



stories to  
on to general  
told from days of  
generation to  
ration.

*As it was in days of old  
stories told from  
generation to generation.*



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love story the Bible. Through this course, each one is empowered to understand  
God's intended meaning of the scriptures. Copyright and royalty free 2025.

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## Narrative Part 1

Welcome to this session of the Kingdom of God Interpreting Scripture Short Course. Today we will go deeper on how to interpret the books of the Bible that are written in narrative style. That is, parts of scripture that are stories or parables.


To get the most out of these sessions, as you watch the video, follow the 00:00 [TIMECODES] in this workbook and  [PAUSE] the video to write your answers.

From the Behind the Meaning videos, the five things that affect meaning are:  
Relationships, Style of Writing, Culture, The Reason for Writing, Part of God's story.  
The books that are categorised as written in narrative style are:


Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1st and 2nd Samuel, 1st and 2nd Kings, 1st and 2nd Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Jonah, and possibly Acts.

What makes these books narrative style?  [01:50]

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What method of communication did the ancient cultures of the Old Testament use to pass on traditions and beliefs?  [02:06]

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What method of communication did God use to reveal Himself to the ancient cultures of the Old Testament?  [02:14]

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## Levels of communication

What is the first level of communication in the Old Testament books that are written in narrative style?  [02:59]

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For example, read **Genesis 1:1**



What is the second level of communication in the Old Testament books that are written in narrative style?  [03:37]

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For example, read **2 Kings 20:17-18**

What is the third level of communication in the Old Testament books that are written in narrative style?  [04:34]


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For example, read **Genesis 12:1**

## Practical

Read **Genesis 1:1-2:3**


Remembering the six questions that we learnt from the Behind the Meaning videos are: Who? How? Where? When? What? Why?

Who are the characters in this passage of scripture? Read **Genesis 1:1** and **Genesis 1:26-28**  [07:45]


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**Who** is speaking? Read **Genesis 1:3**  [08:00]

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**Who** is that character speaking to? Read **Genesis 1:26**  [08:43]

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**How** do the characters interact? Read **Genesis 1:26-28**  [08:49 - 9:05]

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**What** is the full meaning of the word blessing? [09:14]

**Where** did it happen? Read **Genesis 1:1** [09:48]

**When** did it happen? Read **Genesis 1:1** [09:51]

**What** did God fill His creation with in each of the six time periods?

Read **Genesis 1 verses 3-5, 6-8, 9-13, 14-19, 20-23, 24-31** [11:26 - 15:20]



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**What** is the systematic order God used in this account of creation to reveal more about Himself? [15:35 - 16:14]





**What** do we learn about God's character from this account of creation?

II [16:15 - 16:40]

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**What** did God do in the seventh time period? Read **Genesis 2:2-3**

II [16:46 - 17:06]

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**What** is the number seven in the Bible symbolic of? II [17:12]

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## Personal reflection

From Narrative Part 1, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

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What is your response/prayer?

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***Heavenly Father, we thank you that you are our creator. Thank you that we can learn so much about you and your character from the systematic way you created and provided a home for everything before it was needed. Thank you that we can trust in your character that never changes. Help us continue to learn more about who you really are through your love story, the Bible. In Jesus' name, Amen.***





## Narrative Part 2

To recap, the levels of communication within the narrative style of writing of the Old Testament books are: Universal (everybody and everything); Ancient Israel (the nation, the people group); Individual (person).

We also discovered that God created the heavens and the earth and filled them in a systematic order that reveals the relationship of Father, Son and Spirit.

### Practical continued

**What** is the style of writing? 📖 [02:26]



**What** is the context (of this scripture **Genesis 1:1-2:3**) in God's whole story?

📖 [02:38 - 03:09]



Let us now discover more about God's relationship with humanity throughout His love story, the Bible.

**How** does God refer to Himself? Read **Genesis 1:26** [03:37]

The first instance in the Bible of God referring to Himself as us is in Genesis 1:26.

**What** is the relationship between God and humanity throughout the creation story in Genesis 1? [03:51]

**What** is the relationship between humanity (male and female) throughout the creation story in Genesis 1? [03:57 - 04:06]

Genesis 1:26 is in the context of God expressing His great love by creating the first man and woman in His image. He created them equal, giving them equal blessing and equal power and authority to care for His perfect world. For them to live in relationships of harmony and love with Him and each other.

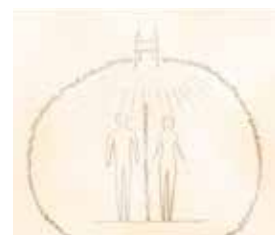


The second instance in the Bible of God referring to Himself as us is in Genesis 3:22.

