WHAT IS THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Why Should We Read?

What's the Big Idea?

God's Rule in God's Realm through God's Relationships

God's Rule -

God's Realm -

God's Relationships -

The Thread of Hope Through Scripture
Which Texts Do We Read?

Hebrew Bible or Christian Scripture?

The 3 Lands of the ANE

Where and When Did the Events of the OT Take Place?

The Four Geographic Regions of Syria-Palestine

The 3 Archeological Periods of ANE History
Questions:
1. What is the purpose of the Old Testament? Why should we study the OT?
2. What is the relationship between the rule of God and the actions of God in history? How does this help us in understanding the "big idea" of the Old Testament?
3. What is important about the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls? How does this affect us and our reading of the Old Testament?
4. What is the basis by which the history of Israel is evaluated? How does this affect the way we teach and preach the Old Testament?

(Further Reflection): Who/what do the Scriptures address? Why is this important to keep in mind in our reading, teaching, and preaching of the Bible? It might be good to demonstrate this through a familiar text (e.g. Genesis 12.1-3; Deut. 6.4-9).