, pay particular attention to the work of God in this text. After you read, use the following questions to prompt your discovery.

- 🕯 What does God do in this text?
- 🕯 How is God's heart revealed in this text?
- 🕯 What is the good news in this text?
- 🕯 What does the text tell us about God's future?
- 🕯 In this text, how is God calling people to join His work in bring maturity in Christ to their lives?
- 🕯 How have you experienced the work of God as described in this text?
- 🕯 How does this passage help us to see what God is doing in our congregation?

Place a "G" (for Discovering "G"od's Work) in the margin beside places in the text that describe what God is doing.

Pray, giving praise and thanksgiving to God for what He is doing.

## Following and Participating with God

Read the text again. As you read this time, pay attention to how God is calling you to be a part of His work. After you read, use the following questions to prompt your discovery.

- 🕯 How are people called to participate in what God is doing?
- 🕯 How does sin or human failing compromise efforts to participate in God's work?
- 🕯 What repentance would be necessary for you / our congregation to more fully join the work of God suggested by this text?
- 🕯 How would your neighbors or co-workers recognize God's work in you?
- 🕯 How does this text help you see your growth in Christ more clearly?
- 🕯 What aspects of your life suggest that you are already involved in God's work envisioned in this text?
- 🕯 What actions or steps would you need to take to participate in God's work revealed in this text? What gifts and resources from God's Spirit would be necessary?

Place an "F" (for "F"ollowing God in His Work) in the margin beside places in the text that describe how we can participate more fully in God's work.

Pray, confessing and recommitting yourself to follow God in what He is doing with you.

