

6 KEYS FOR UNDERSTANDING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Gospel Growth Study



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



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



CAN YOU WRITE A DEFINITION OF THE 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?