

## Haiku and Tanka

These short poems provide a way to reword or summarize sections of Scripture.

### Benefits of Haiku and Tanka

- Demands analysis of Scripture
- Support critical thinking
- Captures the essence of a passage
- Develops vocabulary

### Types of Stories for Haiku / Tanka

- For this activity it is easiest to look at short pieces of Proverbs or Psalms

### Directions

1. Select a few verses from a favorite Psalm or from Proverbs.
2. Read the selection several times.
3. Ask, “What does this passage mean? What is it saying?”
4. Rewrite the ideas; follow the structure of a haiku and tanka.
5. Use specific nouns and vivid verbs to create strong images

Structure of a haiku: Three lines of poetry that follow a syllable count for each line. Line 1 has 5 syllables; line 2 has 7; line 3 has 5.

Structure of a tanka: Five lines of poetry that follow a syllable count for each line. Line 1 – 5 syllables; line 2 – 7 syllables; line 3 – 5 syllables; line 4 – 7 syllables; line 5 – 7 syllables

### Samples of Haiku and Tanka based on Proverbs

Verses from Proverbs 5:3-8	Haiku & Tanka based on selected verses
For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, And her speech is smoother than oil; But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; Her steps follow the path to Sheol. She does not ponder the path of life; Her ways wander and she does not know it.	Lips drip with honey; The forbidden woman lures With words smooth as oil. Promise of sweetness Turns to poisonous wormwood. Guilt - a two-edged sword. Now he stumbles down death's path; Ravished by iniquity.

### Samples of Haiku and Tanka based on Proverbs

<b>Verses from Psalm 19:1-</b>	<b>Haiku &amp; Tanka based on selected verses</b>
The heavens are telling the glory of God; And the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard; Yet their voice goes out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world.	See the stars and moon Shouting the glory of God. Air, light, rain, and dew They have no voice, but Declare creative powers. Throughout all the earth All hear lasting songs of praise. Their wordless songs eternal.