

Bridging the Gap with Laughter: Finding the Funny in Bible Stories **Suggested Reading List**

STANDUP COMEDY

Bloom, Adam. *Finding Your Comedy Genius: An In-Depth Guide to the Art of Stand-Up Comedy*. Independently Published, 2023.

Corley, Jerry. *Breaking Comedy's DNA: Comedy Writing System*. Self-Published, 2021.

Dean, Greg Dean. *Step by Step to Stand-Up Comedy, 2nd Edition*. Self-Published, 2019.

Head, Chris. *A Director's Guide to the Art of Stand-Up*. Methuen/Drama, 2018.

Kilpatrick, Bill. *Okay, Here's What Happened: Stand-Up as Storytelling*. Bill Kilpatrick Comedy, 2020.

North, Steve. *How to Kill in Comedy: Find your Comedic Character, Use 20 Great Joke Formulas, Slay the Audience*. BFE Press, 2020.

Lukas, Mike. Funny Muscle Series.

Finding Your Funny Muscle. Merlin Makes Publishing, 2023.

Fine-Tuning Your Funny Muscle. Merlin Makes Publishing, 2023.

Flexing Your Funny Muscle. Merlin Makes Publishing, 2024.

Rosenfield, Stephen. *Mastering Stand-Up: The Complete Guide to Becoming a Successful Comedian*. Chicago Review Press, 2017.

Volle, Jared. *Playfully Inappropriate: The Fun Way to Write Comedy*. Independently Published, 2019.

GENERAL COMEDY

Dikkers, Scott. Series.

How to Write Funny: . SD Books, 2014.

How to Write Funnier. SD Books, 2019.

How to Write Funniest. SD Books, 2020.

How to Write Funny Characters. SD Books, 2021.

Elements of Humor. SD Books, 2024.

How to Write Funny Stand-Up. (Not yet published.)

Head, Chris. *Creating Comedy Narratives for Stage and Screen*. Methuen/Drama, 2021

Head, Chris. *The Complete Comedy Script Toolbox*. Yellow Door Books, 2025.

Kaplan, Steve. *The Hidden Tools of Comedy: The Serious Business of Being Funny*. Michael Wiese Productions, 2013.

Perret, Gene. *The New Comedy Writing Step by Step*. Quill Driver Books, 2007.

Vorhaus, John. *The Comic Toolbox: How to Be Funny Even If You're Not*. Silman-James Press, 1994.

HUMOR IN THE BIBLE

Adams, Douglass. *The Prostitute in the Family Tree: Discovering Humor and Irony in the Bible*. Westminster/John Knox, 1997.

Jemielity, Thomas J. *Satire and the Hebrew Prophets*. Westminster/John Knox, 1992.

Macy, Howard R. *Discovering Humor in the Bible: An Explorer's Guide*. Cascade Books, 2016.

Trueblood, Elton. *The Humor of Christ*. Harper & Row, 1964.

Walker, Steven C. *Illuminating Humor of the Bible*. Cascade Books, 2013.

Palmer, Earl F. *The Humor of Jesus: Sources of Laughter in the Bible*. Regent College Publishing, 2001.

Perry, Peter S. *Humor and Biblical Performance*. Cascade Books, 2023.

HUMOR AND RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Capps, Donald. *A Time to Laugh: The Religion of Humor*. Continuum, 2005.

Macy, Howard R. *Laughing Pilgrims: Humor and the Spiritual Journey*. Cascade Books, 2006.

Martin, James, SJ. *Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor and Laughter Are at the Center of the Spiritual Life*. HarperOne, 2012.

Hyers, M. Conrad. *Holy Laughter: Essays on Religion in the Comic Perspective*. The Seabury Press, 1969.

Sparks, Susan. *Laugh Your Way to Grace: Reclaiming the Spiritual Power of Humor*. Skylight Paths Publishing, 2010.

Willimon, William. *And the Laugh Shall Be First*. Abingdon Press, 1988.

COMEDY AND PREACHING

Buechner, Frederick. *Telling the Truth. The Gospel as Comedy, Tragedy, and Fairytale.* Harper San Francisco, 1977.

Jacobson, Karl, and Rolf Jacobson. *Divine Laughter: Preaching and the Serious Business of Humor.* Fortress Press, 2022.

McKenzie, Alice M and Owen Hanley Lynch. *Humor Us!: Preaching and the Power of the Comic Spirit.* Westminster/John Knox, 2023.

Myers, Jacob D. *Stand-Up Preaching: Homiletical Insights from Contemporary Comedians.* Cascade Books, 2022.

Sparks, Susan. *Preaching Punchlines: The Ten Commandments of Preaching.* Smyth & Helwys, 2019.

Webb, Joseph. *Comedy and Preaching.* Chalice Press, 1998.

STORYTELLING

Abel, Jessica. *Out on the Wire: The Storytelling Secrets of the New Masters of Radio.* Broadway Books, 2015.

Davis. Donald. *Telling Your Own Stories: For Family and Classroom Storytelling, Public Speaking, and Personal Journalling.* August House Publishers, Inc., 1993.

Dicks, Matthew. *Storyworthy: Engage, Teach, Persuade, and Change Your Life through the Power of Storytelling.* New World Library, 2018.

Kaplan, Steve. *The Comic Hero's Journey: Serious Story Structure for Fabulously Funny Films.* Michael Wiese Productions, 2018.

Leitman, Margo. *Long Story Short: The Only Guide You'll Ever Need.* Sasquatch Books, 2015.

CREATIVITY

Cleese, John. *Creativity: A Short and Cheerful Guide.* Penguin House, 2022.

Tharp, Twila. *The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life.* Simon & Schuster, 2006

Volle, Jared. *Tapping Your Comedy Muse: How to Master Creative Flow to Revolutionize Your Comedy Writing.* Independently Published, 2015.