

March 2004

Regular Baptist Press
Building Lives by the Book



Regular Baptist Press
Horizons, for adults
subject ideas, with some potential slants

We always look for a “personal” element in treating such subject matter—such things as personal experiences that bring a concept to life, bits of conversation, internal thoughts, etc. that show what it is to learn and to live out Biblical truth.

Some of these may be handled well in fiction; others are best approached with a nonfiction treatment.

- church life incidents; specific example of meaningful ministry in a local church and the fruit from such ministry (e.g. English as a second language; church camp ministry; youth ministry); spiritual growth that results through fellowship and service in the local church
- personal outreach: witnessing; testimony from someone who has been saved as result of someone’s personal witness
- doctrine study that is not academic, that is amplified by incidents drawn from life, that is enjoyable to read and gives reader sense of being spiritually better equipped, challenged, or provides other take-away value; Christian education = “applied theology,” not academic theological content apart from the response we should have toward it in faith and love toward God.
- some person or significant event in Christian history, recent or distant, that has value for believers in Baptist churches
- true stories regarding missions, mission fields, missionaries, short-term missions experiences (Baptistic); testimonies from missionaries about the things God is doing in other nations
- family life: typical incidents that help people understand spiritual principles better; use of a spiritual principle to help family resolve a problem or grow in some way . . .
- relationships
- spiritual disciplines (prioritizing; what to tune out); matters of discipleship, self-discipline
- seasonal special emphasis materials
- multi-part stories (we’ve done some testimonies and some fiction this way); need a suspenseful break-off point to carry reader on to next segment; new segment needs a synopsis of story so far before resuming and continuing.
- success, image, esteem, peer pressure—we develop unexamined, unbiblical ideas about these things and often don’t realize, when we become Christians, the need to recognize them within ourselves or to bring them into line with the Word of God (1 Corinthians 13:9–11)
- self-awareness (NOT self-esteem); show someone learning to make decisions consciously and intentionally as a child of God, not as nameless, faceless member of a crowd

- making moral decisions in the adult issues of life as the years pass (e.g., the issue of ethics; acquiring and using “power” over others in family, church, workplace, or community)
- being Christians (followers of Jesus, Christ-like) in a secular world
- integrity; learning and owning the principles in the 10 Commandments
- responsibility as a Christian character trait
- understanding grief (e.g. aging parents; wayward children; personal *disability*); society doesn’t acknowledge or respect grief; embarrassed by inability to “do” something to make troubles go away; please, do not lapse into clichés
- priesthood of believers in ministering to hurting people (e.g., ministering to someone wrestling with conflict, abuse, loss of employment or other loss . . . ; could be account of someone who received such ministry from another person and how that person’s Christlikeness helped)
- prayer; e.g., how does God teach us, in His Word, to pray for ourselves; personal testimony/experience about supplication for personal needs; what about praying for personal concerns that aren’t for material or physical concerns but for personal character, wrestling with temptation, spiritual growth or things of that sort?
- an attribute of God; how to grow in knowing and appreciating one of these (Jeremiah 9:23, 24) and how to allow one’s personal life to be affected by understanding something more about the Lord
- discerning God’s will through the changes and decisions of the adult years. Scripture says much about finding and doing the will of God, and the words are pretty much addressed to adults, but we treat this subject as though it is for youth only
 - relationships: within family, across generations, within the local church; learning to recognize one’s own weakness and make change; being an encourager to someone else who is struggling with a relationship concern
 - witnessing to unsaved loved ones; “bridge building evangelism”—that is, gaining credibility with unsaved people that helps them be receptive when we talk of the Lord and of the necessity of salvation by faith in Christ
 - witnessing testimonies, helps; e.g. sharing the gospel by drawing a sketch that illustrates the gap between man and God, how the Father reached across that gap through His Son, and the response we must make
- Biblical “apologeon” articles (defense of the faith; “apologetics” in the historical, legal sense) that equip believers to talk of such issues as morality, creationism vs. evolution, “toleration,” “individualism” and other hot issues Biblically without coming across as ignorant, rude, or self-righteous
- matters of the soul: helping people learn what Biblical spirituality is; learning to recognize long-held assumptions that are common but not Biblical and to bring such things in line with God’s Word; equipping readers to address unsaved people who have interest in “spirituality” but have no sense of Who God truly is or what is required to be right with Him