

- Why teach narratives?
 - So many in scripture, Jesus talks in stories
 - Memorable, impactful
 - Enjoyable and FUN
 - Has a way of getting past defenses
 - See themes come to life
 - Bad reasons:
 - Postmodernism: because we've give up on propositional truth
 - Liberal scholarship: they think the events described never happened
 - We need to be able to teach narrative without falling into this
- Our approach over the next two weeks
 - How to interpret narratives
 - How to teach narratives
 - Presentation tips, common mistakes, application, discussion
- How to interpret narratives
 - You have to see it to understand it
 - The 5 W's:
 - Who (characters)
 - When, Where (setting, scenes, context)
 - What (plot, dialogue)
 - Why (relevance, author's intention)
 - Be realistic
 - Historical context of that day (not our lens)
 - Be imaginative
 - Give it flesh and blood
 - Biblical narratives and sparse and boiled down
 - Visualize what you would be seeing and hearing
 - Be empathetic
 - Identify with their problems and feelings, place yourself with them
 - Inner emotions reflected in outer actions
 - Genesis 37 with Joshua
 - Tips for interpreting narratives
 - 1. Scene
 - What scenes are happening?
 - Breaking it down into smaller chunks to get your mind around the whole thing
 - Start to notice trends in how the narrative is woven together, themes/MP/purpose might arise here
 - Acts 27- you see leadership in a moment of crisis with stuff with the ship and then stuff with Paul
 - 2. Plot
 - Basic elements of a plot: crisis, tension building, climax, resolve
 - How these little stories fit into the big story of scripture

- ***What is the conflict? How does the tension build? What are the peaks?***
 - Gen 22- one peak (sacrifice of Isaac)
 - Gen 27- two peaks (blessing of Jacob, fleeing)
 - Prodigal son- two peaks
 - Sometimes the tension isn't resolved...
 - Jesus does this- what are you going to do? Are you going to respond this same way?
 - ***Tension between what God promised and what seems to be happening***
 - This the tension in our lives as well
- Structure the teaching that reflects the tension that is already there
- Climax of the narrative fits with the climax of your teaching
- 3. Characters
 - Description is sparse, so make the most of it
 - Saul is tall... why won't he fight Goliath? Why is he hiding in the luggage?
 - Sam's verdict on him 1 sam 15:17
 - Compare and contrast will be good here
 - Juxtaposition, foils
 - Certain character qualities will be highlighted this way
 - David vs. Saul
 - Samuel vs. the sons of Eli
 - Jonah vs. pagan sailors
 - Rahab vs. Achan
- 4. Dialogue
 - The more dialogue, the more important
 - Often, the important things
 - Discontinuities of dialogue, what that implies
 - When the narrative says one thing and then the narrative said something different
 - Characters not really responding to what the other person is saying
 - Jacob and Laban
 - Genesis 4, Cain adds God's punishment and giving God the finger at the same time
 - Breaking off sharply
 - Jonah 4- narrating tantrum, drawing into the story, and asking "what about you?"
 - Repetitions
 - Adding, changing, etc..
 - Genesis 2:15-17 vs. 3:1-4
 - Ex 3:18 vs. Ex 5:1,3

- What happened and what's said
 - Reality and report of characters
 - Ex 32:44
 - 1 Kings 18 and 19
 - Reality with what Elijah says and how he feels
- 5. Repetition
 - Key words
 - John 18:18, 21:9
 - Ex 9:8- what would the Egyptians be reminded of?
 - Nile into blood... babies being thrown into the Nile
 - Events
 - 1 Kings 12:28 (reminds you of Ex 34)
 - Moses sends 12 spies publically, Joshua sends 2 spies secretly
 - Patterns
 - Judges and the cycle of sin
 - 12:6,21:25; 14:3, 16:21
 - Moral anarchy and lack of leadership
- 6. Summaries or Conclusions
 - The narrator is your friend, omniscient
 - Gen 25:34- gives us information (Esau despised his birthright)
 - 1 Sam 11:27b
 - Can get summaries through dialogue
 - Gen 50:19-20 (gives the moral of the story incase you missed it)
 - When God speaks from the heavens...
- 7. Irony
 - Cross ironies (Matt 27)
 - What Lot went for... and what he got
 - What Uriah says to David... YIKES
- Get some background knowledge
 - Bible dictionaries, CT teachings, commentaries, maps, etc...