

5. GOD GIVES A SIGN

Watch

Go to the Bible Project website (on Zoom you can opt share a screen) and watch the video: "Character" <https://bibleproject.com/videos/character-biblical-narrative>

Discussion Questions

(These are optional, you can use all, some or none, and go straight to "Read & Share")

Comedy and tragedy are two different classic plot structures.

Comedy features "ascent stories" where the protagonist needs to climb, overcome challenges, and become transformed. In the well-known story of Joseph (Genesis 37-50). At first Joseph is a brat, and his brothers abuse him. But because of his integrity, he rises from slavery to a place of influence where he can later save his undeserving brothers.

In your own words (and do illustrate this with a personal example):

1. What's valuable for you in this world?
2. What's worth the struggle?
3. What kind of people win?

Tragedy features "descent stories" where the protagonist is set-up well, but due to character flaws or bad choices, they self-destruct. The story of Saul in 1 Samuel 8-31 is an example of this. Saul is tall, handsome, and a go-getter. But he's prideful and thinks he knows better than everyone else. He is unable to recognize his own mistakes and can't take criticism. The message to the reader is they want to avoid becoming like the protagonist. They learn what will ruin them. In your own words (and do illustrate this with a personal example):

4. What's vanity for you in this world?
5. What's worth the effort to avoid?
6. What kind of people lose?

Read & Share:

Read [Judges 6:11-21](#) (someone to read it aloud) and ask the following 3 questions:

What does this passage tell about God?

What does this passage tell about me?

How is this going to impact me in week ahead?

Pray:

Spend some time praying together with...and for... each other.

6. TRULY SORRY

Watch

Go to the Bible Project website (on Zoom you can opt share a screen) and watch the video: “Character” <https://bibleproject.com/videos/character-biblical-narrative>

Discussion Questions

(These are optional, you can use all, some or none, and go straight to “Read & Share”)

1. When a person is called by God and portrait in the Bible as one who wins a battle, or becomes successful or wealthy what do you think the author is trying to tell you?
2. Biblical authors develop characters differently than modern narratives. They prefer to communicate a lot through minimal detail. Why do you think it is rarely that we hear what people look like in the Bible,
3. Simplified characters in the Bible are helpful for teaching children there’s such a thing as good and evil, but the Bible is not a children’s book. Discuss together some well-known characters from the Bible and what do you notice about their flaws and God’s engagement with them?
4. Most biblical stories seem to highlight the moments when characters fail or come to the end of themselves. It’s in these stories what do you think the authors is trying to show us?

Read & Share:

Read [Psalm 51:1-12](#) (someone to read it aloud) and ask the following 3 questions:

What does this passage tell about God?

What does this passage tell about me?

How is this going to impact me in week ahead?

Pray:

Spend some time praying together with...and for... each other.

7. STAYING ALIVE

Watch

Go to the Bible Project website (on Zoom you can opt share a screen) and watch the video: "Setting" <https://bibleproject.com/videos/setting-biblical-narrative>

Discussion Questions

(These are optional, you can use all, some or none, and go straight to "Read & Share")

1. There are many type-scenes in biblical narrative. Think about what happens when a man meets a woman at a well, or when a character passes through a body of water. Give an example of a type-scene can you identify in biblical narratives? And why?
2. What connections come to your mind when you read about the sea in the Bible?
3. What connections come to your mind when you read about a garden?
4. What connections come to your mind when you read about the wilderness?

Read & Share:

Read Deuteronomy 8:1-10 (someone to read it aloud) and ask the following 3 questions:

What does this passage tell about God?

What does this passage tell about me?

How is this going to impact me in week ahead?

Pray:

Spend some time praying together with...and for... each other.

8. TROUGH STORMY WATER

Watch

Go to the Bible Project website (on Zoom you can opt share a screen) and watch the video: "Design Patterns" <https://bibleproject.com/videos/design-patterns-biblical-narrative>

Discussion Questions

(These are optional, you can use all, some or none, and go straight to "Read & Share")

There are five questions that every worldview attempts to answer.

Setting:	Where are we? What is real in the world where we find ourselves?
Characters:	Who are we? What is the nature and purpose of human beings?
Conflict:	What's wrong? How do we account for evil and pain?
Resolution:	What's the solution? What's the hope for a better future?
Narrative Time:	What time is it? Where in the storyline is the reader located?

1. Throughout your life, what narratives have you drawn upon to answer these questions? What about our larger community in Cophorne, in the UK?

2. Jesus is the Word, the very incarnation and fulfillment of the Scriptures living within us. How does our life in Christ transform our understanding of the Bible? Check out 2 Corinthians 3:14 and John 5:39-40 for talking points.

Read & Share:

Read [Isaiah 17:12-14 & ch 43:2](#) (someone to read it aloud) and ask the following 3 questions:

What does this passage tell about God?

What does this passage tell about me?

How is this going to impact me in week ahead?

Pray:

Spend some time praying together with...and for... each other.