

Consolation and provocation as we encounter God

by [Debie Thomas](#)

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What's the Bible for? We asked dozens of writers to respond to this question in seven words or less, as well as to expand on their response in a few sentences. To see all of the responses together as they are posted, bookmark this [page](#).

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For me, the Bible serves three functions. It consoles, assuring me via its vast array of stories, poems, and prayers that I am not alone as I lurch unevenly towards the sacred. It provokes, insisting through its defamiliarizing strangeness that I not grow complacent in following Jesus. And it draws me into an ever-evolving encounter with God, revealing to me the heart of my Creator through its mysterious alchemy of Spirit, word, and cruciform love.