

Handout 3-A

# Types of Biblical Criticism

Summary:

Chosen Passage

Type	Questions about the Passage	Possible Places to Find Answers
Form Criticism		
Historical Criticism		
Source Criticism		
Redaction Criticism		

## Handout 3-B

# Typology Matching Game

Directions: Cut the following strips referencing Old Testament and New Testament Scripture passages. With a partner, match each person or event from the New Testament with the person or event from the Old Testament that prefigures it. Be prepared to check and discuss your work with the class at the end of this activity.

## Old Testament

1. Eve disobeys God thereby bringing sin into the world.  
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2. God asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his beloved son.  
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3. Jonah spends three days in the belly of the whale before emerging to serve God as a prophet.  
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4. God gives the Israelites manna to eat when they are wandering in the desert.  
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5. An innocent lamb was sacrificed to save the Israelites from death during Passover.  
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6. Moses led the Israelites through the water of the Red Sea to safety during the Exodus.  
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7. Moses spent forty days on the mountain conversing with God before bringing the Ten Commandments to the Israelites.  
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8. Noah led the upright aboard the ark to survive the flood.  
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9. Joseph the Dreamer brings his family to Egypt to survive the famine.  
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10. David is a humble shepherd from Bethlehem and is anointed king of Israel.  
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## New Testament

A. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is from Bethlehem and is the King of Kings.

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B. Mary is obedient to God thereby bringing the possibility of redemption into the world.

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C. The waters of Baptism make us adopted sons and daughters of God.

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D. God sacrifices Jesus, his beloved Son, to save us from our sins.

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E. Jesus spends three days in the tomb before rising from the dead.

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F. We call Jesus the “Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”

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G. Jesus spent forty days fasting and praying in the desert before beginning his public ministry.

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H. Jesus founds the Church as the means of salvation.

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I. Jesus gives us the Eucharist under the form of bread and wine at the Last Supper.

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J. St. Joseph is warned in a dream to bring his family to Egypt to survive Herod.

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## Handout 3-C

## ***Fides et Ratio***

Before reading the following passage from Pope St. John Paul II's encyclical letter *Fides et Ratio*, write your answer to the following question: What is the relationship between faith and reason?

As you read the following passage, highlight or underline information that points to how John Paul II might answer this question.

On her part, the Church cannot but set great value upon reason's drive to attain goals which render people's lives ever more worthy. She sees in philosophy the way to come to know fundamental truths about human life. At the same time, the Church considers philosophy an indispensable help for a deeper understanding of faith and for communicating the truth of the Gospel to those who do not yet know it.

Therefore, following upon similar initiatives by my Predecessors, I wish to reflect upon this special activity of human reason. I judge it necessary to do so because, at the present time in particular, the search for ultimate truth seems often to be neglected. Modern philosophy clearly has the great merit of focusing attention upon man. From this starting-point, human reason with its many questions has developed further its yearning to know more and to know it ever more deeply. Complex systems of thought have thus been built, yielding results in the different fields of knowledge and fostering the development of culture and history. Anthropology, logic, the natural sciences, history, linguistics and so forth—the whole universe of knowledge has been involved in one way or another. Yet the positive results achieved must not obscure the fact that reason, in its one-sided concern to investigate human subjectivity, seems to have forgotten that men and women are always called to direct their steps towards a truth which transcends them. Sundered from that truth, individuals are at the mercy of caprice, and their state as person ends up being judged by pragmatic criteria based essentially upon experimental data, in the mistaken belief that technology must dominate all. It has happened therefore that reason, rather than voicing the human orientation towards truth, has wilted under the weight of so much knowledge and little by little has lost the capacity to lift its gaze to the heights, not daring to rise to the truth of being. Abandoning the investigation of being, modern philosophical research has concentrated instead upon human knowing. Rather than make use of the human capacity to know the truth, modern philosophy has preferred to accentuate the ways in which this capacity is limited and conditioned”

After reading the passage and discussing it with a partner, reflect on the following prompts independently. Be prepared to share your responses with the class.

1. According to Pope John Paul II, what are some benefits of humanity's gift of reason?
2. According to Pope John Paul II, what are some ways in which we have misused this gift?
3. In what ways has your understanding of the relationship between faith and reason changed or deepened as a result of reading this passage?