

The Bible is for play, seriously

by [Kathleen Norris](#)

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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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Emily Dickinson, my favorite biblical interpreter, once wrote, “I have lately come to the conclusion that I am Eve, alias Mrs. Adam. You know there is no account of her death in the Bible, and why am I not Eve?” Another remark she made—“Consider the lilies is the only commandment I ever obeyed”—sent me to the gospels looking for other imperatives I had missed. Dickinson reminds me that whenever I engage in *lectio*, I'm immersed in serious play.