

# Reader's reactions

**Bob Hartman**

## **Bible stories through the year: lectionary readings for year A, retold for maximum effect**

**Lion Hudson, July 2013**

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Bob Hartman is a master storyteller. He has a particular gift of being able to take the words of the Bible and bring them to life in fresh and exciting ways. I have often used his stories/retellings during church services, putting them in place of the traditional bible reading. As a children's and youth worker I particularly like how the stories are not simply child friendly, or even childlike, but are appropriate for all ages, allowing everyone to enjoy hearing the Bible together.

This collection follows the readings in year A of the Revised Common Lectionary, taking two readings for each week and providing a fresh way of telling them. Some of the retellings are simple monologues to be told by one reader, others involve a number of readers while still others involve the whole congregation. For Bob, hearing the Bible is about more than just



listening to the words being spoken so some of the retellings involve actions for the congregation to participate in, while others have a few stage directions for the readers.

For each retelling Bob provides some useful ‘telling tips’; handy hints for the readers to get the most out of the reading. This makes the resource suitable for use by beginners and those who have been doing bible readings in services for years.

While written for use in church services, many of the retellings could also work wherever else bible readings are used e.g. house groups, Junior Church, uniformed organisations, SU groups, youth groups, schools. At the back of the book there is a scripture index meaning it is very easy for anyone not using the lectionary to see if there is a retelling of the bible passage they are wanting to use.

Bob’s hope for the book is that it provides a resource that when used enables people to have a genuine sense of excitement because they are encountering, experiencing and savouring God’s word rather than switching off as another dry monotone voice fumbles over ancient names that nobody understands. I certainly think it does that and would wholeheartedly recommend it, and indeed Bob’s other books.

*Please note that the views expressed in these materials are those of the individual writer and not necessarily the official view of the Church of Scotland, which can be laid down only by the General Assembly.*



## Additional Resources

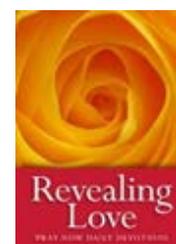
### Resourcing Mission



[Resourcing Mission](#) is host to Starters for Sunday and other key mission resources for download and purchase. Online booking is available for [Mission & Discipleship events](#). Please check back regularly, as new items are being added all the time. If there is something you'd like to see on this new site, please [contact us](#) via the website.

### Prayer Resources

These materials are designed to be a starting point for what you might look for in prayers. [Revealing Love](#) is available now from [St Andrew Press](#).



### Starters for Sunday



[Starters for Sunday](#) offer a range of suggested material which can be used each week for individuals and congregations to develop. All of the material is written by people who are experienced in leading worship regularly though not all are ordained.

### Music Resources

For some excellent articles on church music and ideas for new music resources, please check out our online music resource [Different Voices](#).



### Preaching Resources



These materials are designed to be a starting point for what you might preach this Sunday. [Preachers Perspectives](#) is a resource where we have asked twelve preachers to share the insights they have gathered through their experiences of writing and delivering sermons regularly.

