

How to Preach Biblical Messages

Timothy Project

Student Manual

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HOW TO PREACH BIBLICAL MESSAGES

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LESSON

1

WHAT IS A BIBLE STORY?

Theme text: “Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:30-31).

I

INTRODUCTION

Bible stories are stories. However, when speaking of the Bible it is better to use the term “Bible story”, because the word story may give the idea of a “bedtime story”, or something that is fiction, or a lie.

A good part of the Bible is written in story form, and this is the most common literary type used in Scripture (apart from others like poetry, for example).

II

WHERE TO FIND STORIES IN THE BIBLE?

In the Old Testament the books that are largely written in story form are: Genesis, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1st and 2nd Samuel, 1st and 2nd Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Daniel, Jonah, and Haggai.

Apart from these, a good part of Exodus, Numbers, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Job, were written in story form.

In the New Testament, a large part of the gospels and almost the whole of Acts are written in story form.

III	TYPES OF BIBLE STORIES
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Different types of Bible story:

- *Heroic* – telling the story of great heroes (such as Abraham, David and Gideon).
- *Tragic* – telling the story of someone who lived well, but had a sad ending (Samson, Solomon and Saul).
- *Epic* - a long story, with many events in the life of a person or group.
- *Romantic* – a love story. The book of Ruth and the Song of Songs are examples of romantic stories.
- *Polemic* – tells about a confrontation (something which is inexplicable), an attack on someone or their convictions. One example is the contest between Elijah and the 450 prophets of Baal.
- *Satiric* – from the word satire. Telling a story that criticizes or makes fun of someone who is wrong. The book of Jonas is one example.

IV	EXERCISE
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Now that you have finished the lesson and read the text, answer some questions to see whether you have understood what Bible stories are. Right?

1) Describe what Bible stories are in your own words.
