6 KEYS FOR UNDERSTANDING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Gospel Growth Study



In today's class, we want you to see how the perspective of the ______ and understanding of the ______ can help you ______ the New Testament.

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Who are the <i>AUTHORS</i> of the New Testament?	
Matthew	Paul
Mark	James
Luke	Peter
John	Jude
What do you know about each of these	
authors?	

How do the New Testament books display apostolic authority?

A *GENRE* is a recognized literary form with certain characteristics and expectations. It can be a *category of literature* (Western, science fiction, romance) or a *type of writing* (short story, novel, fairy tale, epic poem).

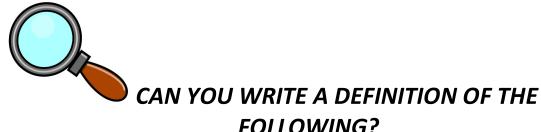
IN CLASS EXERCISE:

In groups of two or three, look at the book of Philemon and identify the different parts of this *letter*.

GENRES INSIDE THE NEW TESTAMENT You can play this game at home!

Match the verse or passage on the left to a literary genre on the right:

- Mark 2:15-17 Galatians 6:7 _____ Matthew 8:23-27 _____ Mark 7:1-13 Mark 4:26-29 _____ John 4:6-27 ____ Luke 2:1-20 1 Timothy 3:16 Matthew 24:3-25:46
- A. Parable or Analogy
- B. Proverb or Truth Statement
- C. Nativity Story
- D. Miracle Story
- E. Pronouncement Story
- F. Encounter Story
- G. Conflict Story
- H. Discourse
- I. Early Creed or Hymn



FOLLOWING?

Vertical Reading _____

Horizontal Reading

How This Tool Will Help You Read the New Testament

- 1. Who wrote this book of the New Testament and why?
 - a. For whom is the book written?
 - b. Does the author have a particular point of view? What themes recur?
- 2. What genre is the New Testament book?
 - a. If it is a Gospel, how does it present Christ? How do parallel accounts differ?
 - b. If it is a letter, can you identify the parts?
- 3. What genres appear *within* the New Testament book?
 - a. If it is a parable, what main point does it teach?
 - b. How does the passage fit into the flow of the verses before and after it?
 - c. If there is a quotation, what was the context in the OT?