

Tips for

Reading the book of creation

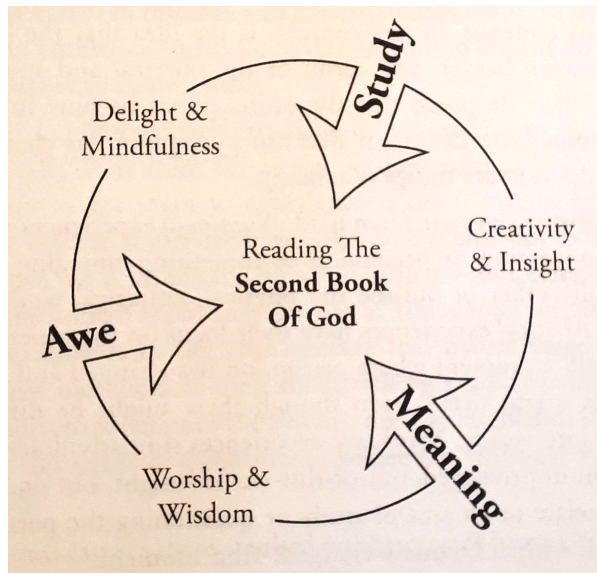


Image used with permission, from the book *Forest Church: A Field Guide to Nature Connection for Groups and Individuals*, by Bruce Stanley

When you go out

- Take a moment to ground yourself and engage your senses
- Approach with a sense of expectancy and receptivity that God has something to show you, and that creation can reveal secrets about our Creator. Ask God to give you eyes to see and ears to hear.
- Be curious and see what draws your attention

Three approaches

These are not sequential - you can enter into reading the book of creation at any entry point.

1. **Awe** - any encounter with the other-than-human world that evokes awe (or lament). Transcendent moments (where the ordinary is infused with something Divine) that offer a sense of being connected to something much greater. It helps to be mindful, open, and present.
2. **Study** - curiosity and questions like 'what, how, and why?' Study can include scientific, creative and experiential avenues of exploration, leading into deeper understanding and connection with nature. Follow your natural passions and favoured ways of learning to discover more about your watershed.
3. **Meaning** - discerning God's messages in and through nature and asking what creation reveals about its Creator. Take time for reflection, prayer, and wondering; the messages of the Bible and of the book of creation, if authentic, won't contradict each other.

Intersections

There is synergy between these three approaches that can inspire or animate further action or awareness, such as Creativity & Insight, Worship & Wisdom, Delight & Mindfulness as we see in the diagram.