

## Lesson 4: Text - Narrative

### THE ART OF INTERPRETATION

#### Interpretive Process: Clue Gathering + Good Question Asking

Understand what the text **SAYS** then discern what the text **MEAN**

**Simple:** Questions overtly answered in the text (Not bad, just simple)

**Complex:** Seeks further understanding of words/phrases/grammar/theology

#### **1 Corinthians 13:4**

*“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant”*

(**Simple:** What are some qualities of love?) (**Complex:** What is patience? Why is this loving?)

BOTH helpful. Find good answers by considering context clues and ask good probing questions.

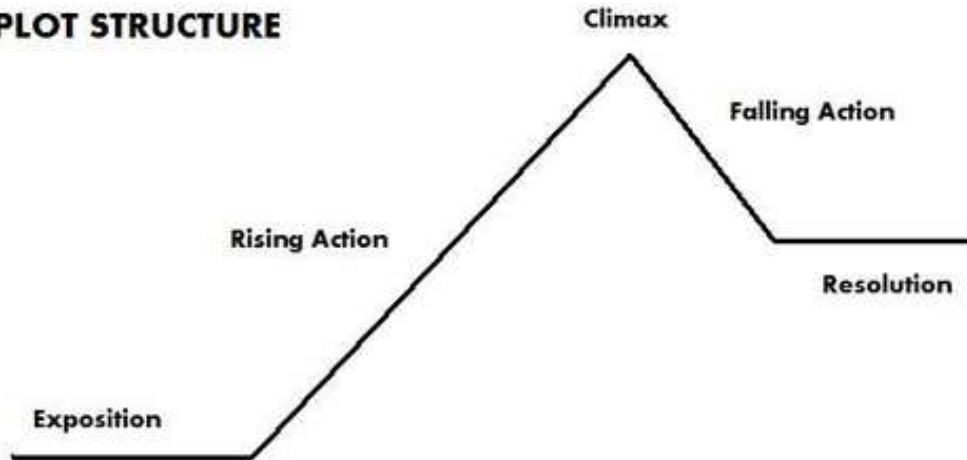
### NARRATIVE

**Narrative:** Story. The genre of storytelling is both an art and a craft. Guided by plot.

**Plot:** Sequence of cause + effect events progressing a story.

**Plot Elements:** Exposition, Conflict, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution

#### **PLOT STRUCTURE**



## **STORY ELEMENTS**

The unique building blocks to a story. Elements that define a story and fill in the blanks of plot.

**Setting:** Location in which the story is taking place.

**Character(s):** A person/entity within a story. Both influencers and influenced by the plot.

Keep an eye on **Development / Growth, Regression, or Change**.

Consider that God is an ever-present character in Scripture.

**Atmosphere:** The emotional “feel” of a particular scene.

**Theme:** An idea that recurs in or pervades the story.

Identify these elements within a Narrative and determine their significance in the story’s plot.

## **STUDY PORTION**

Locate the **smallest portion** which contains a **plot** and is liable to fully interpret.

Narrative SP is all about **understanding scene** and determining the **start/end of a scene**.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF A NEW SCENE**

These characteristics can help determine a new scene. Look out for them!

Changes in the **geographical setting**.

Introduction of a **new character** or **omission of a character**.

**New plot line** or significant **plot twist**.

Change in **chronology, sequence, or historical context**.

Sometimes, cutoff points/headers made by the Bible translator are helpful tools.

## PLOT ELEMENTS

### **The foundational structure to story.**

**Exposition:** Beginning of a story. (*Character, Background, Setting revealed*)

**Conflict:** Opposition faced between two (or more) opposing forces. (*Complication*)

**Rising Action:** Events in the story become complicated and progresses towards climax.

**Climax:** Culmination of past events and turning point of the story. (*Conflict addressed*)

**Falling Action:** Events and complications start to fall into their final places.

**Resolution:** Final outcome of the story.

## NARRATIVE V. PARABLE DISTINCTIONS

Brief distinction and clarification to be made regarding this component of Biblical narrative

**Narrative:** Tells a story that is generally true. Couched in geographical, cultural, and historical contexts with plot, character, sequence and action. Narrative accounts also generally set within the broader context of other narrative stories.

**Parable:** Tells a story that is usually fictitious. It is intended to convey a moral principle rather than relate an actual historical event. The parable is usually set within a broader narrative context. The purpose of parable can often only be fully determined by seeing it in light of the narratives that precede and follow the parable.