

# *Welcome*

## **Welcome**

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

# *Agenda*

## **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

## ***Course objectives***

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.
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# 1. HOW TO INTERPRET POETRY

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

## Exodus 14

<sup>21</sup> 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, <sup>22</sup> and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

<sup>23</sup> The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> 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."

<sup>26</sup> 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." <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> "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.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD is a warrior;  
the LORD is his name.

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

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

<sup>6</sup> Your right hand, LORD,  
was majestic in power.  
Your right hand, LORD,  
shattered the enemy.

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

<sup>8</sup> 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)

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

.....

2. What do you learn from your findings?

.....

## *1. How to interpret Poetry*

### **The Characteristics of Poetry**

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

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

**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 line express the same meaning in a different way. It is called ..... parallelism.

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

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**An Example of Similar Parallelism:**

**Psalm 6**

<sup>1</sup> *LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger  
or discipline me in your wrath.*

<sup>2</sup> *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**

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

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

**The advantages of parallelism:**

- \* It creates .....
- \* It highlights .....
- \* It involves your .....
- \* It stimulates .....

**The Characteristics of Poetry**

**Similes**

A simile is a comparison between two things that uses .....  
or ..... — A is like B:

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

### **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).*

### **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).*

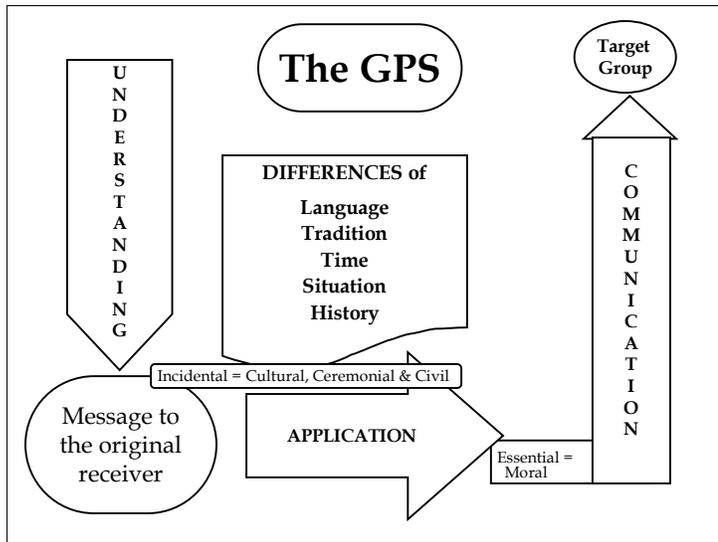
### **The Characteristics of Poetry**

#### **Hyperbole**

Conscious exaggeration for emotional effect and to emphasize a point:

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

1. How to interpret Poetry



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

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

1. **Situation** .....

.....

.....

2. **Type of literature**

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

1. *How to interpret Poetry*

**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

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

**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 *Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.*

3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight;  
*so you are right in your verdict  
and justified when you judge.* } **B**

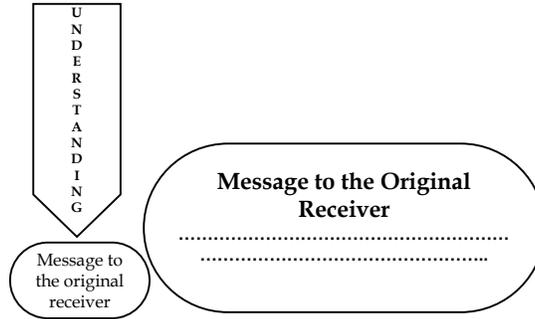
5 *Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

6 *Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.* } **C**

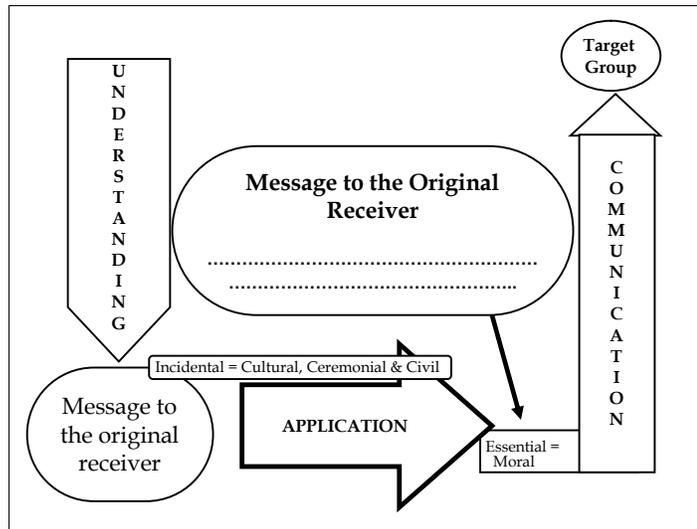
(New International Version)

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

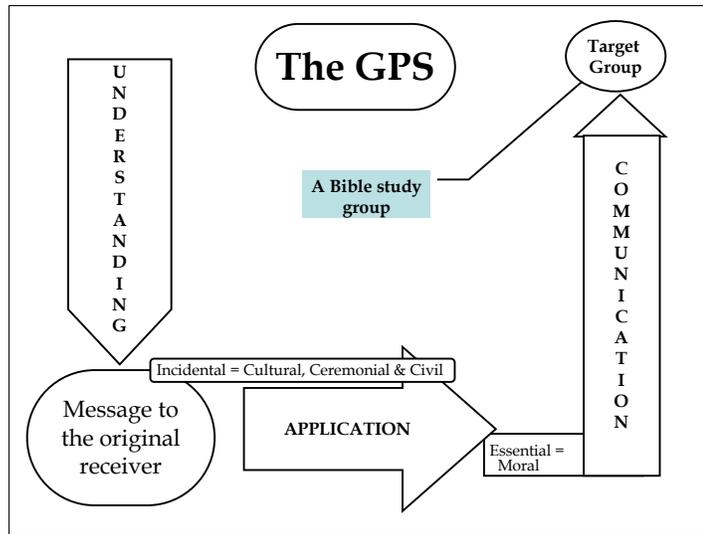
**5. Test your findings**



1. How to interpret Poetry



1. How to interpret Poetry



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?  
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