



Grades 6-8: Week 3 (Oct 4, 2021)

Unit 2: How is Bible Different than Other Books? –

Sessions 6 & 7: Inspiration of Scripture & Writing Styles of Bible + Senses of Scripture

TEACHING

- **Explain:** “Human authors of Scripture wrote using different writing styles and tried to communicate different ideas with their writing. Sometimes they wrote intending for every last detail to be as accurate as possible. Other times, they did not, intending to use poetic language. Also they wrote using their own powers and abilities, which means that they did not have perfect knowledge about everything. This is especially important to remember because sometimes, when we read Scripture, especially today with our modern sensibilities and knowledge, we notice small details in Scripture that may not seem accurate. For example, the book of Genesis tells us that the universe was created in six days and God rested on the seventh. Modern science has revealed to us that the universe is actually billions of years old and took much longer to be made. Some people consider this “proof” that the Bible is wrong or untrue. But, in reality, when we encounter a situation like this in the Bible, our first instinct should not be to question the accuracy of the Bible. Instead, we should pause and ask a basic question: “What is the truth that God wanted to communicate to us?” or put another way, “What do we need to know from this story for the sake of our salvation?” In the story of creation from Genesis, we can be certain that the human author was not trying to write a scientific account of how the universe came to be. For the Hebrew people, the number seven symbolized perfection and completion. The author in Genesis was communicating to us that God works gradually and in stages and in word and deed and that, on the seventh day, His work was “complete” or “whole.” Here the author was writing in a style common in his time, about certain fundamental truths about God, human beings, and our relationship with God. This does not mean that the story is untrue. In fact, it means that it tells us different kinds of truths than we were initially looking for, deeper, more important truths! Further, we have to remember that the Bible is not our only source of truth. We must always consider what the Bible has to tell us within the context of Sacred Tradition, which may clarify some misunderstandings we may have.”
- **Ask student what “Truth” is then explain:** “Truth is something that exists regardless of whether a person knows it, believes it, has an opinion about it, or even fully understands it. A truth is something that we can come to know with certainty through the use of human reason, through observation of nature, or through divine revelation. There are many sources of truth, but if something is true, it is ALWAYS and ABSOLUTELY true. Something that is true is true in all situations and circumstances; something cannot be both true and untrue at the same time. And therefore, two truths cannot contradict each other. Regarding the truth of salvation, God has revealed to us what we need to know for the sake of salvation. We know this to be absolutely true and can be confident in our knowledge of it. Our very salvation depends upon it and our loving God has given us all that we need in order to be saved from our sins and attain eternal life.”
- **Explain:** “In order to understand fully what God wanted to communicate to us through Scripture, we must first consider what the human authors intended to say. This requires us to be aware of the different circumstances and literary techniques these authors used. This can be challenging because all the writings in the Bible were written thousands of years ago. We live in a very different time and place. One of the first and most important things to consider is the writing style the author chose to communicate his message. This can drastically affect the way we read a passage of Scripture. For example, even today, you would not read a poem in the same way you would read a historical account

of something. The history is meant to be taken literally and factually whereas the poem is less literal and uses figurative language.”

- On pages 30-31 of their workbook complete Using ["Writing Styles of the Bible" handout](#). Assist as necessary.
- *Use Senses of Scripture handout to complete*
 - **HW: page 34, Identifying the Senses of Scripture**
- ***Senses of Scripture Relay:*** Although you can't do this as a relay game, see if your child can complete this activity on page 36.
- **College Care packages, 5-7 pm on Oct 15th**
- **HW:** pages 25-27, 34-35; [Lectio Divina handout \(Session 4\)](#) using upcoming Sunday readings
- **Do NOT meet for class again till Oct 25th**
- **CP:** “Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love only what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.”
-- St. Augustine