

Exegesis Format

Exegesis, “to guide out,” “to lead out” - that is,
to bring out the meaning which the Spirit of God put into the Biblical text.

Begin with prayer and continue to pray as you read and reflect on the texts.
For the purpose of this class the instructors would prefer that all texts come from
the Revised Common Lectionary – Year A:

<http://divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/lectionary./APentecost/index.htm>

The assigned texts are:

Advent I			
Advent II			
Advent III			
Advent IV			
Epiphany of our Lord			
Baptism of our Lord			
2 Epiphany			
3 Epiphany			

Prayerfully read, and reflect on, the assigned texts from The New International Version, The New Revised Standard Version, The English Standard Version, The Message.....

- Identifying any differences in the texts
- Looking for different emphases through translation

and then...

I – Old Testament

Using at least five different sources like *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, *Abingdon Bible Handbook*, *Concordia Study Bible*, Bible commentaries and by using resources from your personal library, your pastor's library, your church library, online sources (like www.textweek.com , ATLA, ProQuest Religion, netLibrary (eBooks), etc. As you are able, consult the *Proclamation Commentary Series*, *Concordia Pulpit Resources*, sermonic studies in the *Concordia Journal*, *Concordia Theological*

Quarterly, and Currents in Theology and Mission. Use appropriate online resources to access these and other similar resources.

Research, identify and summarize:

- a) the historical setting of your text (e.g. when was it written, who wrote it, where was it written from, who was it written to...).
- b) the meaning of significant/key words in the text (For each key word you could identify the original Greek or Hebrew word used, what did it mean, what words share its root?).
- c) phrases and words used in other translations and/or paraphrases to gain insight into the text.
- d) geographical setting/location and significance for comprehending the text.
- e) cultural specifics that impact comprehension of the text.
- f) the text in context (how does the text connect with the immediate preceding and following verses, fit into chapter and book, other works of the same writer, within the entire Scripture).
- g) how the text fits into the particular season of the church year (What themes from the season are reinforced, echoed or emphasized? How do the texts advance an individual through the season?)
- h) what the text would have meant to the first readers of the text.

Write a Law/Gospel Analysis:

- i) Identify the Law in the text
- j) Identify the impact of sin that is unique to the text (see “Impacts of Sin” PowerPoint).
- k) Identify the Gospel in the text
- l) Identify key Gospel concepts that address the impact of sin

II - Gospel

Using at least five different sources like *Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible*, *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, *Abingdon Bible Handbook*, *Concordia Study Bible*, Bible commentaries and by using resources from your personal library, your pastor’s library, your church library, online sources (like www.textweek.com , ATLA, ProQuest Religion, netLibrary (eBooks), etc. As you are able, consult the *Proclamation Commentary Series*, *Concordia Pulpit Resources*, sermonic studies in the *Concordia Journal*, *Concordia Theological Quarterly*, and *Currents in Theology and Mission*. Use appropriate online resources to access these and other similar resources.

Research, identify and summarize:

- a) the historical setting of your text.
- b) geographical location and significance for comprehending the text.
- c) the meaning of significant/key words in the text.

- d) phrases and words used in other translations and/or paraphrases to gain insight into the text.
- e) cultural specifics that impact comprehension of the text.
- f) the text in context (how does the text connect with the immediate preceding and following verses, fit into the chapter and book, other works of the same writer, within the entire Scripture).
- g) how the text fits into the particular season of the church year (What themes from the season are reinforced, echoed or emphasized? How do the texts advance an individual through the season?).
- h) what the text would have meant to the first readers of the text.

Law/Gospel Analysis:

- i) Identify the Law in the text
- j) Identify the impact of sin
- k) Identify the Gospel in the text
- l) Identify key Gospel concepts that address the impact of sin

III – Theme

Construct a theme for the week (this will be the theme that you will develop and use in your Applied Learning Project) in 3-10 words which:

- flows from the exegesis (Old and New Testaments)
- is consistent with the season of the church year
- summarizes your exegesis clearly
- emphasizes Gospel power