Teaching and Learning the Bible With Adults: Historical Reading
Diane Jacobson -- Tuesday, March 09, 2010

Historical Reading

• What insights from history would be helpful to know in order to hear, read, study, or understand the plain meaning of this passage more accurately?

**Websites:** textweek.com; workingpreacher.org; enterthebible.org

• Do we know anything about the author, about who wrote the passage?

• Are there implied political and social realities?

• Do we know where this text was written?
Historical Reading Exercise

If you were writing the notes for a Study Bible for this passage, at which points would you put a note?

Example:

Acts 16:14 A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira* and a dealer in purple cloth.**

* Thyatira – inland trade city, 50 kilometers east of the Aegean

** Purple cloth -- a very valuable material in the ancient, international trade route.
Two Moderately Interesting Historical Questions

1) Where was Emmaus?

2) Who are “the two of them”?
Three More Significant Historical Questions

1. What would the disciples have expected from a prophet?

** When you hear the word “prophet” what do you think?

** What do members of your congregations hear?

** How would you answer this historically or help others to do so?
Three More Significant Historical Questions

1. What would the disciples have expected from a prophet?

2. What would the disciples have expected from a Messiah?

3. What passages would Jesus be pointing to about himself that would make it clear that the messiah was to suffer and die and then enter into his glory?