

EXPLORING WALKING ON BONES

A Rose can be approached two ways. The first is to weigh, pull apart, analyse, describe and test. A description of what a Rose is can be given as a result. A second approach is to allow the Rose to engage you with its colour, perfume, shape, and beauty. A description of a Rose experienced in this meditative way is quite different from the first way. Both are accurate. They are totally different in what they offer to our understanding of what a Rose is.

So too with a Poem. A Poem can be examined for content, form, metre, style, language and comparison with other Poems. Equally a poem can be waited upon, taken in, seen as offering an invitation, opening up newness and supplying richness to our experience. The first leads to criticism. The other can lead to life. It is the second way we suggest is the most helpful and productive in engaging the Poems in ***Walking on Bones***.

A ONE SESSION PROGRAM

The poems as a whole can be read and addressed before gathering in your group, or selectively explored at the first meeting.

Themes A theme can be drawn from the poems and explored, each member contributing by reading a poem or chosen verses and sharing what they thought with the group.

Readings Dramatic readings can be prepared in small groups of a particular poem, or poems, and responses sought and discussed after each presentation.

Meditation A poem can be read as a lead into meditation.

Writing Participants can write a poem in response to a chosen poem and share it with the group

Scripture Connections can be made with particular Scripture verses or episodes as a lead in or as a response to one or two of the poems, compared and expanded.

Story Each participant can share a story evoked by a poem of their choice.

Music Participants can share music, a song or a hymn that a particular poem calls forth and be the means of sharing and meditation.

Worship A Litany for Worship can be prepared using a poem or poems as a foundational guide.

Some or All of the above

A THREE SESSION PROGRAM

There are three sections in *Walking on Bones*, each with a guiding theme. Each session can be devoted to one of the three sections employing some of the options listed above.

Read the poems silently. This can be done before coming to the group meeting or as the first step of the evening.

Choose a poem. Each participant chooses a poem that speaks to them.

Meditate After meditating on the poem each participant makes a response in any way they wish.

Share Sharing responses follow. This can be done in small groups or in the total group, depending on size and circumstance.

Projecting Outcomes

Option One is to reflect on a key word, or words, and ask what it offers as an interpretation of daily experience.

Option two is to ask what has opened up for the group in their understanding.

Option three is to explore the theological orientation of the poems in the light of scripture and debates about present understandings of God and forms of discipleship.

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Walking on Bones is an invitation to explore contemporary expressions of faith. The poems call for intuitive, even barely articulate expression of what is coming to birth in you. Gratefully, reverently, we hope to call your creative expression into being, and invite you to share with us that journey which brings life.