The Pastor's Class
Series: Bible Study 101
Lesson: Skill No. 5: Learn the Genre
Speaker: Dr. Kyler Smith
Date: February 11, 2026

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,
a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
2 Timothy 2:15

Skill No. 5: Learn the **Genre**

- **What** Are Genres? *A style or type or form of literature.*

  - **History:** Story form of literature, involving plot, setting, and characters.

    - *Genesis; Exodus 1-19; Numbers; Joshua; Judges; Ruth; 1-2 Samuel; 1-2 Kings; 1-2 Chronicles; Ezra; Nehemiah, Esther, Jonah; Acts*

  - **Law:** Legal form of literature, involving commands and rules.

    - *Exodus 19-40; Leviticus; Deuteronomy*

  - **Poetry:** Poetic form of literature, involving figurative language, repetition, and other poetic devices.

    - *Psalms; Song of Solomon; Lamentations*

  - **Prophecy:** Declarative form of literature, involving prediction, exhortation, admonition, and often symbolism.

- *Isaiah, Jeremiah; Ezekiel; Daniel; Hosea; Joel; Amos; Obadiah; Jonah; Micah; Nahum; Habakkuk; Zephaniah; Haggai; Zechariah; Malachi*

- **Letters:** Situational form of literature, involving specific content for specific audiences.

    - *Romans, 1-2 Corinthians; Galatians; Ephesians; Philippians; Colossians; 1-2 Thessalonians; 1-2 Timothy; Titus; Philemon; Hebrews; James; 1-2 Peter; 1-3 John; Jude*

- **Wisdom:** Proverbial form of literature, involving wise sayings, poetic reflection, and practical inquiry.

    - *Job; Proverbs; Ecclesiastes*

- **Gospel:** Eyewitness form of literature, involving historical narrative and parabolic stories.

    - *Matthew; Mark; Luke; John*

- **Apocalypse:** Symbolic form of literature; involving extensive figurative language.

    - *Daniel 7-12; Revelation*

- **Why** Learn Genres?

    - Genres Help Apply Skill No. 1: Learn to See // **What should I be looking for?**

    - Genres Help Apply Skill No. 2: Learn to Read // **How should I be reading this?**

    - Genres Help Apply Skill No. 3: Learn the Context // **How are these words being used?**

    - Genres Help Apply Skill No. 4: Learn the Story // **Why is this being said here?**