



Weeks 1-3 Review

Week 1

- The Bible is one story
- We engage with Scripture not just to learn more about God, but to know and love God more.
- We do not create the meaning out of the text, rather, we seek to find the meaning that is already there.

Week 2

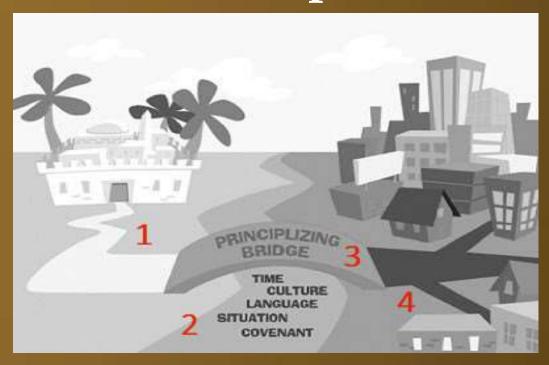
 Read slowly and carefully. Pay attention to the details. Ask, "What does it say?"

Week 3

 Discovering the historical/cultural context (background) enriches our understanding. We look at what comes before and after a passage to discover its literary context.



Overview of Interpretive Process

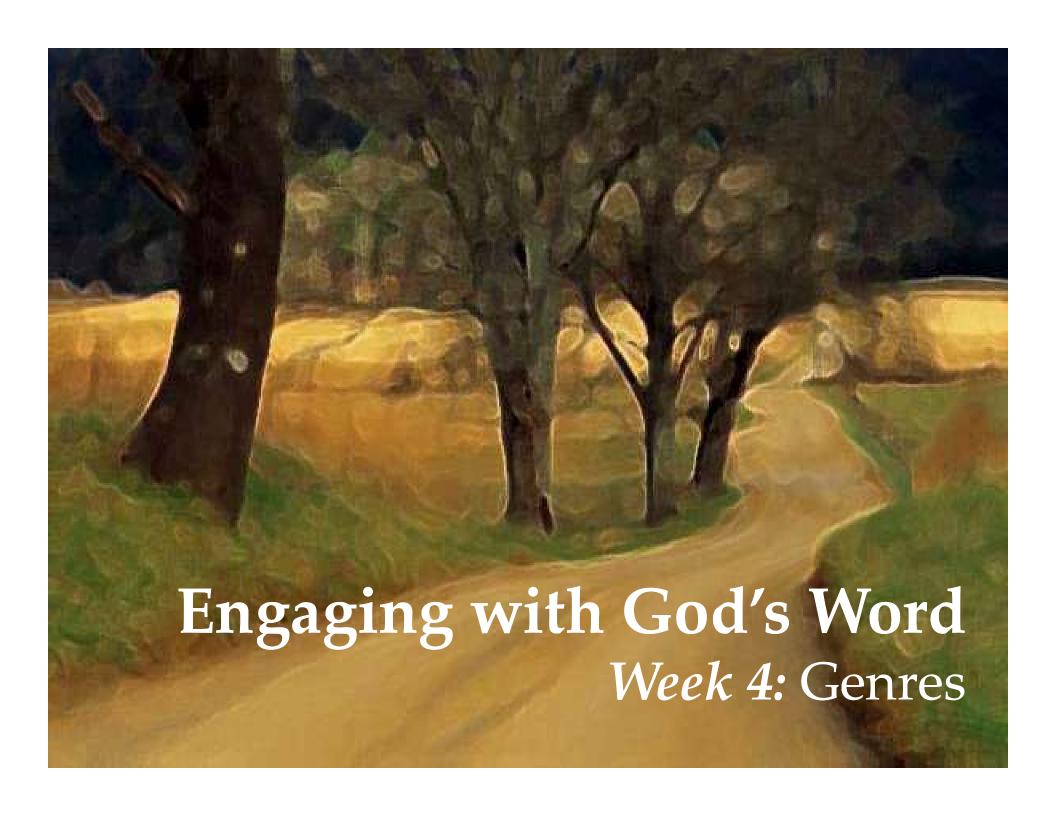


Step 1: Grasping the Text in Their Town

Step 2: Measuring the Width of the River to Cross

Step 3: Crossing the Principlizing Bridge

Step 4: Grasping the Text in Our Town





Types of literature found in the Bible

Narrative History Law Poetry/Wisdom Prophecy Gospel Letters



Narrative

- The purpose of narrative is to tell us about things that happened in the past.
 - One grand story/two large stories.
- OT narratives are not allegories or stories filled with hidden meanings.
 - Not every story has a moral.



