

# Book of Faith Assessment Tools

You have permission to download and use these assessment tools in your faith community. They are also available in *Opening the Book of Faith: Lutheran Insights for Bible Study* (Copyright © 2008 Augsburg Fortress).

## “Where Can I Begin?": Individual Assessment

This assessment can be used in various ways to gather information from individuals about Bible usage, needs, and hopes. Groups of people could take this assessment at the same time together. Be sure to include people of all ages, those who attend worship and/or Bible study regularly and those who do not. You may wish to include people outside this faith community. Consider using the assessment in a conversational interview in person or by telephone or sent out to people in the faith community by mail or e-mail. Or if you have a church website, post the survey there and encourage people to take it online. Results of the assessment, which can be anonymous, can be reviewed by a study group in your faith community—such as a council, task force on education, or a Book of Faith group—to discover needs and plan accordingly.

## “Where Can We Begin?": Group Assessment/Conversation Tool

The results of this assessment resource can be used to guide conversation in the faith community regarding past and present practices, as well as current needs. It can help the faith community envision a richer engagement with the Bible in the future. Our primary place of encounter with Scripture is communal worship, and although that deserves ongoing conversation, it will not be the focus of this assessment. Because this assessment resource can be used in a variety of settings—including congregations, schools, campus ministries, camps, and so on—the term *faith community* is used to refer to any of these settings. Responses are primarily for this faith community's insight, wisdom, and growth. An opportunity to share insights beyond this faith community is given at the end of this assessment.

Use this assessment resource in connection with the Individual Assessment to gather a picture from the whole faith community. Discuss the individual responses and use this group assessment and conversation tool in small groups, committees, or council meetings. Be sure to include people of all ages and of differing backgrounds, people new to the community and those here for many years, people deeply involved in activities and those who are not as involved. Reach out! This assessment resource is designed to be used in any and all groups in the faith community. It could be used all at once, or over a series of sessions, one or two sections at a time. Take time to listen to one another, to remember and affirm, to question and converse, and to dream of new possibilities.