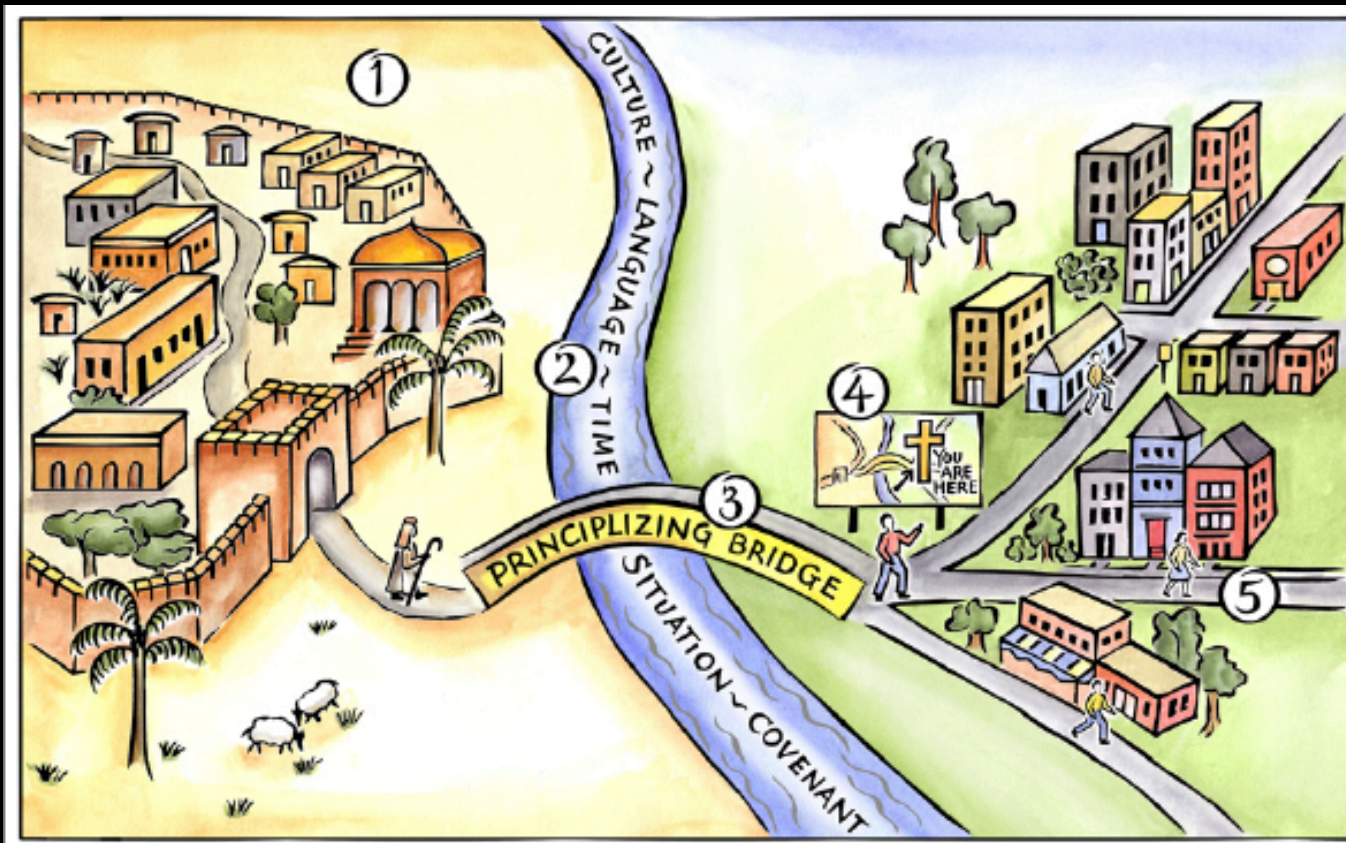


BASICS OF THE JOURNEY



INTRODUCTION

Narrative is a literary form that...

- is characterized by sequential time action.
- involves plot, setting, and characters.

INTRODUCTION

The meaning of a narrative...

- derives primarily from the actions of the characters (including God).
- shows us how to live or how not to live.

INTRODUCTION

OT Narratives are concerned with three interrelated things:

- 1) history
- 2) theology
- 3) aesthetics

INTRODUCTION

Advantages of Narrative

- Interesting to both children and adults.
- Pulls us into the action of the story.
- Depicts real life and is thus easy to relate to.
- Portrays the ambiguities and complexities of life.

