

# Using Illustrations

***An illustration is a communication tool, usually a story, used to help one's listeners better understand a passage, to inspire them to embrace the teaching of the passage, and to motivate them to follow its principles in their own lives.***

## ***Types of Illustrations***

1. The Exact Example: A true story of someone who adjusted their life to
2. The Comparison: A modern parable, fable, or analogy.
3. Historical Events: Actual events in history which may be an exact example or may be used as an analogy.
4. Current Events: These include cultural trends which the Scriptures address from a biblical world view. Sometimes, human experiences may be used as a comparison.
5. Biography: Stories from the lives of real people (Christian biography, especially) describing their families and the struggles, temptations we experience.
6. Bible Stories: This include the parables and the real-life experiences of the real people recorded in Scripture. 43% of the Bible is narrative.
7. Polling Data: Provides insight into the trends in our culture. These may serve as a helpful wake-up call to help a congregation understand the severity of a problem or the importance of a solution.
9. Concordance Counts: How many times a particular word appears in the Bible.
10. A Quick List of Biblical Phrases: This can be helpful when defining or describing a concept, principle, or doctrine.
11. Word Pictures from Biblical Language.
12. Explaining the Modern Equivalent
13. Humor
14. Rapid Fire Examples of Application in a short list.
15. Short Quotations or Definitions
16. Poems and Song Lyrics

Hear It Explained: [www.smalltownbaptist.net/audio/preaching/illustrating.mp3](http://www.smalltownbaptist.net/audio/preaching/illustrating.mp3) 

## ***Off-Site Links***

*David Holwich's Kerux Illustration Database*  
[www.holwick.com/database.html](http://www.holwick.com/database.html) (free download)

*Polling Data:*

[www.barna.com](http://www.barna.com) and <https://research.lifeway.com>

*Green Acres Manuscript & Audio Sermon Archive*  
[www.gabc.org/messages](http://www.gabc.org/messages) (scroll down for David Dykes)

*Ways to Find Illustrations*

[www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/8-ways-find-sermon-illustrations](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/8-ways-find-sermon-illustrations)

*Reasons to Use Illustrations, Danny Akin*

<https://research.lifeway.com/2014/02/13/12-reasons-for-using-sermon-illustrations/>

*Five Types of Illustrations & How to Use Them*

[www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/5-types-of-sermon-illustrations-and-how-to-use-them/](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/5-types-of-sermon-illustrations-and-how-to-use-them/)

*Sermon Illustrations: Showing Not Just Telling*

[www.preachandlead.com/blog/guide-sermon-illustrations](http://www.preachandlead.com/blog/guide-sermon-illustrations)

*Justified Forevermore by John Piper*

[www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/john-piper-poetically-imagines-the-new-heavens-and-the-new-earth/](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/john-piper-poetically-imagines-the-new-heavens-and-the-new-earth/)

Complete: <https://danielchristiansoukup.wordpress.com/2011/11/19/justified-forever-more-by-john-piper/>