

## Lesson #7 – Types of Writing (Literary Styles)

**Teacher Prep:** The Bible is an amazing book because not only was it written by many writers over an incredible amount of time, it was also written using many different types of writing (or literature.) It has history, poetry, prophecy, and songs; just to name a few! This greatest book of all contains some of the greatest forms of literature. Written for all of us to be able to relate to, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Bible doesn't disappoint. Whether we are looking for information, encouragement, comfort or new ways to praise our Creator, the Bible has it all.

**Major Points:** **The Bible is the Inspired Word of God**  
**The Holy Spirit Moved Men to Write the Bible**  
**There are Different Types of Writing (Literature) in the Bible**

**Scripture Ref:** **2 Timothy 3:16-17** *All Scripture is inspired by God...*

**2 Peter 1:20-21** *...know this... that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but **men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.***

**Before Class:** Bring your Bible, provide Bibles for the children (if possible), and consider writing down the Scripture verses (copied from the lesson) on slips of paper for children to read out loud during the lesson.

You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

**Lesson:** **The Bible is the Inspired Word of God**

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*
- We have been learning about the Bible!
- So far, we have learned many things about it. What are some of the things we have learned? *(Wait for answers.)*
- That's right! We have learned things like the Books of the Bible, that it has an Old and New Testament, and that it has chapters and verses.
- We have learned that the Bible is the inspired Word of God.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** *All Scripture is inspired by God...*
- And we have learned that there were many writers for the Old and New Testaments, but that God is the Author of it all.

**The Holy Spirit Moved Men to Write the Bible**

- Over time, God used different men to write down His words for the rest of us to read.

- He inspired them to write down just the right words by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- In 2 Peter 1:20-21, the Apostle Peter explained that “...*no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*”

### **There are Different Types of Literature in the Bible**

- These men were also inspired by the Holy Spirit to use different types of literature as they wrote.
- Some of the forms they used were History, Poetry, Prophecy, Letters, and Wisdom Literature.
  - Some of the Poetry rhymed, but some didn’t (prose).
  - Some of the Poetry that we find in the Psalms are actually songs that were sung at the time.
- In general, people use different types of literature to express themselves in different ways.
  - Let’s say, that you want to write something nice in a Valentine’s Day card for someone you really like... (*Like your Mom!*) You might use **Poetry** to do so.
  - But if you wanted to write a report on how you went to the store to buy her some candy, you might use a historical type of writing. (Because, like **History**, it happened.)
- The Bible uses different types of writing (or Literature) for telling stories or saying other important things.
- This makes it easier for us to relate to what is written
- It also makes it more interesting... and easier for us to read and understand what God is trying to tell us!

Let’s pray and thank God for writing down the Bible for us, so that we can read it.

Prayer: Dear God,  
Thank you for writing down the Bible, so that we can read it.  
Thank you for being so creative that you used different types of writing.  
Thank you for helping us be able to understand better.  
Thank you for loving us.  
We love you back.  
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities to do that will work well with your group.

**Literary Styles in the Bible** – *The children will learn different types (genres) of literature in different books of the Bible.*

Before Class: Make copies of the Literary Styles in the Bible Activity Sheet. Make signs that have the names of the different types of literature to put on the wall.

During Class: Bring out the various signs you have made and hold them up or place them on the wall, so that the children can see and read them easily. Talk about the various types of literature in the Bible. Give the children copies of the Activity Sheet.

**History** - History is the type of literature that describes something that has already happened. We often study history in school. Like the history of our country or of our state. The Bible is full of historical books. For instance, Genesis tells the story of how the world was created, and it gives the early history of the Israelite nation.

**Gospels** - The word Gospel basically means “Good News.” The Gospels tell the story of Jesus and how He is the Savior of the world. This is the best news ever! Since the stories in the Gospels have already taken place, they are a special type of history. They record the history of Jesus’ life.

**Prophecy** - Prophecy means the foretelling of future events, as they will happen one day. So, in a way, it is like the telling history before it happens! Most of the prophecy in the Bible is found in the Old Testament. The prophecies that God gives us will ALWAYS come true. Many of the Bible prophecies have already happened; some of them hundreds of years after they were written!

**Law** - God gave His Law to the Israelites when Moses led them out of Egypt on their way to the Promised Land. We sometimes think of the Law as the 10 Commandments. This is an easy way to remember them.

