

## Narratives

It is important to understand that studying narrative literature must be approached with a clear understanding of the nature of narratives. Narratives are stories, written to illustrate what individual people have acted upon, in real life scenarios, with the truth of God. Many people misunderstand the doctrines and instructions of God by improperly concluding that God instructs on doctrine through narrative accounts. As we seek to study narratives effectively, we must do so by studying the illustrative nature of the them, and seek to learn from these accounts as we establish the appropriate doctrinal basis for them in the Epistles.

Prior to applying the steps of Bible study to a specific passage of the book you are studying, take the time to immerse yourself in the overall context of the entire book. Read the entire book, twice, in two different translations (ESV and NLT). You would also benefit by purchasing a Scripture Journal and watching the introduction video for the book that you are studying in from The Bible Project<sup>1</sup>.

### Observation

1. Pray
2. Read: the entire chapter, two times (ESV & NLT), from start to finish, uninterrupted.
3. Places: identify the different places in the chapter.
4. People: identify who the different characters (God and people) in the chapter are, and what they do or say.
5. Questions: write down all your questions.

### Interpretation

1. Scenes: mark with a line and number each of the different scenes of the story.
2. Spiritual Concepts: For each scene of the story, record your thoughts about what the scene is communicating about the nature of mankind, the character and work of God, or how people are to relate to Him. Note any cross-references that correspond to the spiritual concepts that you have identified in the scene.
3. Summary: write a one sentence summary of each scene that succinctly details what you believe to

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to the "Resources" section to find links for purchasing a scripture journal and for The Bible Project.

be the main point of that particular scene.

4. Principle: Develop a principle for the entire chapter. Remember that the principle should answer the question, "What is the spiritual lesson that we learn in this chapter?"

## **Application**

1. Thinking: consider areas of your thinking that contradict with the principle you have uncovered.
2. Actions: consider areas of your lifestyle and actions that contradict with the principle you have uncovered.
3. Change: consider avenues of change that you could embrace which would better align your thinking and actions with the principle you have uncovered.