

Genres of Scripture

A Look at How God Communicates

Help in Developing:

- ▶ **A STRATEGY!!!**

What is in the Bible?

- ▶ God communicating
- ▶ God communicating well
- ▶ God communicating Himself

How Does God Communicate?

- ▶ Diverse Personalities
- ▶ Diverse Styles
 - Prophecy
 - Historical Narrative
 - Epistle
 - Poetry

Does the Genre Matter?

- ▶ Understanding HOW God communicates helps us to better orient ourselves with the overall message

Where do I start?

- ▶ Context
 - Setting
 - Background
 - Author and audience

Where do I start?

▶ Purpose

- Why is this story in the Bible?
- How does it fit into the larger theme of Scripture?

Where do I start?

▶ Style

- How will understanding the writing style help me understand the message?

OT Prophets

A Conversation:

- ▶ God to prophet
- ▶ God to the people
- ▶ Prophet to God
- ▶ Prophet to the people

Helpful Hints

- ▶ Group and summarize each conversation.
- ▶ Connect the smaller conversations.
- ▶ Connect the message of the book with the larger general theme of Scripture.

Prophecy of Habakkuk

▶ Style

- Conversation between God and Habakkuk

▶ Context

- Approaching judgment of Judah
- Habakkuk – wrestle, embrace

The Conversation

- ▶ Chapter 1 – Habakkuk struggles to reconcile God’s character with God’s judgment.
- ▶ Chapter 2 – God speaks.
- ▶ Chapter 3 – Habakkuk embraces God in faith.

The Overall Picture

- ▶ The theme – Just shall live by faith.
- ▶ God communicating Himself to you

Historical Narrative



The Book of Ruth

- ▶ Context – The days when judges ruled
- ▶ Identify the major characters
- ▶ Group each scene
- ▶ Assemble the scenes into complete picture

The Overall Picture

- ▶ The immediate theme
- ▶ Redemptive History
- ▶ The larger theme

Epistles



How do we get here?



Assembling the Puzzle

- ▶ **Context**
 - Identify author and audience
- ▶ **Organize the pieces**
 - Transition words are usually very important
- ▶ **Assemble the picture**

II John – Love and Truth

- ▶ Piece 1 – The bond of love through truth
- ▶ Piece 2 – True love is continuing in truth
- ▶ Piece 3 – Walk of love is threatened by deceivers who do not walk in truth

- ▶ Full picture – We fulfill the commandment to love by habitually walking in truth and fellowshiping those who walk in truth.

Poetry

- ▶ One Man's Experience
- ▶ Full Range of Emotion
- ▶ Orientation, Disorientation, Reorientation