

## Narrative Bible Teaching – *How to do it!*

1. Do a narrative analysis of the passage.
  - a. Using a rough sketch of the story, translate the passage into a movie in your mind, and then a 3-dimensional hologram in the room using the narrative analysis process.
  - b. Graph the structure of the story to identify the key points, unique elements, and character perspectives found in the passage.
  - c. The story can be taught with very little extra preparation by then using the following minimum preparation options.
    - i. Tell the story/ Ask basic questions
      1. What did you like about the story?/ What does this story teach you about people?/ What does this story teach you about God?
      2. Even shorter: Are there any questions about the story?
    - ii. If you have a little more time, add a group participation retelling of the story and integrate these discussion questions into the retelling.
      1. Ask the group to fill in the See and Wonder questions (concrete and inferred details) as they come up.
      2. Ask the group what they Think the characters were thinking at the time in the story where they interact with the story.
2. Using this narrative analysis, brainstorm other options for presenting the lesson. (**POSES**)
  - a. Define the **purpose** of the story and of your lesson.
  - b. Craft an **opening** that will make everyone comfortable and engaged.
    - i. Principles
      1. It's more important for it to be fun/interesting than profound.
      2. It can be very tangential but should be somewhat related to the passage.
      3. Craft a transition to take you from the opener to the story.
    - ii. Options
      1. Personal stories
      2. Games
      3. Personal characteristics pertaining to a related theme
      4. Quizzes
    - iii. Examples
      1. Worst storm you have been in; Mishaps in a boat; A time you thought you might die
      2. Guess what these things have in common? (Pictures of items from the Sound of Music song that was sung when kids were afraid of a storm)
      3. How do you react during a storm on a 0-10 scale? 0 is very cautious and 10 is fearless (going on the porch to watch the tornado)
      4. Name as many movies as you can that have a storm as a key part of the story.

- c. Plan how to present the **story** to make it unforgettable.
  - i. Principles
    - 1. Establish the context and setting of the story including its place in the storyline of Scripture.
    - 2. Reading the passage is usually only partially effective by itself.
    - 3. Repetition of the story with different presentations is helpful.
    - 4. Getting the class/group to retell the story is especially fun/effective.
  - ii. Options
    - 1. Read the passage slowly in a clear translation or more than one.
    - 2. Have them listen to the read passage with their eyes closed.
    - 3. Tell the story in your own words.
    - 4. Have the class retell the story to each other in different levels of detail.
    - 5. Walk through a retelling of the story having the class represent characters.
  
- d. **Explore** the story in a way that helps them see the passage more accurately and more deeply.
  - i. Principles
    - 1. Move from more concrete observations to inferred details and then to the thoughts and motivations of the characters.
    - 2. Prefer active learning techniques over passive.
  - ii. Options
    - 1. A short sermon
    - 2. Discussion questions
      - a. See/Wonder/Think (Concrete/inferred/thoughts and motivations)
      - b. What does this story teach about people/God?
    - 3. Discussion about/during a group retelling of the story
    - 4. Analyze a “wax museum” scene by the group
    - 5. QAR activities; see course catalog for further training by Phyllis Hostmeyer
    - 6. Create off of the story: new reporters, poems, music, art, pantomime, etc.
  
- e. Plan a **summary** for the group if needed.
  - i. Have your own summary ready but be hesitant to use it
  - ii. Pull the summaries from the group
  - iii. What kind of person would find this story helpful?
  
- f. Review your brainstorming options and choose the elements that will work best for your group and timeframe.