

## "HOW TO READ THE BIBLE"

INSTRUCTIONS: (1) Assume she's reading the Bible.  
(2) Write below the first four things that come to your mind while meditating on this cartoon.

EEK AND MEEK

by Howie Schneider



Here are a few of the written/read-aloud comments, some of them entering into the study-discussion after all had been read aloud by their writers. RULES for the read-back: (1) No "going around the room." (2) Participants could read, at any one time, one or more things they'd written. (3) Participants were not to comment on anything they'd written. (4) No comments allowed from anyone else (leader, or other participants) during the read-back....My comments on this Thinksheet: [].

- 1 The cartoon is a whole course in how to read *anything*!
- 2 Reading is the other end of a conversation: she would still be alone if she were only being talked to.
- 3 Both of them would have been less alone if she'd been reading aloud.
- 4 How to read the Bible? To hear the "voice" of God, the Author behind the authors. [This answers "Why read the Bible?"....How? As one who's listening quietly for a whisper.]
- 5 We should try to read the Bible daily when & where there probably won't be interruptions.
- 6 God talked, & the world ["heaven and earth"] & the Bible came to be. [And the Bible world came to be, that world we put alongside our world to illumine both.]
- 9 It's impolite to interrupt a reader! Here, it's one more instance of Eek's social-skills deficit.
- 10 The nonreader, unless illiterate, is self-deprived of the best companionship of the ages. A tragic, self-imposed loneliness.
- 11 Girls read more than boys. Is that why they also talk more?
- 12 The Bible isn't really talking to us. It's other people talking, & we're kibitzing. [But this Yiddish word means more than just listen-in-on; it includes interfere-with, which is what Eek's doing in this cartoon. Besides, reading requires imagining that one is being addressed: read *as if* this were so, &--miracle!--it will be so. Indeed, it *is* so in three senses: (1) God is the Bible's ultimate author: it's a deposit & distillate of revelation, God's speaking to humanity; (2) It's authors wrote to extend the message to their contemporaries & beyond, even to us; (3) The Holy Spirit (as many theologians, especially Jn. Calvin, teach) wants to guide us through our hearing/reading the Bible.]
- 13 You can read the Bible anywhere. Why not (as here) on a park bench?
- 14 "Voice" is singular. God is behind & within the authors, so their voices function to my hearing *the* Voice. No matter how many people are around, in the deepest sense we are still alone without hearing, & responding to, *the* Voice.