

Welcome

Notes:

20 minutes

Welcome

- △ Facilitator information
- △ Introduction of students
- △ Agenda

Welcome participants and congratulate them for taking the study!

Provide your name and relevant information about yourself (why you are fit to instruct this course; additional areas of subject-matter expertise.)

Review information about facilities – where bathrooms are, when there will be breaks if any and so forth.

Discuss course structure

Ask participants to introduce themselves and what they expect from this course.

Open with a prayer and scripture reading e.g. 2 Tim 3:16-17 or Psalm 19: 7-11 or Psalm 119: 105

Play any song that relates to Scripture like “Thy Word” by Amy Grant

Transition into agenda slide

Ask Question



Agenda

Notes:

5 minutes

Agenda

1. How to interpret Poetry
2. The Bible GPS on Psalm 32
3. The Bible GPS on Jeremiah 48: 29-33
4. The Bible GPS on Habakkuk 1: 1-11
5. The Bible GPS on Lamentations 1: 1-9
6. The Bible GPS on Song of Songs 2: 3-13

Discuss the agenda. Tell participants that the passages chosen follow the storyline of the Bible, starting with God and the through some of the major characters in the Bible and back to God.

Ask participants if there are any questions at this time.

Transition into next slide

Ask Question



Course objectives

Notes:

5 minutes

Course objectives

- △ Goal: You will be able to use the tools in the Bible as your GPS to understand, apply and communicate the essentials of the Bible poetry in the 21st century.
- △ How will we accomplish our goal?
 - You will demonstrate knowledge of the GPS model.
 - You will learn how to get to the message to the original receiver of the Bible passage.
 - You will learn how to discern if the message to the original receiver is applicable or not to our situation.
 - You will learn how to communicate the essentials to specific target groups.
 - You will practice the GPS model on Bible poetry.

Instruct



Discuss the points on the slide.

Explain how personal attainment of the objectives will help the participants in their life. We will see how the stories of the Bible connect with the stories of our lives.

Transition into next slide

1. HOW TO INTERPRET POETRY

Notes:

12 minutes



Ask Question

Objective: To apply the GPS method on the Poetry of the Bible.

Ask a participant to read the objective.

Ask a participant to read the following two passages.

Exodus 14

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

²³ The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. ²⁴ During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. ²⁵ He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." ²⁷ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. ²⁸ The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. (NIV)

Exodus 15

¹ Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

"I will sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted.
Both horse and driver
he has hurled into the sea.

² "The LORD is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.
He is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

³ The LORD is a warrior;
the LORD is his name.

⁴ Pharaoh's chariots and his army
he has hurled into the sea.
The best of Pharaoh's officers
are drowned in the Red Sea.

⁵ The deep waters have covered them;
they sank to the depths like a stone.

⁶ Your right hand, LORD,
was majestic in power.
Your right hand, LORD,
shattered the enemy.

⁷ "In the greatness of your majesty
you threw down those who opposed you.
You unleashed your burning anger;
it consumed them like stubble.

⁸ By the blast of your nostrils
the waters piled up.
The surging waters stood up like a wall;
the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea. (NIV)

Ask participants to answer the following two questions:

1. What are the similarities and differences between these two passages?

Answer: Similarities: The contents of both passages are about the exodus out of Egypt. *Differences:* Exodus 14 is a **Narrative** (Prose) where Exodus 15 is written in **Poetry**.

2. What do you learn from your findings?

Answer: The same contents can be written in different types of literature.

Ask participants if there are any questions. Transition into next slide.



Ask Question

1. How to interpret Poetry

Notes:

2 minutes

The Characteristics of Poetry

The most prominent characteristics of Biblical poetry are the use of ...

- * Parallelisms
- * Similes
- * Metaphors
- * Personification
- * Hyperbole

Ask Question



Ask participants if there are any questions. Transition into next slide.

1. How to interpret Poetry

Notes:

4 minutes

The Characteristics of Poetry

Parallelism

Parallelism is the expression of one idea in two or more different ways. It means that there is a connection between two successive lines.

