



Inhabiting the Text of Scripture through Imagination

The starting point

- We all do it to some extent or another – nativity story
- Often populated by images shaped by artwork through the ages



- Copy of Leonardo Da Vinci:
The Last Supper (c.1520)

The starting point

- We all do it to some extent or another – nativity story
- Often populated by images shaped by artwork through the ages
- An ancient form of Jewish interpretation
- Also key in Ignatian Spirituality

Two ways
of entering
Scripture
through
imagination

Pre-scholarship

Post-scholarship

Pre- scholarship

- Can end up viewing the text through the lens of our own world



Post- scholarship

- Can become paralyzed by indecision and the variety of options

What does imaginative reading of the Bible teach us?

- Reading between the cracks – who is not in our mental picture?
- Emotional engagement – the realm of emotion for understanding scripture
- Creating a backstory rather than a snapshot
- Actual people with lives and experience