INTRODUCTION

Advantages of Narrative

- Easy to remember.
- God teaches us something about himself in narrative.
- Holistic, as we see struggle and resolution.
- Relates short incidents to a bigger story.

INTRODUCTION

Disadvantages of Narrative

- Meaning might not be clearly stated.
- Reader enthralled in story and misses meaning.
- Assume narrative only deals with history not theology.
- Read too much theology into narrative.

READING NARRATIVE

Chapter 1

Israel begins its conquest of the Promised Land.

Chapter 2

The story of Rahab the harlot and her faith.

Chapters 3-5

Israel prepares to attack Jericho (Rahab's city).

Chapter 6

The capture and destruction of Jericho.

Chapter 7

The story of Achan and his disobedience.

Rahab and Achan are polar opposites, whose stories bookend the conquest of Jericho!

LITERARY FEATURES OF NARRATIVE

Rahab

Canaanite woman
Prostitute
Should have died, but survived
Her family survives
Her nation perishes
Hides the spies from the king
Fears the God of Israel
Has only heard of God, yet believes
Her house survives, but city burned
Cattle, sheep, donkeys in Jericho perish
Becomes like an Israelite and lives

Achan

Hebrew man (tribe of Judah!)
Respectable
Should have prospered, but died
His family perishes
Nation prospers
Hides loot from God and Joshua
Does not fear God of Israel
Has seen the acts of God, disobeys
His tent is burned
His cattle, sheep, donkeys perish
Becomes like a Canaanite and dies

LITERARY FEATURES OF NARRATIVE

The Basic Features of Plot

- Exposition: description of the setting
- Conflict: can be internal or external
- Resolution: conflict solved

LITERARY FEATURES OF NARRATIVE

Irony

This literary feature describes situations where the literal or surface meaning of an event or episode is quite different from the narrator's intended meaning.

LITERARY CONTEXT—THE BIG STORY

Be aware how the character or episode fits into the overall story of the Old Testament.

LITERARY CONTEXT—THE BIG STORY

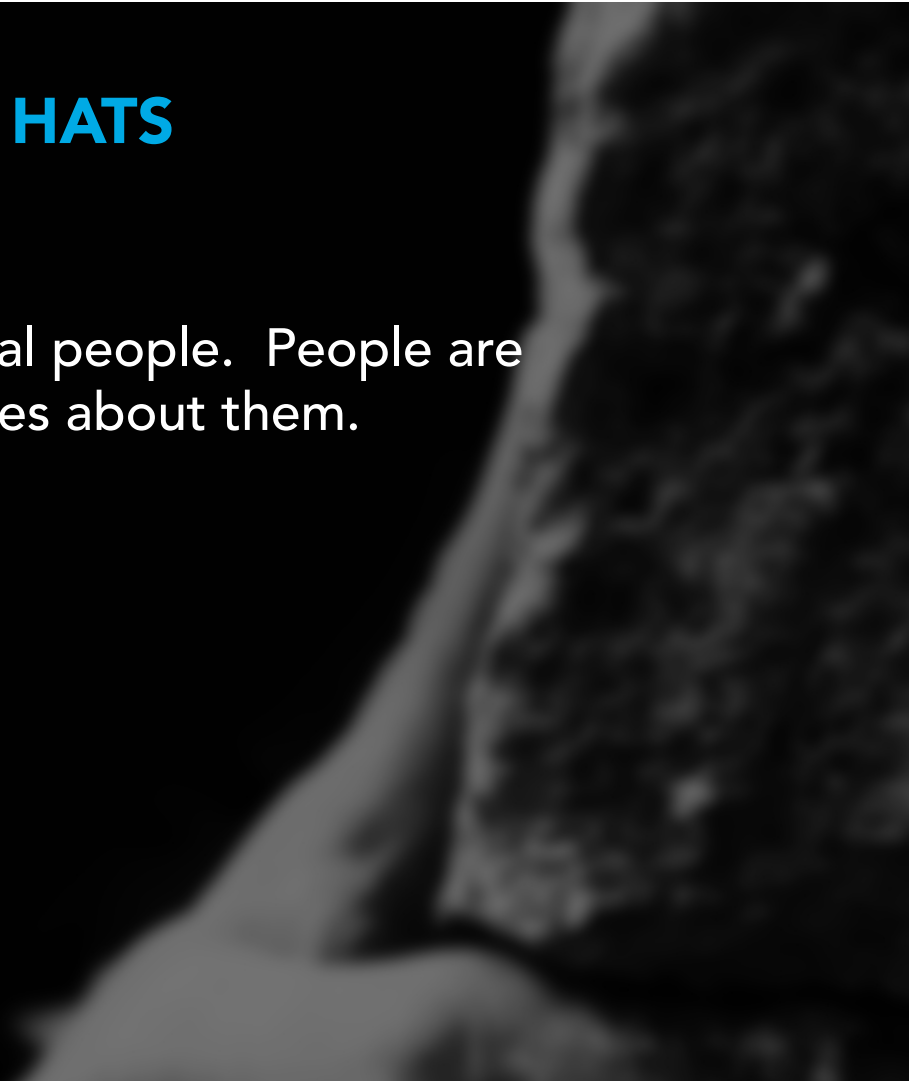
Study the themes and message of the entire book. Make sure to understand how your episode fits into the message of the book.