The connection is that the two lines express the same meaning in a different way. It is called **similar** parallelism.

The two lines can also express the opposite meaning. It is called **contrasting** parallelism.

Ask Question



Ask a participant to read the following:

An Example of Similar Parallelism:

Psalm 6

¹ *LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger
or discipline me in your wrath.*

² *Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am faint;
heal me, LORD, for my bones are in agony. (NIV)*

An Example of Contrasting Parallelism:

Proverbs 13

³ *Those who guard their lips preserve their lives,
but those who speak rashly will come to ruin.*

⁴ *A sluggard's appetite is never filled,
but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied. (NIV)*

The advantages of parallelism:

- * It creates balance and beauty;
- * It highlights the themes;
- * It involves your emotion and
- * It stimulates your imagination.

Ask Question



Ask participants if there are any questions. Transition into next slide.

1. *How to interpret Poetry*

Notes:

3 minutes

The Characteristics of Poetry

Similes

A simile is a comparison between two things that uses “like” or “as” — A is like B:

*That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
(Psalm 1:3 NIV).*

Ask Question



Ask a participant to read the following:

Examples of Simile:

Song of Songs 2

⁹My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag (NIV)

Psalm 1

³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers. (NIV)

Ask Question



Ask participants if there are any questions. Transition into next slide.

1. *How to interpret Poetry*

Notes:

3 minutes

The Characteristics of Poetry

Metaphor

A comparison between two things that forgoes “like” or “as” to say that A is B:

“The Lord is my shepherd” (Psalm 23:1 NIV).

Ask Question



Ask a participant to read the following:

Examples of Metaphor:

Psalm 119

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path. (NIV)

Lamp and Light are metaphors for the word of God.

Psalm 84

¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor; (NIV)

Ask Question



Ask participants if there are any questions. Transition into next slide.

1. *How to interpret Poetry*

Notes:

3 minutes

The Characteristics of Poetry

Personification

Assigning the characteristics of a human to lifeless objects:

*Let the rivers clap their hands;
Let the hills be joyful together before the Lord,
(Psalm 98:8 NKJV).*

Ask Question



Ask a participant to read the following:

Examples of Personification:

Wisdom is personified

Proverbs 9

¹ Wisdom has built her house;
she has set up its seven pillars. (NIV)

Creation is personified

Psalm 77

¹⁶ The waters saw you, God,
the waters saw you and writhed;
the very depths were convulsed. (NIV)

Ask Question



Ask participants if there are any questions. Transition into next slide.

Notes:

3 minutes

The Characteristics of Poetry

Hyperbole

Conscious exaggeration for emotional effect and to emphasize a point:

²⁹ *In your strength I can crush an army;
with my God I can scale any wall. (Psalm 18:29 NLT).*

Ask Question



Ask a participant to read the following:

Examples of Hyperbole:

Psalm 6

⁶ I am worn out from my groaning.
All night long I flood my bed with weeping
and drench my couch with tears. (NIV)

Psalm 107

²⁶ They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths;
in their peril their courage melted away. (NIV)

