5 Ways to Engage with Scripture

1 | GET TO KNOW THE STORY OR TEACHING:
   A. Read the story and study it.
   B. Put the story aside and recall it as best you can word for word.
   C. Look to see what you forgot, changed, or added.
   D. Study the story again then recall it again, without looking.
   E. Check again to see how faithful you were to the story.

2 | THINK ABOUT THE STORY AND ASK QUESTIONS.
   A. Pose questions line by line without trying to answer them.
   B. Open up the story in your imagination.

3 | PRETEND YOU WERE A DIRECTOR INVITED TO STAGE THIS EPISODE.
   A. Imagine the places, the people, the clothes, and the events.
   B. If need be, look some of these things up in a Bible dictionary.
   C. List the characters in the story.
   D. Read the story as if you were one of the characters. Change the pronouns where necessary.

4 | ASK, "WHAT IS IT ABOUT?"
   A. Trace the story line by line, noting what each line means, what happens next, and why.
   B. Ask, "What is at stake in a conflict? What is the solution to a problem?"
   C. Ask, "What is the point?"

5 | RELATE YOURSELF AND YOUR LIFE TO THE STORY
   A. How are you like each of the characters?
   B. How does the story suggest you change? Stay the same?
   C. How do the characters relate to each other? Do these relationships suggest changes?
   D. What is the point of the story? How does that point relate to your life?
   E. Close your eyes. Imagine yourself as one of the characters.
   F. Take a theme from the story and state it in a word or phrase.
   G. Think about your own experiences in life of this subject.
   H. Ask yourself: What does this passage have to say to me?