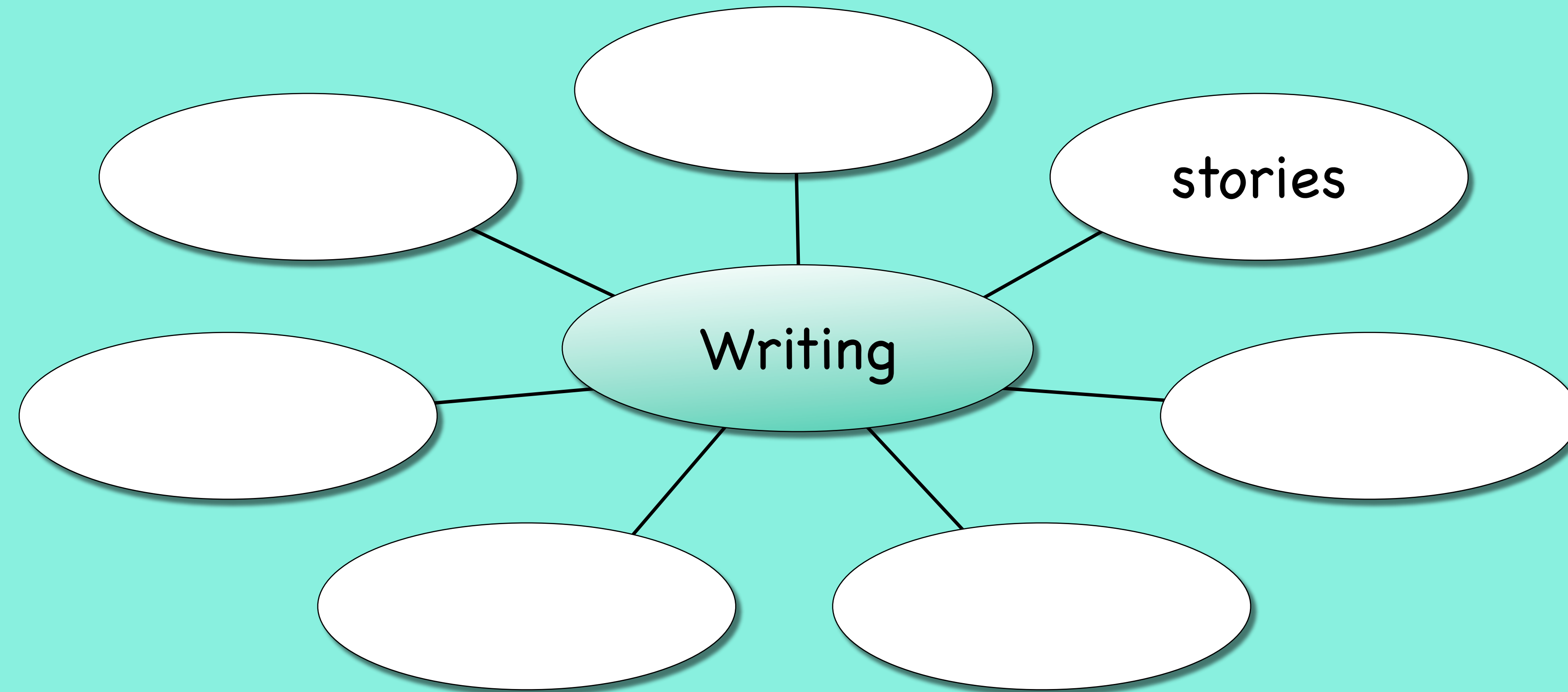


What is the Bible and why is it important for Christians?

Learning Objective:

To find out about the different kinds of writing in the Bible and why each is important.

How many different kinds of writing can you think of?



How many of these genres do you think there are in the Bible?

