

# How to Study the Bible - Narrative

## Review

**Genres** are categories of literature with distinctive features that require particular reading strategies. Biblical genres include Old Testament History, Prophetic Literature, Wisdom Literature, Apocalyptic Literature, Gospels and Acts, and Epistles.

**Text type** refers only to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ in a particular \_\_\_\_\_.

**Discourse** is speech or \_\_\_\_\_. To find the structure, we look at the \_\_\_\_\_ by examining the words and grammar.

**Circles of Context:** Passage, Before/After, Book, Scriptures (to date of writing), Historical/Cultural

## Narrative

- Plot
- Characters
- Scene Changes
- Dialogue

### Plot

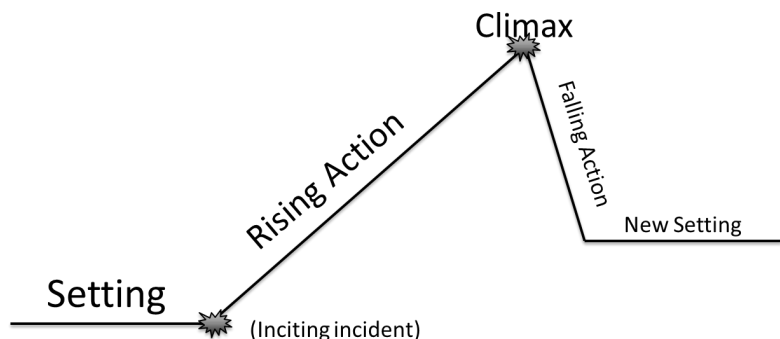
- Setting
  - characters (Who)
  - time (\_\_\_\_\_)
  - location (\_\_\_\_\_)
  - "Be" verbs
  - descriptions*
  - low action verbs*

- Rising Action
  - Inciting incident
  - Increasing tension
  - *Action verbs (English simple past tense "-ed")*
  - *Scene / episode changes*
  - "And then" "After"

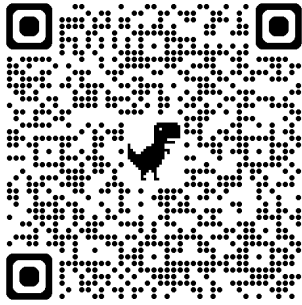
- Climax
  - The turning point of the story that sets in motion the rest of the story.
  - Peak tension
  - *Action speeds up or slows down*
  - *Characters flee or flood the scene*
  - *Short (or very long) sentences*
  - *Negatives, questions*
  - *Verb tense changes*

- Falling Action
  - "inevitable" events decrease tension.
  - *Routine action verbs*

- New Setting
  - Ending descriptions



Last Week's Video, handouts:



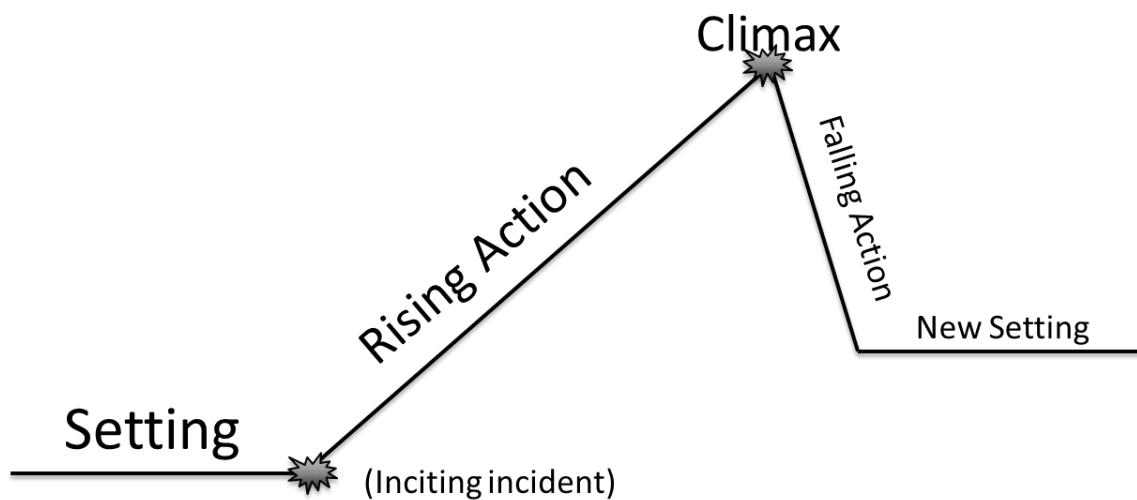
### Resources

Arthur, Kay, David Arthur, and Pete De Lacy. *How to Study Your Bible*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2010.

Charles Simeon Trust. *Worksheet Preparation Guide*. 2025.

Longacre, Robert E, and Hwang, Shin Ja J. *Holistic Discourse Analysis*. 2nd ed. Dallas, TX: SIL International Publications.

Traina, Robert A. *Methodical Bible Study*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1952.



## NIRADS - Narrative in Genesis 22

**N - Note** What does it say?

1. Observations: Characters, Scene changes, Verb Tenses
2. Structure Analysis (plot, dialogue)

3. *Emphasis* \_\_\_\_\_

**I - Interpret** What does it mean?

- Context  
    Passage Before: \_\_\_\_\_  
    History/Culture \_\_\_\_\_  
    After: \_\_\_\_\_
- Conversation
- *Main Claim to Original Hearers* \_\_\_\_\_

**R - Reflect** How does this relate theologically to the Gospel?

*Main Claim to Us Now* \_\_\_\_\_

**A - Apply** Given this truth, what needs to change?

- My life
- Family life
- Church life
- Society

**D/S - Do / Share**

- When will I make these changes?
- Who else needs to hear this?

## NIRADS at Home - 2 Samuel 10-11

**N - Note** What does it say?

1. Words
  - a. Identify characters and rank them
    - i. Main
    - ii. minor
    - iii. props
  - b. Identify scene changes (dialogue - who is talking when, and where). This passage basically involves a series of conversations.
  
2. Structure (patterns and connections) List verse references for each part of the plot. Which conversation is the climax? What statement in this conversation is the key sentence?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. *Emphasis* \_\_\_\_\_ .What does the key sentence of the climactic conversation tell you about the emphasis of the passage

**I - Interpret** What does it mean? What is the condition of David's kingdom before and after this? What is the status of God's covenant with David before, during, and after this story? What is David's pattern with women throughout his life? What about with his servants? Does his treatment of Uriah and Bathsheba follow or break with his pattern?

Passage Before:

After:

History/Culture

Conversation

*Main Claim to Original Hearers* \_\_\_\_\_

**R - Reflect** How does this relate theologically to the Gospel?

*Main Claim to Us Now* \_\_\_\_\_

**A - Apply** Given this truth, what needs to change?

My life

Family life

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Society

**D/S - Do / Share**

When will I make these changes?

Who else needs to hear this?

## Genesis 22

22 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

4 On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. 7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

15 And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven 16 and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." 19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.