

Wednesday Night Study Recap (Jan 7, 2026) — Biblical Typology (Introduction)

What this night was about

This first session was an *introduction*—setting the stage for a new Wednesday series on biblical typology: what it is, why it matters, and how the class plans to study it (not diving into specific “types” yet).

Why typology matters

A main concern shared up front: the church (broadly) often settles for a “surface-level” faith, but we need to think deeply about God and His Word. Part of the urgency is how many young people grow up in church, then walk away—not just from church life, but from the faith—because they can repeat facts, yet struggle to explain *why* we believe what we believe.

The “big story” framework

The lesson emphasized that Scripture is one unfolding story (a “meta-narrative”) where God progressively reveals His redemptive plan over time—so we don’t just look for ourselves in the Bible, we learn to look *to see God*.

Three stated purposes for God giving Scripture were:

1. that we would **know God as He is**,
2. that we would **recognize His work as truly His**, and
3. that we would **worship Him for who He is and what He has done**.

Where typology begins (and what it helps us see)

The “grand story” was anchored in **Genesis 3:15**—described as the first proclamation of the gospel, where God promises a coming Redeemer.

The point wasn’t only “God promised a Redeemer,” but also that God continued revealing the details over time so His people could recognize the Redeemer when He came (instead of humanity being left guessing forever).

Definition of typology (in plain terms)

Typology was defined as a way of interpreting Scripture where **Old Testament people/events/institutions (“types”)** are **divinely intended previews** of New Testament realities—especially the person and work of Jesus Christ.

An example given was **Jonah’s three days** in the fish as a pattern pointing forward to Christ’s death and resurrection.

A simple summary line offered: typology helps Jesus be recognized by His people when He arrives.

Why God reveals things this way (prophecy *and* typology)

The teaching noted that God didn’t simply drop a neat “Messiah checklist” all at once; instead, He revealed His plan progressively, through both **prophecy and typology**, showing His sovereignty and consistency across time.

It was also framed as **grace and mercy**: clarity is grace to believers, while God’s indirectness (like Jesus teaching in parables) is mercy toward those still rejecting Him—because fuller clarity can increase condemnation. Matthew 13 was used to show this logic (“to you it has been given... but to them it has not been given”).

A key theological thread: God’s “foreknowledge”

One major reason for the study is to better understand what Scripture means by **God’s foreknowledge**—not merely “knowing ahead of time,” but God’s purposeful plan, structure, and order to accomplish all His will.

Isaiah 46:9–10 was referenced (“declaring the end from the beginning... I will accomplish all my purposes”) to show foreknowledge as sovereign planning.

Acts 2:23 was also used to connect “definite plan” with “foreknowledge.”

How the class plans to study “types”

The intended approach: for each type, you'll look at (1) the story and its context, then (2) the deeper meaning—how it points forward to Christ (shadow → substance).

Examples mentioned as possible “types” to explore included things like the Christmas star, Rahab’s scarlet thread, and multiple angles on David as a type (shepherd/king, etc.).

A few things for further study

Suggested Scripture to read (in order)

- **Genesis 3:15** — the promise of the Redeemer
- **Deuteronomy 8:2** — remembering “the whole way” the Lord led His people
- **Matthew 13 (esp. why parables)** — grace/mercy in revelation
- **Isaiah 46:9–10** — God’s sovereign counsel and purposes
- **Acts 2:23** — “definite plan and foreknowledge”
- **Romans 8:29–30** — “those He foreknew...” (raised as a key debate text)
- **Jonah + the “sign of Jonah” in the Gospels** — a clear example of typology

Reflection questions (good for personal or family discussion)

1. If someone asked you, “Why do you believe what you believe?” how would you answer—beyond facts?
2. Which of the three purposes of Scripture do you most need right now: knowing God as He is, recognizing His work, or worshiping Him more deeply?
3. In your own words, what’s the difference between **prophecy** and **typology**—and why would God use both?
4. When you hear “God’s foreknowledge,” do you think mainly “God knew ahead,” or “God planned and purposed”? How do Isaiah 46 and Acts 2 shape that?

5. Pick one Old Testament story you know well (Noah, Exodus, David, etc.). What might it be “previewing” about Christ?

Prayer requests mentioned

- Ongoing sickness/cough (Kari) and need for relief.
- Elizabeth Mason (20) diagnosed with a brain tumor; consult and surgery coming up.
- Multiple upcoming surgeries mentioned (including back surgery and knee replacement).
- John (trach installed).