Ask Question

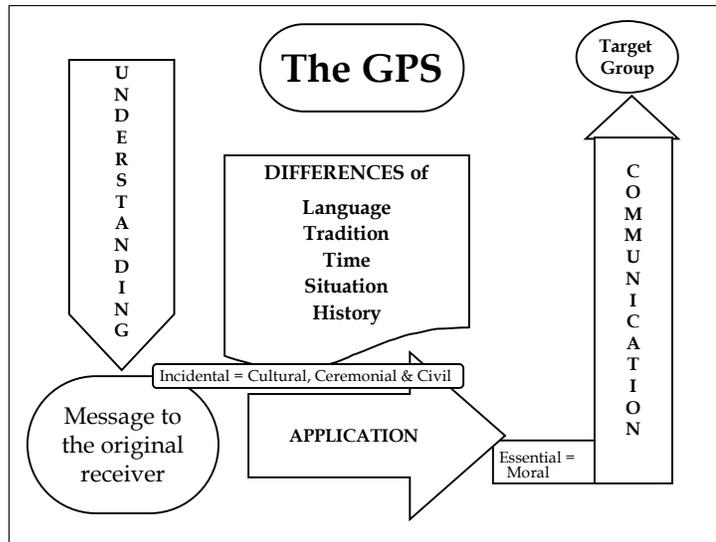


Ask participants if there are any questions. Transition into next slide.

1. How to interpret Poetry

Notes:

4 minutes



Instruct



Discuss the points on the slide and tell participants that we use the same method of Module I and II to interpret Poetry. Tell participants that we will use Psalm 51: 1-6 as an example how to interpret poetry.

Ask Question



Ask participants if there are any questions at this time. Transition into next slide

Notes:

UNDERSTANDING (S.T.A.R.T.)

5 minutes

UNDERSTANDING (S.T.A.R.T.)

1. Situation

2. Type of literature

PROSE	POETRY in
Narrative	* Psalms
Procedure	* Prophets
Explanation	* Wisdom literature
Instruction	

Ask participants what the first step of the GPS method is.

Answer: UNDERSTANDING

Ask participants what the purpose of this process is.

*Answer: The **Purpose** of this process is to understand the message as well as or almost as well as the original receivers did.*

1. Situation

You can either ask a participant to read from a study Bible or you can share the situation (background) of Psalm 51. The scholars believe that it is a psalm of David when the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12).

2. Type of literature

It is obvious: Poetry in the Psalms

Ask participants if there are any questions at this time.

Transition into next slide

Ask Question



Instruct



Ask Question



1. How to interpret Poetry

Notes:

15 minutes

3. Analyze the passage

3.1 Look out for Parallelisms, Similes, Metaphors, Personification, Hyperbole

3.2 Mark the main themes.

3.3 Conclude and summarize the message

.....
.....
.....

Instruct



Read through the passage and try to find the parallelisms as well as the main themes. Transition into next slide

Analyze Psalm 51. You have parallelisms in verses 2, 5 and 6

Psalm 51

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.	}	A
2 <u>Wash away all my iniquity</u> <u>and cleanse me from my sin.</u>		
3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.	}	B
4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; <u>so you are right in your verdict</u> <u>and justified when you judge.</u>		
5 <u>Surely I was sinful at birth,</u> <u>sinful from the time my mother conceived me.</u>		
6 <u>Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;</u> <u>you taught me wisdom in that secret place.</u>	}	C

(New International Version)

The meaning structure:

- A = Cry for mercy (verses 1-2)
- B = Acknowledges his sin (verses 3-5)
- C = Realizes what God wants (verse 6)

Ask Question



Ask participants if there are any questions at this time.

Transition into next slide

1. How to interpret Poetry

Notes:

5 minutes

4. Relate the message to the broader Biblical and theological framework?

5. Test your findings



Message to the original receiver

Message to the Original Receiver
 Author is ready to reveal his inner feelings because he knows God is merciful.

Instruct



4. Tell participants that steps number 4 and 5 are to make sure that your findings from step number 3 are in line with the broader Biblical message.

Ask Question



Ask participants if they think that the message can relate to the broader Biblical and theological framework.

Answer: Yes, it does! (Isaiah 1: 16-18; Romans 3: 21-24; I John 1: 9)

Instruct



5. Tell participants that this step is to test your findings by reading commentaries, Study Bibles etc. We need to understand that many godly people have wrestled with this passage before.

After you realized that your findings corresponds with the findings of others you have come to the message to the original receiver.

