

**Enhancing Communication in Sermons through Illustration**  
*Reverend Larry Booze*

ABSTRACT

The project proposed to create a seminar to address a lack by Assemblies of God ministers in Illinois in the area of sermon illustrating. Two factors were identified as contributing to this: (1) a failure to appreciate the value of and biblical precedent for illustration use and (2) insufficient training in illustration techniques.

To address these factors, research was conducted in three biblical areas: (1) Old Testament historical narratives, (2) Jesus' parables, and (3) Paul's illustrative material. The biblical studies revealed the great value placed on illustrations by the biblical writers setting a precedent for their continued use. Research was also conducted in the literature. This was done to discover effective illustration techniques. This portion of the study focused on the value of illustrations, guidelines and techniques for their effective delivery, specific types of illustrations (stories, personal anecdotes, and humorous illustrations), and the filing of illustrations.

The seminar was presented to the Central Section of the Illinois District of the Assemblies of God. Survey instruments were designed to assess the participants prior to the seminar, immediately following the seminar, and at the 1-month mark as to their perception of the value of and biblical precedents for illustrating and as to their appreciation for effective illustration techniques.

The surveys indicated an increase in appreciation for illustrating and a desire to use illustrations more frequently as a result of exposure in the seminar to the biblical and the literature studies