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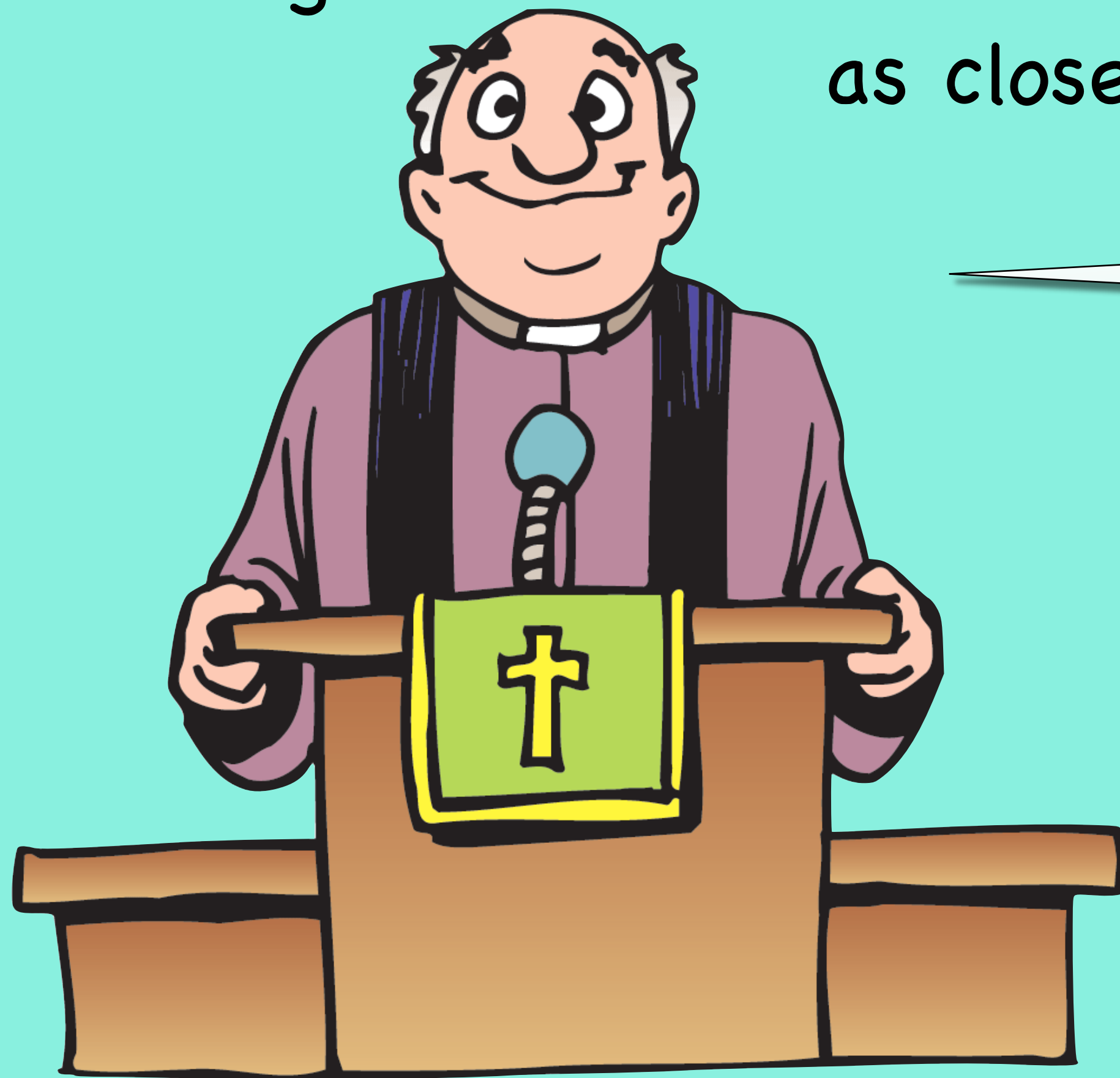
There are lots of different genres of writing in the Bible. Some parts tell stories, such as the story of Adam and Eve or Noah's Ark. These stories help to demonstrate God's love, power and personality. Some parts are poems and songs praising God and the things He has done. Other parts are laws telling people what they should and shouldn't do. There are also letters written by Christians who are trying to get the good news about God to as many people as possible. The Gospels in the New Testament are a bit like biographies of the life of Jesus while proverbs give wisdom and guidance.



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As well as having lots of different kinds of writing, there are now lots of different translations of the Bible. Over time, people have translated the Bible into language that they think is easier to understand or that looks back to the original Hebrew or Greek language and tries to get translations that are as close to the originals as possible.



Have a look at the translations of the same verses of the Bible on the next slides. Is anything gained or lost in the translations?

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Exodus 20: 7

No using the name of God, your God, in curses or silly banter; God won't put up with the irreverent use of his name.

The Message

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

New International Version

You must not use the name of the Lord your God thoughtlessly; the Lord will punish anyone who misuses his name.

New Century Version

Which
translation
do you like
best?



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Matthew 2: 1-2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory— this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signalled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

The Message

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

New International Version

And Jesus having been born in Beth-Lehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the king, lo, mages from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who was born king of the Jews? for we saw his star in the east, and we came to bow to him.'

Young's Literal Translation

Which
translation
do you like
best?



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Psalm 111: 1-3

Hallelujah! I will celebrate Jehovah with [my] whole heart, in the council of the upright, and in the assembly.

Great are the works of Jehovah; sought out of all that delight in them.

His work is majesty and splendour, and his righteousness abideth for ever.

Darby Translation

Praise ye the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.

The works of the LORD are great, sought out by all them that have pleasure therein.

His work is honourable and glorious, and His righteousness endureth for ever.

21st Century King James Version

Shout praises to the LORD!
With all my heart
I will thank the LORD
when his people meet.
The LORD has done
many wonderful things!
Everyone who is pleased
with God's marvellous deeds
will keep them in mind.
Everything the LORD does
is glorious and majestic,
and his power to bring
justice will never end.

Contemporary English Version

Which
translation do
you like best?



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