

*Light*

ChatRoom



# THE BIBLE STORY

A BOOK THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR  
LIFE EVERY TIME YOU READ IT

WEEK 3 - FOUR VIDEO CLIPS

## **Plot, Character, and Setting**

*Watch the Four Short Video's at your own pace.*

Use this guide to follow along and take notes during the videos.

# 1. Plot in Biblical Narrative

(Based on the story of Gideon and how biblical plots are structured)

Biblical stories use plot to reveal deeper truths — not just about events, but about human nature, God’s character, and how trust is built in the mess.

## What is Plot?

Plot involves a character in a setting who experiences a conflict and moves toward a resolution.

Biblical authors carefully select and arrange scenes to form a meaningful arc.

## The Gideon Example (Judges 6–7)

Gideon’s fleece test is often misunderstood. It’s not about “how to hear God’s voice” — it’s about trust and fear. This is understood if we read the plot in context.

## Reading Plot in Context

Scenes must be read within their surrounding chapters — not in isolation.

We must read the individual plot in its context, all the while understanding how it fits into a larger movement or layered plotlines (like the time of the Judges). And how it contributes to the grand narrative of the whole Bible.

## **Discussion**

1. List another Bible story you've heard where the deeper plot might reveal something more than the surface.
2. Why does it matter that all these smaller stories point toward Jesus?
3. How does this change the way you approach your Bible reading?
4. Write down the four parts of a typical biblical plot:

*Character:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Setting:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Conflict:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Resolution:* \_\_\_\_\_

## **Key Takeaway:**

1. "Don't just read the scene — follow the storyline."
2. The Bible is a brilliant, unified narrative where every story fits into God's larger story of redemption.

## **2. Characters in Biblical Narrative**

Seeing ourselves, our flaws, and our calling through the characters God works with.

Biblical characters aren't polished heroes — they're complex, flawed, and surprisingly real. They reflect our own struggles and reveal how God faithfully works with broken people.

## **Characters Are Mirrors**

The Bible doesn't give full biographies. Instead, characters are written with minimal detail to:

1. Let us see ourselves in them
2. Force us to read between the lines
3. Make us wrestle with real-life tension

## **Why So Vague?**

Biblical authors avoid explaining motives.

They don't write, "Moses was angry," or "David felt guilty." Instead, they show what people say and do — and let the consequences speak.

## **Names, Traits & Symbolism**

Many biblical characters' names and appearances carry meaning:

*Saul = "the one asked for" → people's choice, not God's.*

*Jacob = "deceiver" → lives up to it!*

*David = humble youngest → becomes exalted king.*

## **No One Is Perfect — Except God**

Even the "heroes" are morally compromised:

*Abraham used Hagar and lied about Sarah.*

*David committed adultery and murder.*

These aren't solely role models. They are real people with real failures. Yet God still works with them. He stays faithful — even when they are not.

### **God Is Also a Character**

God is the only constant character across the Bible. Sometimes He is present and vocal, other times He's quiet and hidden.

### **Discussion**

Have you ever made a quick judgment about a biblical character — only to realize later the story was more complicated?

Why do you think the Bible doesn't always tell you if a character's action was right or wrong?

Think about a time when someone misunderstood your actions. Now imagine a story written only about your actions, not your motives. How would it read?

### **Key Takeaway:**

“Biblical characters reveal how God works through deeply flawed people to bring about deeply redemptive purposes.” They teach us that trust, humility, and surrender — not perfection — are what truly please God.

### **3. Setting in Biblical Narrative**

Discover how biblical locations and timeframes act as characters, foreshadow events, and shape meaning.

In the Bible, settings are symbolic story signals. A desert isn't just a desert. Egypt isn't just a place on a map.

These locations and times are loaded with past meaning and future expectation.

#### **Setting Creates Expectation**

The place where a story begins sets the emotional tone. Settings remind us of other stories — and that creates a “gut feeling” of what’s coming.