**Letters** - A letter is written from one person to another to tell them something. Back in the New Testament times there were no phones or computers, so people actually wrote down what they had to say and sent it to others. The letters in the Bible were written down by the Apostles and mailed to various churches, in order to teach the new Christians something that they needed to know. We can still learn from these!

**Poetry** - Whether or not it rhymes, a lot of poetry is found in the Bible. In the original languages much of it did rhyme. Some of the poems were actually songs. Some of the poetry is happy and some is sad.

**Wisdom** - Wisdom Literature is the kind that tells good ideas in short sentences (like a proverb.) It helps give us knowledge about what life is like, or what the meaning of life is.

**Old Testament Books**– *The children will learn about grouping the books of the OT by their predominate types of literature.*

**Before Class:** Make copies of the Activity Sheets (Literary Styles and Books of the Old Testament.) Provide watercolors or map colors. You will find an Answer Key of Activity Sheet, which is already colored in, to use in class as a reference if the children have difficulty.

**During Class:** Talk about the names of the different books of the OT. Allow the children to color the activity sheet indicating the types of literature in these books. *(Have them color lightly so that the words on the books will show!)*

NOTE: It is important to understand that these are general categories. King David prophesied in Psalms as well as writing poetry and songs. Exodus contains both historical events and the Law. And Wisdom Literature contains much poetry also.
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**History** – Sixteen of the books in the Old Testament are historical in nature. They tell the history of the world from Creation on through the time just before Jesus.

**Law** – Two books in the Old Testament (Exodus and Deuteronomy) contain the Law. Exodus has History in it as well.

**Wisdom Literature** – Three of the books (Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes) contain what is considered Wisdom Literature. They convey wisdom in stories or examples, some of which are very short and to the point.

**Poetry** – Three other books (Psalms, Song of Solomon, and Lamentations) contain poetry. Some of the poetry in Psalms are actually songs that were sung at the time they were written. Psalms also contains other things, such as prayers.

**Prophecy** – The remaining 15 books of the Old Testament contain prophecy. These books reveal what God said would happen in the future. Much of the OT prophecies have already been fulfilled, but there are some things that have not yet taken place.

## LITERARY STYLES IN THE BIBLE

### HISTORY

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GENESIS  
EXODUS  
NUMBERS  
JOSHUA  
JUDGES  
RUTH  
1 & 2 SAMUEL  
1 & 2 KINGS  
1 & 2 CHRONICLES  
EZRA  
NEHEMIAH  
ESTHER  
JONAH  
ACTS

### LAW

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LEVITICUS  
DEUTERONOMY

### POETRY

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PSALMS  
SONG OF SOLOMON  
LAMENTATIONS

### GOSPELS

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MATTHEW  
MARK  
LUKE  
JOHN

### PROPHECY

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ISAIAH  
JEREMIAH  
EZEKIEL  
DANIEL  
HOSEA  
JOEL  
AMOS  
OBADIAH  
MICAH  
NAHUM  
HABAKKUK  
ZEPHANIAH  
HAGGAI  
ZECHARIAH  
MALACHI  
REVELATION

### LETTERS

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ROMANS  
1 & 2 CORINTHIANS  
GALATIANS  
EPHESIANS  
PHILIPPIANS  
COLOSSIANS  
1 & 2 THESSALONIANS  
1 & 2 TIMOTHY  
TITUS  
PHILEMON  
HEBREWS  
JAMES  
1 & 2 PETER  
1, 2 & 3 JOHN  
JUDE

### WISDOM

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JOB  
PROVERBS  
ECCLESIASTES



BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

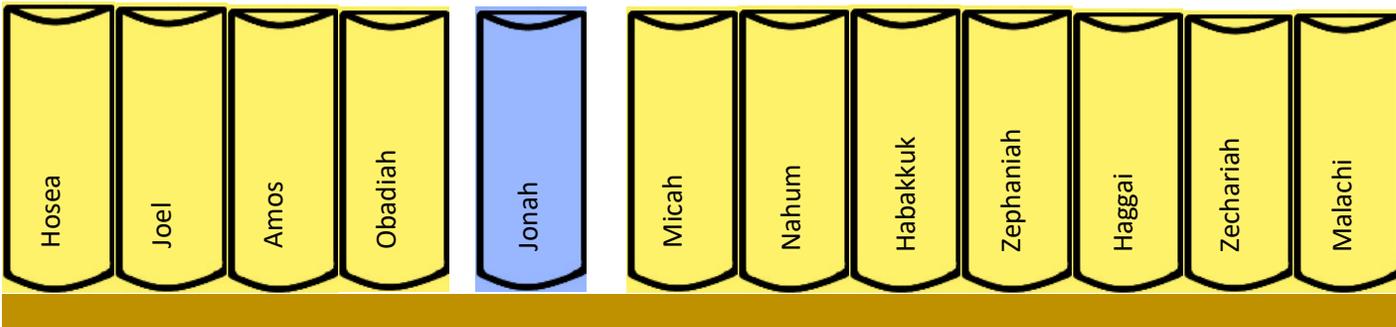
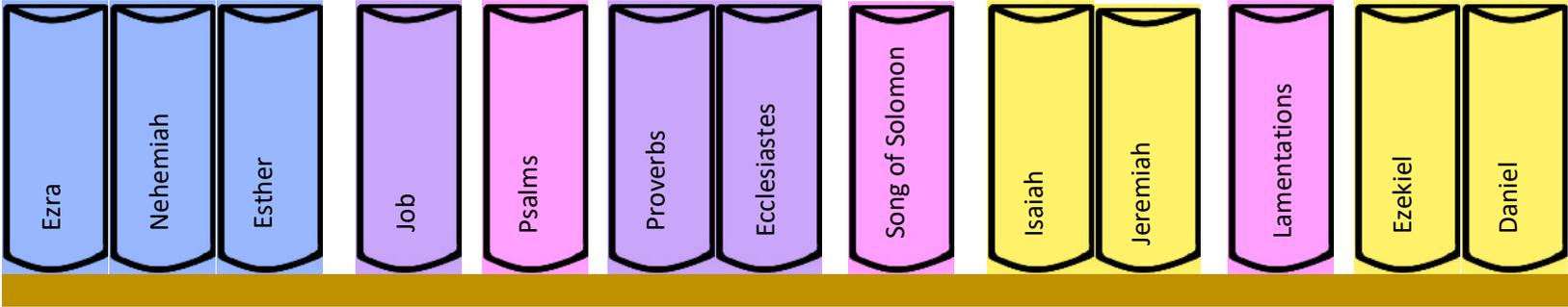
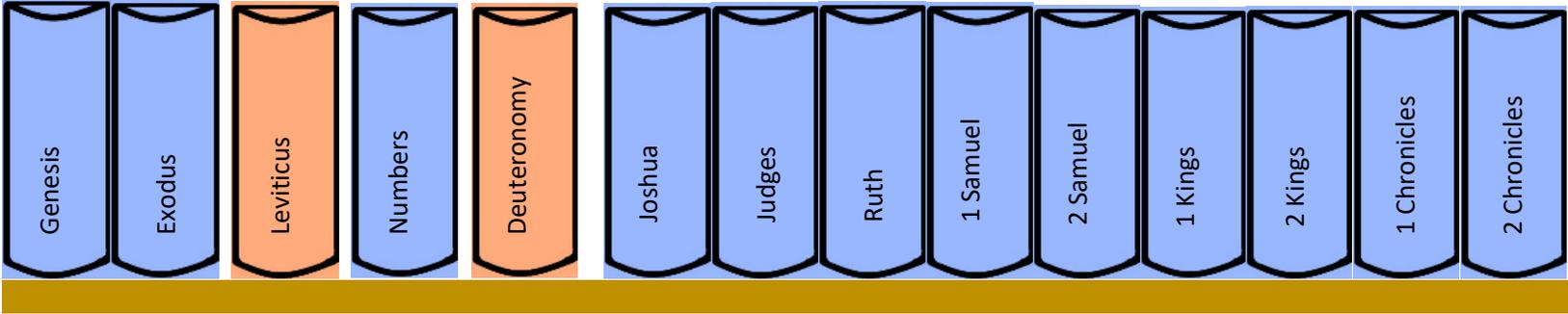
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Color the books of History BLUE

Color the books of Prophecy YELLOW

Color the books of the Law ORANGE

Color the books of Wisdom Literature PURPLE



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