

## **Narrative Bible Teaching – What is it?**

### Principles of narrative teaching

It works.

Active learning is better than passive learning.

The Bible is mostly narrative literature and non-narrative sections are set in a larger storyline.

### Process of preparing a narrative Bible teaching session

#### 1. Do a narrative analysis

*(This is the focus of the first workshop)*

- a. Identify the individual components within the text that help you to visualize the described event by doing a rough sketch of the scene and each component.
  - Break the story into scenes – usually by geography or time
  - Identify the characters and things in each scene
  - Note the dialogue by using speech bubbles and possibly short summaries for each in your drawing
  - Trace the action in each scene
  - Now stand up and visualize this “holographic movie” in the room.
- b. Next, analyze the arc of the story to identify key points and the purpose of the narrative.
  - Identify unique characteristics of the story
  - Draw the narrative arc and match the peaks to events in the story
  - Note the perspectives of each of the characters at different times in the story

#### 2. Use the narrative analysis to brainstorm options for presenting the lesson

*(This will be the focus of the second workshop)*

- a. Craft an interesting/ fun opening that ties into the unique characteristics of the story
- b. Decide how to effectively present the story so others can “see” the story as you do.
- c. Think of ways to explore the story by using active learning techniques.

This often consists of well-crafted questions (that move from concrete to inferred observations, and then to thought provoking questions that focus on the perspectives of the characters in the story).

More creative options such as acting out scenes, writing prose, poetry, or a song, pantomime, artwork, can be especially fun and thought provoking for a group.

- d. Plan a summary.