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Figurative Language

- **Definition:** A word or phrase that is used to communicate something other than its literal or natural meaning

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Figurative Language

- *Why Is Figurative Language Used?*
 - *Add Color and Vividness*
 - *Attract Attention*
 - *Make Abstract or Intellectual Ideas More Concrete*
 - *Aid in Retention*
 - *Abbreviate an Idea*
 - *Encourage Reflection*

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How Do You Know If an Expression Is Figurative or Literal?

- Always take a passage in its literal sense unless there is good reason for doing otherwise.
- The figurative sense is intended if the literal would involve an impossibility.
- The figurative is intended if the literal meaning is an absurdity
- Take the figurative sense if the literal would demand immoral action.
- Note whether a figurative expression is followed by an explanatory literal

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Figure of Speech	Description	Example
Simile/Metaphor	A comparison in which one thing explicitly (by using like or as) resembles another	Psalm 1: "He is like a tree planted by streams of water" John 2:19, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."
Irony/Sarcasm	When The speaker say the opposite of what he intends to convey. Often a kind of ridicule expressed indirectly in the form of a compliment.	Elijah's taunting the prophets of Baal, "Shout louder! . . . Surely he is a god!" (1 Kings 18:27) 1 Corinthians 4:8, "You have become kings"
Metonymy	A metonymy is the substituting of one word for another.	"Let's attack him with our tongues" (Jer. 18: 18) "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord" (1 Cor. 10:21)
Hyperbole	A deliberate exaggeration, in which more is said than is literally meant, in order to add emphasis.	"The cities are large and fortified to heaven" (Deut. 1:28)
Personification	the ascribing of human characteristics or actions to inanimate objects or ideas or to animals	Isaiah 55:12 refers to mountains and hills singing and to trees clapping their hands. Death is personified in Romans 6:9 and 1 Corinthians 15:55.
Apostrophe	This is a direct address to an object as if it were a person, or to an absent or imaginary person as if he were present	"Why was it, O sea, that you fled?" (Ps. 114:5) Micah 1:2: "Listen, O earth, and all who are in it."
Synecdoche	the substituting of a part of something for the whole or the whole for the part	Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of "all the world" (Luke 2: 1) Proverbs 1:16, "their feet rush into sin,"
Anthropomorphism	Ascribes human characteristics or actions to God,	God's fingers (Ps. 8:3), ear (31:2) and eyes (2 Chron. 16:9).
Zoopomorphism	Ascribes animal characteristics to God	God "will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge" (Ps. 91:4).
Anthropopathism	Ascribes human emotions to God,	Zechariah 8:1, "I am very jealous for Zion.

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- **How should we interpret figures of speech?**
 - Determine if a figure of speech is involved.
 - Discover the image and nonimage.
 - State the point of comparison.
- **Idioms** – A figure of speech peculiar to a given language.
 - Horse of a different color, Pig in a poke, do the dishes, gets my goat, Jn 2:4.

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