

Scripture

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Look

Sometimes stories in the bible can be confusing or difficult to understand. Once in a while, we even encounter a bible story that seems to portray God in a way that seems contradictory to what we believe about God.

1. When you first encountered bible stories, as a child or as an adult, what were you taught to believe about them? Were you taught that they were absolute truth? Were you taught that they were allegories or myth?
2. Can you remember the first time that you questioned a Bible story or felt uncomfortable about a Bible story? What did that feel like? Did you tell anyone about it?

Book Luke 16:1-13

This is a tough parable. It's confusing and seems counter to what we usually hear from Jesus. Jesus seems to be elevating the virtue of being dishonest in pursuit of personal gain, which seems so unlike what Jesus usually teaches.

1. How do you feel when you read this parable? Why?
2. What stands out for you in this passage?
3. What 'good news' do you encounter in this parable?

Took

The bible is a complex book, compiled from a variety of writers and sources over a long period of time. Stories translated from ancient languages that were written by ancient people can often be difficult to decipher in 21st century America.

1. What is your relationship with the Bible at this point in your faith life?
2. What is challenging for you about the bible?
3. What do you find uplifting?