Narrative

- Individual OT narratives are not intended to teach moral lessons.
 - The Bible doesn't often comment on the behavior of the people it tells us about.
 - Though narratives do not directly teach, they often illustrate what is taught explicitly elsewhere in Scripture.
 - Narratives are not written to answer all our theological questions.
 - Let the teaching parts of Scripture interpret the events in Scripture.
- God is the hero of every narrative!
 - Ask yourself, "What does this passage tell me about God?"



History

- The books of History tell us about events that happened in the past. They are mostly in narrative form.
- They show us the ups and downs of the people of God.
- In the OT, we trace the history of Israel from Creation until their return from captivity.
- In the NT, Acts traces the birth and expansion of the Church.



<u>Law</u>

- The OT law is a covenant, a binding contract between two parties. It is part of Israel's story.
- We relate to God under the New Covenant. Jesus himself fulfilled the purpose of the Old Covenant.
- Israel's civil laws and ritual laws have not been renewed in the New Covenant.
- We are guided by the moral laws as they are restated by Jesus.



Poetry and Wisdom literature: What to expect

 Concise: A minimum number of words carefully chosen for their impact.

 Structure: Parallelism: usually one thought will be expressed by 2-4 lines of text.

 Figurative imagery: The authors don't write essays or narrative, they paint pictures! They use figures of speech.

They have a more experiential tone.



Poetry/Wisdom Psalms

- Hebrew poetry was addressed to the mind through the heart.
- Poetry is purposely metaphorical.
- The Psalms are musical poetry. They were used in worship.
- Don't look down on the Psalms with a magnifying glass; pray them upward!



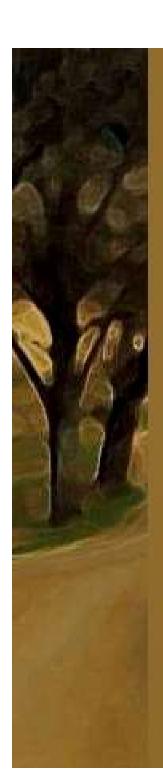
Poetry/Wisdom Proverbs

Proverbs is a book of practical wisdom.

It tells us what is generally true.

It is worded to be memorable.

 It doesn't state everything about a truth, but instead, points toward it in a figurative way.



Poetry/Wisdom How to read Proverbs

 Read in sections, rather than one verse at a time.

Look for parallelism, think couplets.

 Look at the painting, not the brushstrokes. Let the power of the images hit home.



Poetry/Wisdom

- Ecclesiastes is a perspective on the harsh realities of life.
- Job is a story that explores suffering, purpose, and God's sovereignty.
- Song of Songs is love poetry.



Prophecy—Old Testament

 The OT prophets were people who spoke on behalf of God to God's people.

Their message was God's not their own.

 They brought words of assurance, promise, warning and confrontation.

 Read these books in longer segments. Use Bible helps, dictionaries, commentaries, study Bibles.



Prophecy—New Testament Revelation

- To understand and read Revelation, we need to understand the big picture, God is coming to judge and redeem.
- Revelation is apocalyptic literature.
- In Revelation, the message gives warnings and comfort, just like OT prophecy.
- The primary meaning is what John intended it to mean. Despite how their present conditions might appear, God is in control of history. God wins!



Gospel

 The Gospels give us four different portraits of Jesus.

They are complimentary, not contradictory.

 Each Gospel writer wrote for a different audience and purpose.



Gospel The Parables of Jesus

 Parables engage us in thought and emotion. They compel us to go away and ponder.

 The parables usually have one point, or one point per character.

 Parables are not abstract teachings. They almost always call people to a certain response.



Letters (Epistles)

- The NT letters were "occasional" or "situational."
- The NT letters were considered authoritative substitutes for the apostles themselves.
- They are best read in long form, as a whole.

