

Session #1

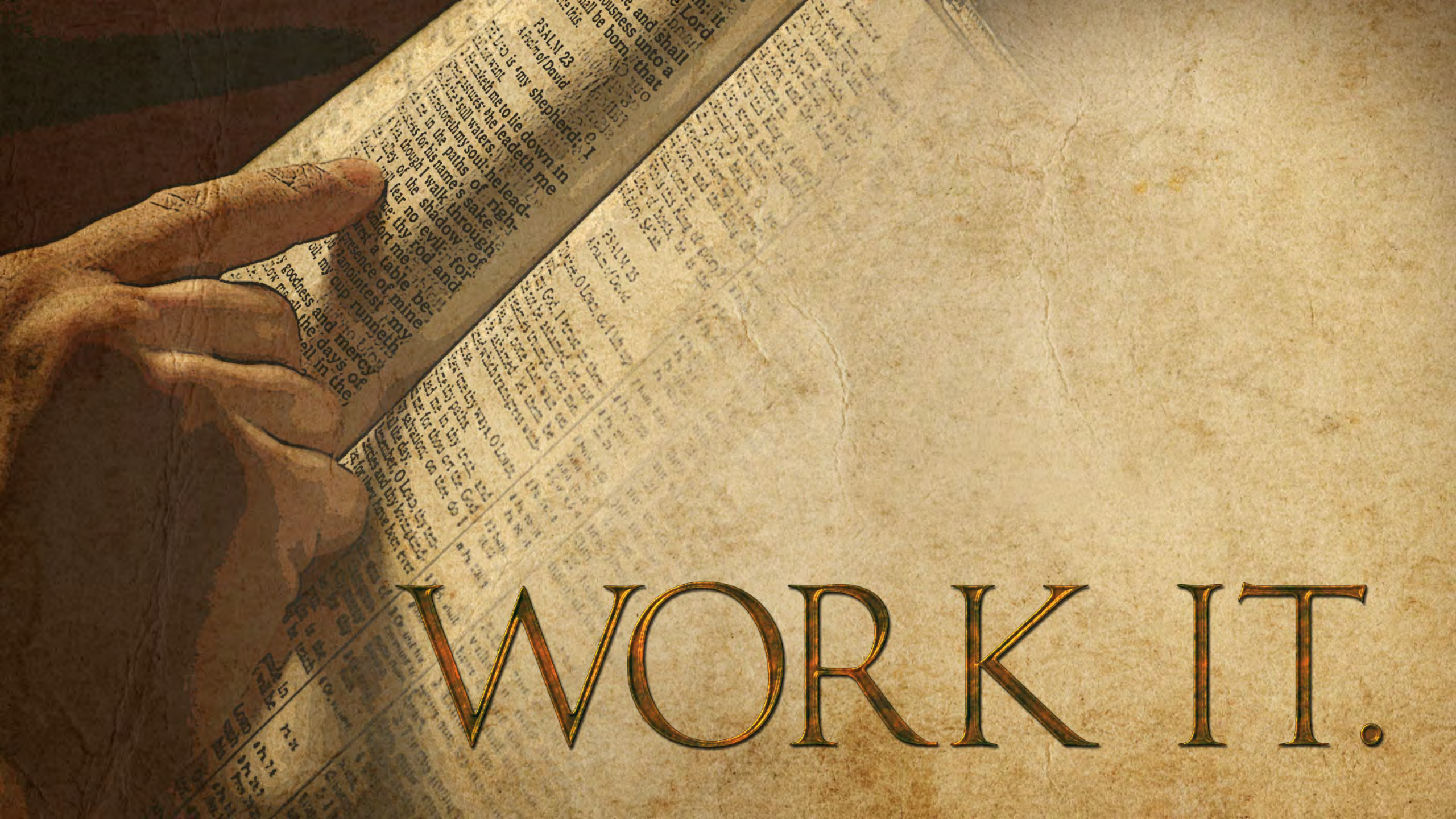
How to Read the Bible
Like a Seminary
Professor

“What does that mean to you?”



KNOW IT.

