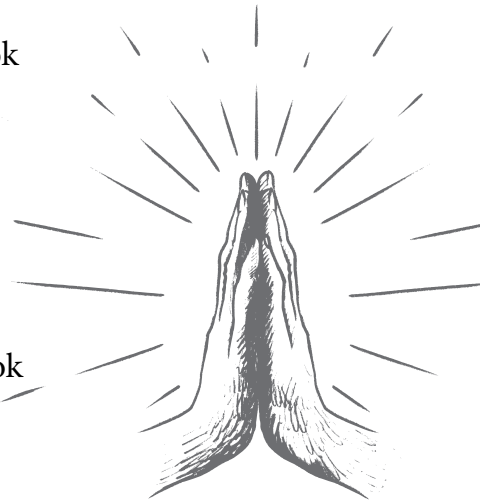


# SEVEN IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FOR INTERPRETING THE BIBLE

Here are seven summary questions you can ask  
when studying any book or story in the Bible:

- 1 • What was the historical situation at the time this book was written?  
How did the human author(s) address this situation?
- 2 • What is this book or passage's literary genre?  
What are the rules for understanding it?
- 3 • Is there a cultural practice or attitude reflected in this book  
or passage that we need to understand in order to  
appreciate the human author's intention?
- 4 • How does this book or story fit into the overall story  
of salvation history?
- 5 • How does Sacred Tradition help us to understand this book  
or story? How does this book or story help us to better  
understand God's revealed truths in Sacred Tradition?
- 6 • Is the truth I understand from this book or story consistent  
with the rest of Scripture and Tradition?
- 7 • When I look at everything I learned from these six  
questions, what spiritual truth is God revealing?



*This activity is taken from The Catholic Youth Bible® online resources.*

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