

In-Class Reading Activity

A sample assignment done in class in Reading Sacred Texts. I gave students no context for the passage and had them interpret it for themselves and consider a title for the passage.

Text Analysis Instructions:

1. Read Text closely
 2. Answer the following questions as a group:
 - a. Who are the main characters?
 - b. Who is the narrator? From whose perspective is the text written?
 - c. What is the genre/form? (e.g. poem, prayer, letter, legend, commentary, narrative, etc)
 - d. How does the text understand the figure of Eve?
 - e. What is the purpose of the text? Why was it written? (e.g. instruction, admonition, explanation, commentary, etc)
 3. Give the passage a title – What would you call it?
-

Text #1:

11:3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the husband is the head of his wife, and God is the head of Christ.

11:4 Any man who prays or prophesies with something on his head disgraces his head,

11:5 but any woman who prays or prophesies with her head unveiled disgraces her head—it is one and the same thing as having her head shaved.

11:6 For if a woman will not veil herself, then she should cut off her hair; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or to be shaved, she should wear a veil.

11:7 For a man ought not to have his head veiled, since he is the image and reflection of God; but woman is the reflection of man.

11:8 Indeed, man was not made from woman, but woman from man.

11:9 Neither was man created for the sake of woman, but woman for the sake of man.

11:10 For this reason a woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

11:11 Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man or man independent of woman.

11:12 For just as woman came from man, so man comes through woman; but all things come from God.