

Things to watch for

1. Conflict
2. Testing of their faith
3. The change in the story
 - a. Tragic Plot –
 - b. Comic Plot –
4. Progression of the plot
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

Examples to look at

Acts 12	Peter in prison
Acts 5	Ananias and Sapphira
Genesis 39	Jospeh and Potiphar's Wife



Lesson 7: Understanding Narratives

Stories are the main literary device in scripture. Over 40 percent of the Old Testament consists of Biblical Narratives. Almost 60 percent of the Gospels are dedicated to this story form and almost all of Acts. The great thing about stories is that they are written to pull the reader into the story. Biblical stories are an invitation to share an experience with the characters of the story.

🔑 *The Main Key to Understanding Biblical Stories*

They are first and foremost stories about what God did to and through people.

Key to Understanding Biblical Narrative

1. Most stories do not teach _____.
2. They do not preach doctrine, but _____ it.
 - a. Be careful what you prove from a story
 - b. Look for the principles of the story
 - c. They are not stories with hidden meaning
Example: John 13:30 "It was dark"
3. Stories are limited in their _____
They are not designed to answer all your questions
4. Look for how the individual story fits within the _____ story.
3 Levels:
5. Look for _____ in a story.
6. Look for end _____.

Setting

Pay close attention to every detail of the setting that a storyteller puts into a story, and if setting has an important role, analyze how it contributes to the story. Leland Ryken, pg 37

1. Just as a lead in, "Jesus began to teach by the lake"
Mark 4:1

2. If the story elaborates the setting pay attention to the details, i.e. Acts 12 Peter in prison. (Don't forget the cultural aspect of the setting.)

Characters

Characters are an essential part of any biblical story. Therefore... use every relevant detail in a story to get to know the characters as fully as possible. Ryken, pg 40

Things to watch for

1. Direct _____, unusual in the bible story
2. _____ by other characters to main character
3. Words, thoughts, and actions by a character
4. Biblical characters are not _____

2 Characters of every story

1. Protagonist -
2. Antagonist -

Plot

In reading or discussing the stories of the bible, analyze exactly how the narrative generates interest, curiosity, or suspense. Ryken, pg 43