Ask Question

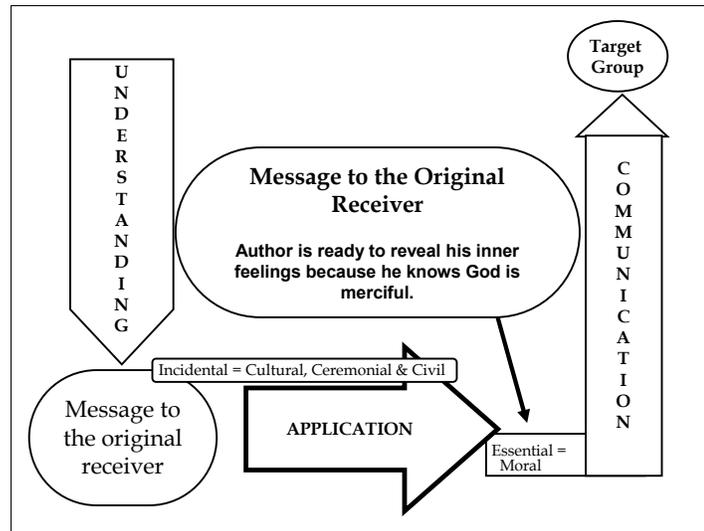


Ask participants if there are any questions at this time.

Transition into next slide

1. How to interpret Poetry

Notes:



Ask Question



Ask participants what the second step of the GPS method is.

Answer: APPLICATION

Ask participants what the purpose of this process is.

Answer: The Purpose of the process of Application is to bring the message to the original receivers across time by applying it to our situation.

Ask participants how we determine whether the message to the original receiver is an essential or an incidental.

Civil and Ceremonial laws as well as Cultural practices are incidental.

Only the moral laws are essential and therefore applicable.

Ask participants whether the message to the original receiver is essential; or incidental.

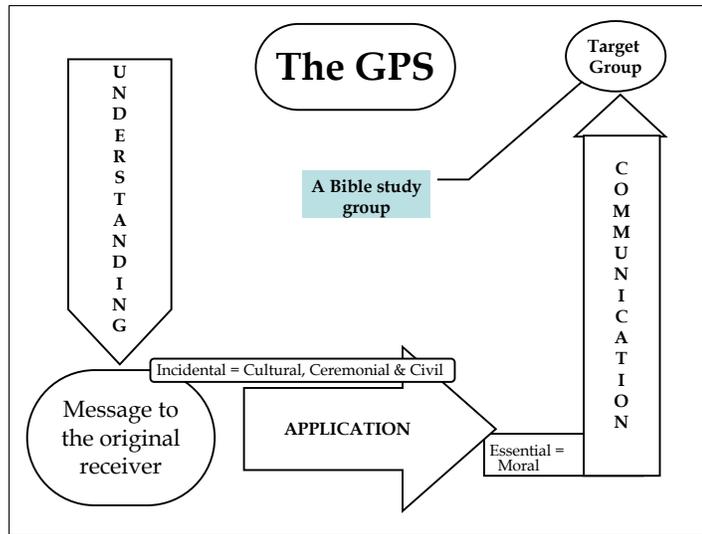
Answer: Essential

Ask participants if there are any questions at this time.

Transition into next slide

1. How to interpret Poetry

Notes:



Ask Question 

Ask participants what the third step of the GPS method is.
Answer: COMMUNICATION

Instruct 

Ask participants what the purpose of this process is.
Answer: The Purpose of the process of Communication is to communicate the essentials in a relevant way.

Feedback 

Please read Days 87 and 87 of “The Bible as Your GPS” or page 70 of Hearing God’s Tweet and discuss the following questions.

1. What touched you the most in this Psalm and why?

2. Why is it not always easy to share your inner feelings?

3. Why is it necessary to confess your sin / wrongdoings?

4. Walter Anderson said: “We’re never so vulnerable than when we trust someone – but paradoxically, if we cannot trust, neither can we find love or joy.” What steps can one take to create an environment of trust?

Ask Question 

Ask the group how they feel about this devotion and how it can help to address the problem of jealousy.

Feedback 

Ask participants how they have experienced this session.

Close with prayer