Now, **what** is the relationship between God and humanity? [04:17]

Now, **what** is the relationship between humanity (male and female)? [04:42]

As a result of the first man and woman's choice to be one with good and evil, relationships are now unequal and humanity is trapped in their selfish desires. Genesis 3:22 is in the context of God protecting the first man and woman from eating of the tree of life and remaining in a state of being damaged by evil forever.



The third instance in the Bible of God referring to Himself as us is in Genesis 11:7.

Now, **what** is the relationship between God and humanity? 🎧 [05:18]

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Now, **what** is the relationship between humanity? 🎧 [05:29]

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The context of Genesis 11:7 is that being blinded by pride, humanity had chosen to attempt to attain their own salvation, making a name for themselves and building their own empire without God to heaven. To protect them from their own pride and self destruction, in love, God gave them many languages and they were scattered across the earth.



The fourth instance in the Bible of God referring to Himself as us is in Isaiah 6:8.

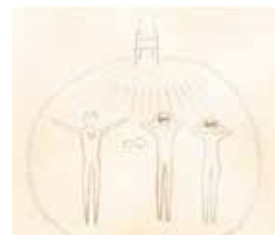
Now, **what** is the relationship between God and humanity? 🎧 [05:40]

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Now, **what** is the relationship between humanity? 🎧 [06:02]

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Isaiah 6:8 is in the context of God expressing His desire to bring salvation to humanity. The prophet Isaiah was privy to a conversation that God had within Himself. That is, who would go and tell the people of His great love? Unfortunately, those who Isaiah was sent to were not only blinded by their pride, but they refused to listen and turn to God. Having chosen to reject God and thus align themselves with evil, they denied themselves salvation.



The fulfilment of God's eternal plan is the restoration of humanity and all of God's creation to once again be one with only good and live in eternal freedom and equality.



Let us go to **John 1:1-3**, **John 1:14** and **1 John 5:7** and discover more about the God who refers to Himself as 'Us'.


**What** do we learn about God's relationship within Himself?  [08:00]

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Back to **Genesis 1:1-2:3**


**What** is the level of communication within the creation story in **Genesis 1:1-2:3**?

 [08:45]

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**Why** was it written in this narrative style?  [09:20]

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**Why** was it written?  [09:46 - 10:15]

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**What** are some of the things that are the same today? **II** [10:33 - 11:14]

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### Personal reflection

From Narrative Part 2, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

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What is your response/prayer?

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*Heavenly Father, we thank you that you are our creator. Thank you that you honoured us by creating us in your likeness and gave us your creation to care for. Thank you that before the beginning of time, you had a salvation plan for all of your creation. Thank you that you share your plans with us and invite us to be a part of your wonders. Help us to learn more about you and your character each time we read books written in narrative style. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.*



## Narrative Further Study

To go deeper in understanding the levels of communication within the Old Testament books categorised as Narrative style, there are two practicals to complete.

### Practical 1: God's journey with Abraham and Isaac

Read **Genesis 22:1-18**

**Who** are the characters in this passage of scripture? Read **verses 1-3, 17** and **18**

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ |          |

**Who** is speaking? Read **verses 1** and **7**

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ |          |

**Who** are they speaking to? Read **verses 1, 5, 7** and **8**

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**Who** are they speaking about? Read **verses 2, 8, 17** and **18**

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**How** do the characters interact?

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**Where** did it happen? Read **verse 2**

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**When** did it happen?

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**What** is the style of writing?

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**What** is the context (of this scripture **Genesis 22:1-18**) in God's whole story?  
Read **Genesis 17:15-16** and **Matthew 1:1-2**. Refer to timeline illustration  
on page 7.

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Back to **Genesis 22:1-18**

**What** is the level of communication within the story in **Genesis 22:1-18**?

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**Why** was it written?

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**What** are some of the things that are the same today?

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## Personal reflection

From the story of Abraham and Isaac, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

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What is your response/prayer?

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## Practical 2: God's journey with the Ancient Israelites

Read **2 Kings 20:12-18**

**Who** are the characters in this passage of scripture? Read **verses 12, 14** and **16-18**

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

**Who** is speaking? Read **verses 14** and **16**

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ |          |

**Who** are they speaking to? Read **verses 14** and **16**

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**Who** are they speaking about? Read **verses 14** and **18**

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**How** do the characters interact?

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**Where** did it happen?

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**When** did it happen?

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**What** is the style of writing?

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**What** is the context (of this scripture **2 Kings 20:12-18**) in God's whole story?  
Refer to timeline illustration on page 7.

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**What** is the level of communication within the story in **2 Kings 20:12-18**?

