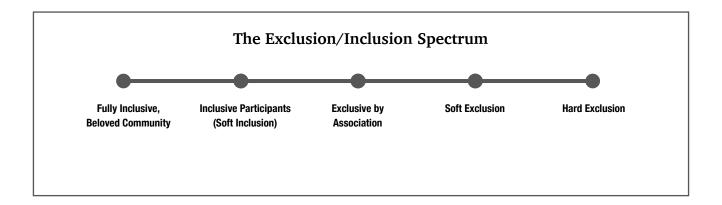
Reflection Worksheet

Part 1: The Spectrum of Exclusion



Definitions

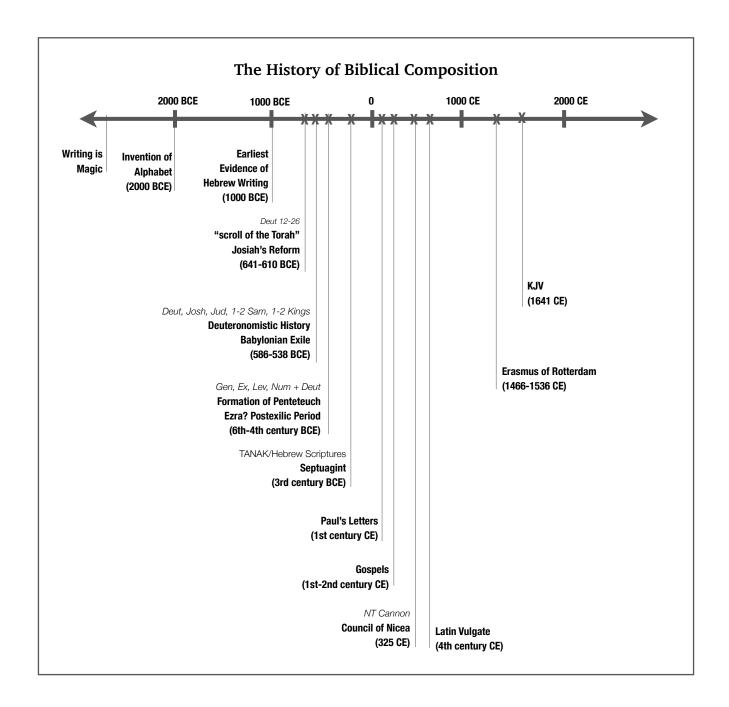
- *Hard Exclusion:* All forms of outright, active exclusion and hate groups, including white supremacism, religious intolerance, misogyny, etc.
- *Soft Exclusion:* Those who are uncomfortable affirming or interacting with people who are excluded from the dominant society. They are operating from a place of social privilege with an active fear of the "the other": xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, etc.
- *Exclusive by Association:* Those who are uncomfortable being inclusive out of fear of being excluded by the dominant community.
- *Inclusive Participants (Soft Inclusion):* Those who want to be inclusive, but still continue to operate within an exclusivist framework. They may claim to be inclusive, but they do not actively participate in changing the situation because they want to continue to benefit from being at a place of privilege inside an exclusivist environment.
- *Fully Inclusive, Beloved Community:* Those who not only welcome difference but fully affirm it, celebrate it, and even seek after it. Here, inclusion is coupled with an expectation of learning new ways of thinking, new languages, new practices, and other ways to overcome our oppressive, exclusive tendencies.

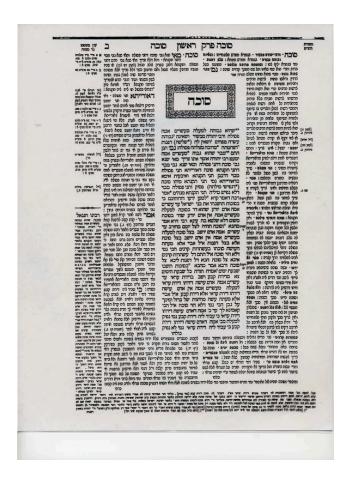
Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1) In the story about Barbara Dane's experience, which character do you most easily identify with (the worker, the pharmacist, or the child)?
- 2) Do you find it easy or difficult to identify with the excluded person in Barbara Dane's story?
- 3) Where on the Exclusion Spectrum do you see yourself? Where do you see your congregation?
- 4) Take some time to reflect on the things that make inclusion scary?

Reflection Worksheet

Part 2: The Bible is the People's Book







Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1) Does the the analogy of the Bible as being like a tree make sense to you?
- 2) How do you understand the sentence: "The religion that generated the Bible foreshadows the religions that were generated by the Bible?"
- 3) The Bible has a communal history of being read, revised, explained, and debated. This is not just true of the authors of the Bible and those who follow them, but is demonstrated in many ways within the biblical text. In your opinion, does this discredit or revive the Bible as a tool for faithful living?
- 4) Knowing that the Bible has been used as a tool for exclusion and violence, what are some ways we can undo this, work to disarm it, and ensure this doesn't happen among us?