*Courtroom* → *You expect judgment.*

*Wilderness* → *You expect testing or danger.*

#### **A Pattern of Trouble and Rescue**

Abraham goes to Egypt because of a famine, lies to protect himself, and puts Sarah at risk.

Joseph's family ends up there because of another famine. Eventually, they become slaves.

God sends plagues and rescues His people.

Egypt becomes a place of bad decisions but also a place where God shows up and rescues.

## **Twist! Settings Can Flip**

The Bible sometimes flips our expectations to make a bigger point.

In Matthew, Jerusalem becomes like Egypt because of King Herod's oppression — not Pharaoh's.

## **Beyond Geography: Situational Settings**

Not all “settings” are places — some are themes or directions:

“Moving east” = moving away from God:

*Adam & Eve → East of Eden*

*Cain → Wanders East*

*Tower of Babel → Built in the East*

*Israel → Exiled East to Babylon*

These eastward movements point to separation, pride, and exile.

## **Time as Setting: The Number 40**

The Bible uses time symbolically:

*Noah → 40 days of rain = judgment + reset*

*Israelites → 40 years = testing and trust-building*

*Jesus → 40 days in wilderness = testing resisted*

## **Discussion**

What kind of expectations do you have when you hear the word Egypt or desert?

What does it mean when Jesus is taken to Egypt in Matthew's Gospel? What should be a bad sign becomes a place of safety. Why?

Can you think of a moment where a choice led you "east" — away from God?

What eventually brought you back?

### **Key Takeaway:**

The Bible's settings don't just hold the story — they help tell the story.

When you know the history of a place, time, or direction, you see how the authors are building meaning with every location they name.

## **4. Design Patterns in Biblical Narrative**

How repeated story patterns unify the Bible and point to Jesus.

Biblical authors use repeating story patterns — temptation, rescue, chaos, and deliverance — to connect individual stories into one powerful storyline that points to redemption through Jesus.

### **What Are Design Patterns?**

Design patterns are recurring sequences of words, images, and story structures.

These patterns show up in different stories but with the same emotional and theological weight.

In movies, we recognize story arcs like “hero’s journey” or “redemption tale.”

In the Bible, the authors do the same — but with even deeper meaning.

### **The Human Condition: See → Desire → Take**

Begins in Genesis 3: Adam and Eve “see,” “desire,” and “take” from the tree.

The temptation repeats throughout the Bible:

*Abraham & Sarah → Hagar (Gen. 16)*

*Aaron → Golden calf (Ex. 32)*

*Achan → Canaanite treasure (Josh. 7)*

*Saul → Chosen by people based on looks (1 Sam. 8–9)*

*David → Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11)*

### **Breaking the Pattern — Jesus**

Jesus is the first to break the cycle of see-desire-take.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, he says: “Not my desire but your desire be done.” — Luke 22:42

Jesus resists temptation and offers his life, reversing the pattern.

### **The Chaotic Waters Pattern: Water → Rescue → New Creation**

Starts in Genesis 1: God brings life out of chaotic waters.

Repeated in:

*Noah → Flood & restart (Gen. 7–8)*

*Exodus → Red Sea rescue (Ex. 14)*

*Joshua → Crossing Jordan (Josh. 3–4)*

These stories symbolize:

*Death → Deliverance → New Life*

Then comes Jesus:

*Baptized in the Jordan River (Mark 1)*

*Goes through death and resurrection*

*Offers us a way to follow him through our own “waters”  
(Rom. 6:4)*

## **Discussion**

What do patterns help you do as a reader?

What’s the result in any of the stories mentioned? Who else suffers because of someone else’s temptation?

Why do you think baptism became such a powerful practice for Christians?

Have you experienced a “through the waters” season in your life? What did God teach you there?

## **Key Takeaway:**

“Biblical design patterns aren’t just literary devices — they are theological signposts.” They invite us to recognize God’s consistent love, humanity’s ongoing struggle, and Jesus’ role as the fulfillment and solution.