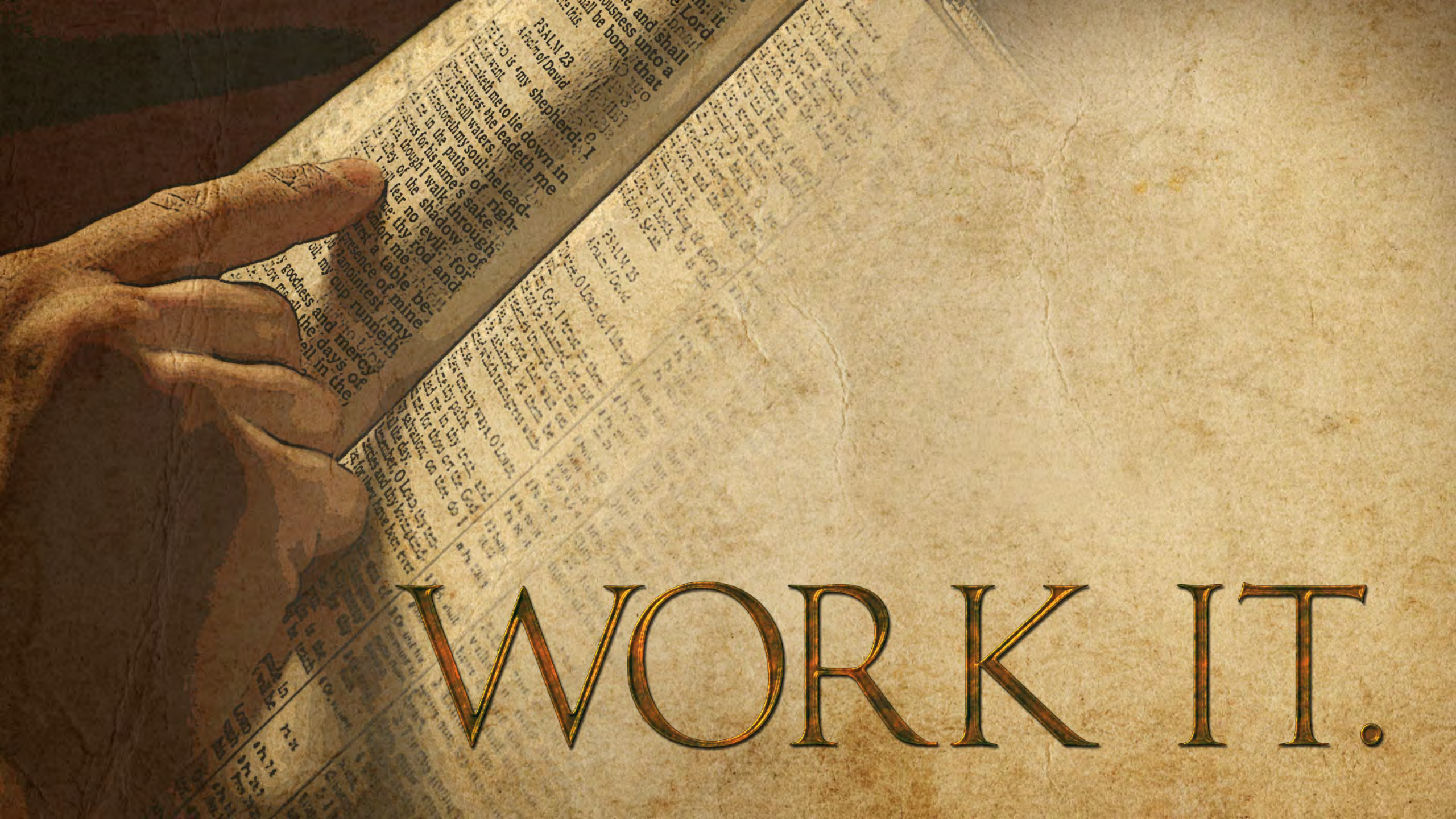




WORK IT.

LIVE IT.





WORK IT.

The Power of Story

- 1. Overview*
- 2. Principles for Interpretation*
- 3. A Case Study (Jonah)*

The Power of Story:

An Overview

“Everybody loves a good story”

--Mark Yarbrough

1. Abbot and Costello



THE
ABBOTT AND COSTELLO SHOW

WHO'S ON
FIRST?

“Everybody loves a good story”

--Mark Yarbrough

1. Abbot and Costello

“Everybody loves a good story”

--Mark Yarbrough

1. Abbot and Costello
2. Andy Griffith



“Everybody loves a good story”

--Mark Yarbrough

1. Abbot and Costello
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The Bible

1. A Divine Book (2 Tim 3:16)
2. A Human Book (2 Pet 1:20-21)

“Traditionally, we have been so preoccupied with the hermeneutical question of how to *interpret* what the Bible says that we have been left impoverished in techniques to *describe* and *interact* with the text itself.”

-- Leland Ryken

“There is a ...sense in which the Bible, since it is literature, cannot be properly read except as literature; and the different parts of it as the different sorts of literature they are.”

-- C.S. Lewis

Primary Genres in the Bible

- Narrative
- Poetry
- Prophecy
- Letters

Biblical Narrative

A Definition:

A well constructed historical account, recorded as an artistic story that displays unity, coherence, and emphasis.

- Over 40% of the OT is Narrative
- Over 60% of the NT is Narrative
- Unlike epistles or legal writings, the meaning of narrative is taught *implicitly*, rather than *explicitly*.
- Problem: this genre is one of the more easily misinterpreted types of literature.

The basic approach to reading the stories of the Bible is simply this: look upon biblical stories as an invitation to share an *experience*, as vividly and concretely as possible, with the characters in the story. Stories are always built out of three basic ingredients: **setting**, **characters**, and **plot** (actions). Reading a story involves paying attention to the interaction of these three elements.

Basic Components of Biblical Narrative

- A. *Setting* (Be there!)
Ex. *Ruth, Boat—Sea of Galilee*
- B. *Characters* (Know them!)
Follow the protagonist/antagonist (Be one!)
Ex. *Esther*
- C. *Identify the nature of the plot* (Identify it!)
Ex. *Genesis 4 [Cain and Able]*