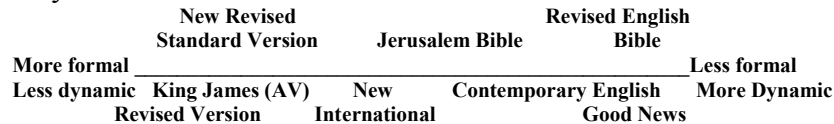


Being Part of the Story

Revised Version but a modern example that largely follows this method is the New Revised Standard Version.

Dynamic Equivalence – here the translator seeks to reproduce the meaning of the text using appropriate modern phrases so that the reader may respond with understanding and emotion. The focus is on overall meaning rather than a form of words. The Good News Bible is probably the best known example of the method.

Paraphrase – this is not strictly a translation but is where a writer puts the text in his own words. Good examples of this can be found in Leslie Brandt’s works for example Psalms Now. Most translations follow a course between these two extremes as may be seen on this scale.



Take 2 or 3 versions and look up a well known passage e.g. Psalm 23 or John 3:16 and compare the way the words are used.

Who is this Jesus?

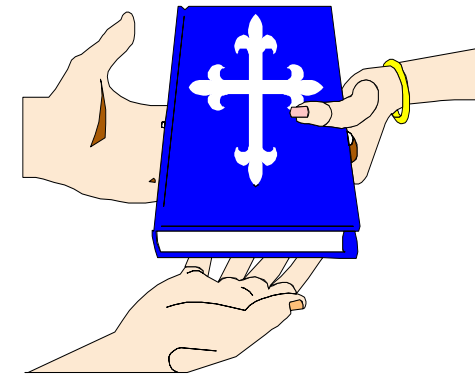
In the Gospels we are introduced to Jesus of Nazareth. In Mark 8:27 Jesus asks his disciples “Tell me who do people say that I am?” You can see their answers in the following verses but what do we say about Jesus?

Brainstorm all the ideas you can of who Jesus is, how is he seen today, what titles have been given him, what roles did he fulfill?

Which aspects of Jesus do you find most relevant to your life at the moment?

Matthew 28: 20 “I will be with you always,
even until the end of the world.”

How is this true in your life?



Unit 2 The Biblical Story

A resource in preparation for
confirmation
by Doug Rogers

Published by
The Presbyterian Publishing Company Ltd

In Those Days ...

The Bible is full of great stories. Even people who never come to church have probably heard of Noah's Ark.

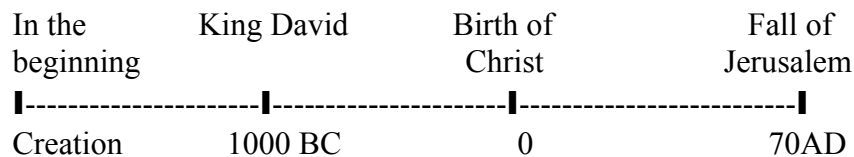
If you are able play a biblical story – it may be on video, audiocassette, from a book, or acted out.

What is your favourite story from scripture?
What makes it special?

Where did the Bible come from?

The Christian Scripture is divided into two parts. The first comprises the Hebrew holy writings. These were scripture to Jesus and the disciples and remain so for the Jewish faith. The second are those written relating the life of Christ and his followers. It is well to remember that however much we revere these writings now they were originally written by people in a historical context many of whom would be astounded to know their writings would become scripture.

On a large piece of paper draw a horizontal line. (If you do not have access to newsprint stick 3 sheets of A4 paper together). First divide your paper into 3 roughly equal sections as below:



In between these landmarks try and place as many Biblical events as you can.

Another way people have looked at the Bible is to group it as types of Literature. This is roughly the way the Christian Scripture was compiled.



Compare Leviticus 19, 1 Kings 11, Psalm 23, Mark 4:1-9, Philemon, Revelation 6.

What sort of writing are they?

Talk about the differences in style.

How the Writings Come To Us

Many of the stories came first as oral history related from person to person. Later these were then written down and edited into their final form. But for us they still remain at a distance being written in Hebrew and Greek. We depend on translations. While we may prefer one to another it is worth remembering that every translation ever made has been an attempt to make the scripture more accessible. From the first translation of the Hebrew Scripture into Greek through to the modern English versions all have been used by congregations and individuals seeking a closer understanding of God.

Today there are recognized to be three main methods of translation:

Formal Correspondence - this tries to match each word of the original with an appropriate word in the new language. While this appears the most accurate it can often obscure the meaning to a modern reader. The most rigid example of this style is the