LITERARY CONTEXT—THE BIG STORY

Read the entire larger episode. Pay special attentions to any connections that bring together individual stories.

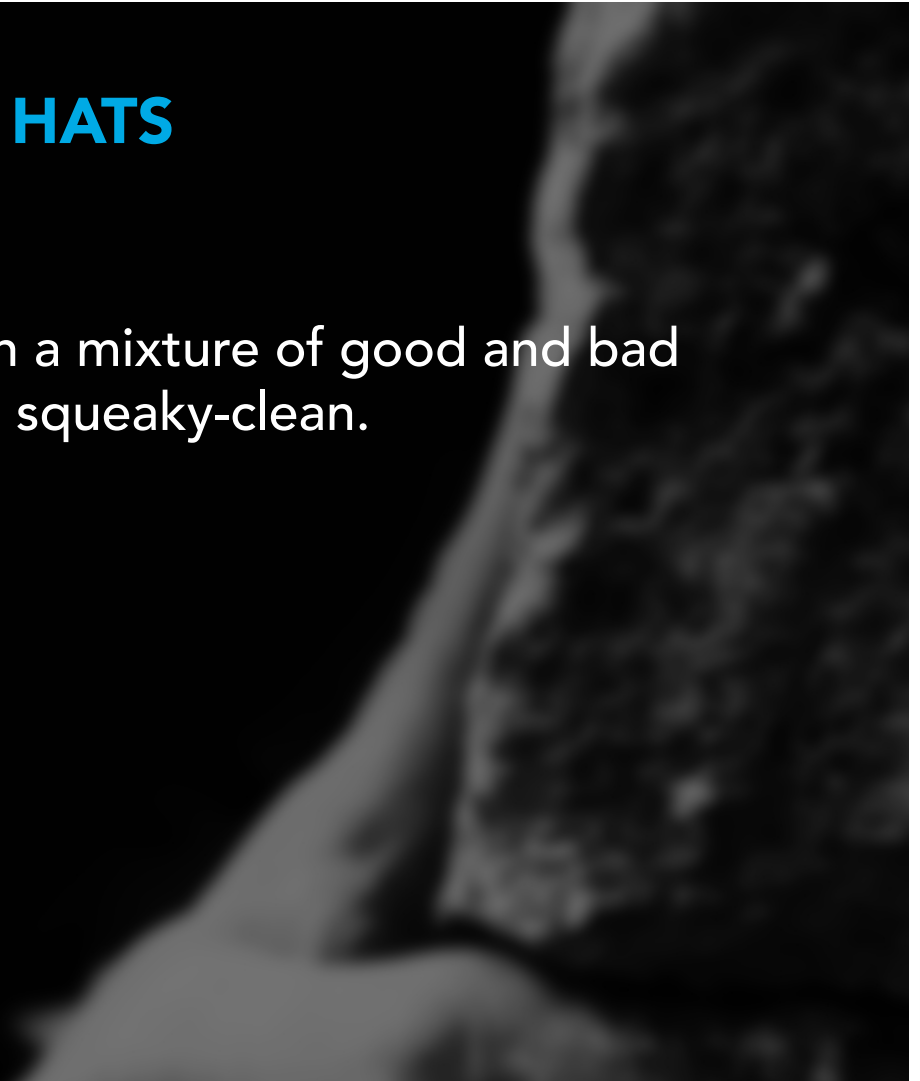
"GOOD GUYS" AND WHITE HATS

The Bible deals with real life and real people. People are complex, and so are the great stories about them.



"GOOD GUYS" AND WHITE HATS

Most of the main characters contain a mixture of good and bad traits. And, few characters emerge squeaky-clean.



"GOOD GUYS" AND WHITE HATS

God is the main character
In Old Testament narrative.

Let God be God!