In this context, the prophet Isaiah speaks on behalf of God and Hezekiah, the King of Judah, represents the two southern tribes of Ancient Israel. Therefore, the level of communication in this narrative story is God to the Ancient Israelites (two southern tribes).



**Why** were the descendants of Hezekiah (who represented the two southern tribes) eventually carried away to Babylon? Read **2 Chronicles 36:15-21**

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**Why** was it written?

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**What** are some of the things that are the same today?

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### **Personal reflection**

From this part of God's journey with the Ancient Israelites, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

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What is your response/prayer?

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## Frequently asked questions

In Narrative Part 1, we discussed how God created the first man and woman in His own image and how they were one with only good. However, we read in **Genesis 3:22** that they had become one with both good and evil.

Let us do a practical to discover how they became one with both good and evil.

Read **Genesis 2 verses 8-9, verses 15-17** and **Genesis 3:1-22**

**Who** are the characters in these passages of scripture? Read **Genesis 2:8** and **3:1**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Let us discover the first instance of conversation between each of these characters and how they interact within those conversations.

Read **Genesis 2:16-17**

**Who** is speaking?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Who** are they speaking to?

\_\_\_\_\_

**How** do the characters interact?

\_\_\_\_\_

Read **Genesis 3:1**

**Who** is speaking?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Who** are they speaking to?

\_\_\_\_\_



**Who** are they speaking about?

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**How** do the characters interact?

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Read **Genesis 3:2-3**

**Who** is speaking?

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**Who** are they speaking to?

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**Who** are they speaking about?

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**How** do the characters interact?

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Read **Genesis 3:9-10**

**Who** is speaking? Read **Genesis 3:10** (refer to **verse 9** for who 'he' is)

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**Who** are they speaking to?

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**Who** are they speaking about?

---

**How** do the characters interact?

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Read **Genesis 3:13**

**Who** is speaking?

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**Who** are they speaking to?

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**Who** are they speaking about?

---

**How** do the characters interact?

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Read **Genesis 3:14**

**Who** is speaking?

---

**Who** are they speaking to?

---

**Who** are they speaking about?

---

**How** do the characters interact?

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Back to **Genesis 2 verses 8-9, verses 15-17** and **Genesis 3:1-22**

**Where** did it happen? Read **Genesis 2:8**

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**When** did it happen? Read **Genesis 2:4**

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**What** is the style of writing?

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Let's now look further into the details of this passage of scripture to discover how the first man and woman became one with both good and evil.

**What** trees were in the garden of Eden? Read **Genesis 2:9**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**What** did God say about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?  
Read **Genesis 2:17**

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**What** did the serpent say about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?  
Read **Genesis 3:4-5**

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**What** three false perceptions did the woman have about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Read **Genesis 3:6**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Which tree did the first man and woman choose to eat the fruit of? Read **Genesis 3:6**

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**What** was the result of the first man and woman partaking of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Read **Genesis 3 verses 7 and 10**

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The first man and woman chose to believe the lies of the serpent above God's truth and wisdom. They chose to seize by force what they already had been given. When God breathed His life into the first man and woman, He gave them His image and His power and authority to rule and reign. Yet they chose to become one with both good and evil. As a result, they gave power to their selfish desires and evil to rule over them, bringing death, guilt and shame into God's once perfect world.

**What** was God's response to the first man and woman's guilt and shame?

Read **Genesis 3:21**

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**What** is the context (of these scriptures **Genesis 2 verses 8-9, verses 15-17** and **Genesis 3:1-22**) in God's whole story? Refer to timeline illustration on page 7.

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**What** is the level of communication?

Whilst God is communicating directly to the first man and woman and the serpent, in this account of creation the first man and woman represent all of humanity and the serpent represents evil. Therefore, the level of communication is universal (everybody and everything).

**Why** was it written?

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**Why** did God place two trees (other than the trees that were pleasant to the sight and good for food) in the garden?

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In the context of the creation stories in Genesis chapters 1-3 and God's whole love story the Bible, God's character is revealed as one of pure selfless love. Out of His love, God gives free choice. If God did not give free choice to either choose Him and His right to rule and reign or reject Him and His right to rule and reign, He would be abusing His ultimate power and authority.

God protects and highly values the right to choose as this is a reflection of His character. God empowers each one to make an informed choice.

The first man and woman could have chosen to eat of the tree of life and live forever in the state of eternal goodness in which they were created. However, they choose to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, giving power to their selfish desires and activating evil into God's perfect world. Yet God never stopped loving them. In love He called out to them, conversed with them and covered their shame by making clothing for them. As God's love never changes, He continues to pursue humanity. In Jesus, He completely takes away our guilt and shame.

