

CREATIVE WRITING



“Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer,” Psalm 19:14

PURPOSE

To explore how writing is used in Scripture and practice creative writing in a way that honours God.

LEARNING

1. God cares about what we say and write. Words can encourage, tear down, teach, correct, or harm. Writing is a gift and we must use it wisely. Write out the following key verses about using our words.

Proverbs 18:21

Proverbs 16:24

Ephesians 4:29

2. While we may appreciate and admire the various literary aspects of Scripture, it is important to remember that this is secondary to the truth of the gospel. We will never be satisfied by viewing the Bible only as literature. It is the infallible record of God's revelation.

a) What is the purpose of Scripture according to 2 Timothy 3:16?

b) What is the purpose of Scripture according to John 20:31?

e) What is the purpose of Scripture according to Psalm 19: 7-8?

3. Much poetry can be found in Scripture. Many of these poems do not rhyme like English poems. Instead, they use parallelism. Parallelism means two lines are placed together that relate to each other. The second line may repeat the same idea in different words, contrast the first idea, or add more detail.

- a) Read Psalm 114. In this psalm, we can see much synonymous parallelism (the second line repeats the same idea).
- b) In Psalm 114:1, what are the two names used for God's people?

How do these two lines say a similar idea in different words?

c) In Psalm 114:4, what are the two landforms being described?

How do these two lines say a similar idea in different words?

d) Why do you think the Psalmist used this style of writing instead of just writing one line?

e) Which line or event helped you to picture the event the best?

- f) Write your own 2-line verse using synonymous parallelism describing something God has done. Examples:
 - God keeps His people safe in trouble. He stands with them in every danger.
 - God paints the sky with morning light. He colours the firmament with golden rays.

4. Read the following Bible passages and match each one with the literary form or literary device shown. If you don't know the meaning of a term, look up its definition to help you.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| _____ Judges 14:14 | a prophecy |
| _____ Exodus 14 | b parable |
| _____ Psalm 136 | c letter/epistle |
| _____ Psalm 6:6 | d historical narrative |
| _____ Isaiah 9: 6-7 | e genealogy |
| _____ Joel 1:10 | f wisdom literature |
| _____ John 6:35 | g poetry |
| _____ Ephesians | h repetition |
| _____ Matthew 1: 1-17 | i simile |
| _____ Matthew 13: 1-9 | j metaphor |
| _____ Revelation 1: 12-13 | k riddle |
| _____ Proverbs 3:5-6 | l hyperbole |
| _____ Matthew 24:27 | m personification |
| _____ Psalm 51 | n symbolism |

5. When reading the Bible, we sometimes encounter words that are unfamiliar or used in ways we may not immediately understand. Careful readers take time to learn the meaning of these words so they can better understand what Scripture is teaching.

Learning new words also helps us grow as writers. Expanding our vocabulary allows us to express ideas more clearly, accurately, and beautifully.

Choose a passage of Scripture and find five words that are unfamiliar to you. Look up each word in the dictionary and write a short definition. Choose one of these words and try using it in a sentence of your own.

	Word	Definition
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

APPLICATION

It's your turn to practice creative writing! Choose one of the two following applications to complete.

1. Choose an Old Testament historical narrative passage. (ex. Creation, Noah's Ark, the Israelites crossing the red sea etc.) and turn it into a poem! Try to include a few poetic techniques like parallelism, rhyming, or repetition. Be creative!

Minimum length: 20 lines.

2. Write your own, original piece of creative writing. You may choose your form (essay, short story, letter, editorial, song etc.) and choose your topic. You must use at least three literary techniques in your writing (simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole etc.) Underline and label three of your literary techniques used. You must also use at least three new or unfamiliar vocabulary words in your writing. Tip: You can use a thesaurus to find new words. Circle these new words used. Your writing should demonstrate thoughtful word choice and clear expression.

Minimum length: 1 page.

COUNSELOR SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____