

The Magnificent Seven: Formats For Communicating Biblical Content

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*The Magnificent Seven concept and images, Courtesy United Artists, 1960

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

They fought like seven hundred



STEVE McQUEEN

JAMES COBURN
"BRITT"

HORST BUCHHOLZ
"CHICO"

YUL BRYNNER
"CHRIS ADAMS"

BRAD DEXTER
"HARRY LUCK"

ROBERT VAUGHN
"LEE"

CHARLES BRONSON
"BERNARDO O'REILLY"

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- **Concepts**

- Seven men, individually weren't spectacular, but together changed lives (they fought like seven hundred).
- Villagers were underdeveloped, couldn't stand on their own. The seven helped them become who they could be.

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• Premises

- Authority and Sufficiency of Scripture (2 Tim 3:16)
- Literal Grammatical Historical Hermeneutics (Genesis)
- Responsibility of All Believers (Col 3:16)
- Practical Distinction Between Formal and Informal
- Biblical Distinction Between Preaching and Teaching
 - *Integrating Exegesis and Exposition*, Ch. 22

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- **Biblical Distinction Between Preaching and Teaching**
 - Preaching for unbelievers (e.g., Acts 8:5)
 - Teaching for believers (e.g., Eph 4:11-12)
 - Close proximity, not segregation (Acts 5:42)
 - Priority in mixed audiences (e.g., Acts 28:31, Heb 6:1-2, 2 Pet 1:12-13, 1 Cor 3:2)

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- **The Basic Concept**
 - Formal and informal preaching and teaching cover the ground needed for effectively communicating Biblical content for transformational learning.

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- **#1 Informal Preaching:**
Apologetic, Lifestyle Evangelism
 - Addressed to unbelievers
 - Responsive to unbelievers
 - Prepared in general beforehand, but not rhetorically structured
 - Acts 17:19-22, 1 Pet 3:15 evangelism



- **#2 Formal Preaching:
Evangelism**
 - Addressed to unbelievers
 - Responsive to unbelievers
 - Prepared in detail beforehand,
rhetorically structured
 - Acts 17:1-3 evangelism

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- **#2 Formal Preaching:
Peter's Acts 2 Example**
 - Accounts for human experience with Scripture (2:15-21)
 - Draws connection of experience to Christ (2:22-24)
 - Justifies with Scripture (2:25-28)
 - Again connects experience with Christ (2:29-36)
 - Call to action (repentance, 2:37)

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- **#3 Informal Teaching: General Discipleship**
 - Audience is believers
 - One on one, or small group
 - Intentional, but not necessarily systematic
 - (example: *Integrating Exegesis and Exposition*, Ch. 25)
 - Example: Jesus with disciples – doing life, teaching while going



- **#4-7 Formal Teaching:
3 Perspectives+**
 - Audience is believers
 - All must be exegetical, not eisegetical
 - Movie Poster Example:
 - (1) the whole (concept),
 - (2) the words (message),
 - (3) the pictures (message illustrated)

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- **#4-7 Formal Teaching: 3 Perspectives+**
 - Forest and Trees Example:
 - (1) bird's eye view,
 - (2) the details, leaves,
 - (3) the categories, kinds of trees



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- **#4 Formal Teaching: Synthetic Preview**
 - The introduction to the study
 - Overviews, surveys, for big picture Biblical perspective
 - Ideal for beginning a study, rooting in context, providing visual mnemonic
 - Examples: Rev 1:19, Lk 1:1-4, Structure of Ephesians

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- **#5 Formal Teaching: Exegetical Journey**
 - The primary emphasis, the body of the study
 - Systematic, transparent handling of verse-by-verse details
 - Not exposition based on passage, but actually teaching passage
 - Example: Neh 8:1-12
 - Practical examples, structure, Integrating Exegesis and Exposition, Ch. 27

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- **#6 Formal Teaching:
Analytical Summary**
 - Analysis = systematic theology, capstone of book study
 - Beware the inherent challenges!!!
 - Topical or expository, puts doctrines and topics in context, provides springboard for action
 - Limit scope of theological subject matter, limit sample size
 - Examples: Theology of Ephesians

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- **#7 Formal Teaching:
Topical Teaching**
 - Addresses issues through the lens of a passage
 - Beware the inherent challenges!!!
 - Ideal for occasional situations: holiday, addressing issues, answering questions – not the main course

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- **Summary**

- #1 Informal Preaching: Apologetic, Lifestyle Evangelism
- #2 Formal Preaching: Anticipated Evangelism
- #3 Informal Teaching: Discipleship
- #4 Formal Teaching: Synthetic Preview
- #5 Formal Teaching: Exegetical Journey
- #6 Formal Teaching: Analytical Summary
- #7 Formal Teaching: Topical Teaching

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- **Application: Pedagogical Strategy**
 - Preaching Goal: to introduce unbelievers to Jesus Christ, through Biblical truth, calling them to believe.

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- **Application: Pedagogical Strategy**
 - Teaching Goal: to teach believers to understand and properly apply the content of Scripture so that they can be equipped by it, grow, and walk.

Pedagogical Flow Chart

