

# BIBLE 101 — Week 10

From Simple Moral Lessons to the Real Hero

*Scripture Focus: Genesis 22 · Judges 6–7 · Acts 2:42–47*

## KEY VOCABULARY — scan this before you watch

Term	What It Means
<b>Descriptive</b>	A text that simply _____ what happened — like a news report, not necessarily an example to follow
<b>Prescriptive</b>	A text that _____ what we should do — more like a command or model
<b>Literary Techniques</b>	Road signs the author uses — repetition, dialogue, _____, and plot structure — to point toward the main idea
<b>Theological Point</b>	What a story reveals about God's _____, plan, and values — the real main point of biblical narrative

## I. THE PROBLEM: WHO'S THE HERO?

Nearly \_\_\_\_\_ of the entire Bible is made up of stories — but many of us read them with the wrong goal.

**The classic example — David and Goliath:**

- Standard lesson: Face your \_\_\_\_\_ / trust God and overcome any obstacle
- Not wrong, but a little \_\_\_\_\_

**The wild idea:** What if the main character isn't David — and the story isn't about you and your giants? The moment we make \_\_\_\_\_ the hero, we accidentally miss the actual hero of the entire story.

## II. THE CRUCIAL SHIFT: FROM ME TO GOD

From childhood we're trained to read stories for the \_\_\_\_\_ — like Aesop's Fables. But biblical stories are playing a different game. Their main purpose isn't to give us moral \_\_\_\_\_ to copy.

**The real purpose:** To reveal who \_\_\_\_\_ is and what He's up to in the world.

**The key question:** Before asking what a story means for us, ask what it shows us about \_\_\_\_\_.

## III. YOUR NEW READER TOOLKIT

**Tool 1 — Descriptive vs. Prescriptive**

- **Descriptive:** Just describes what happened — like a \_\_\_\_\_ report
- **Prescriptive:** Prescribes what we \_\_\_\_\_ do — like a command
- Not every action in a Bible story is an example to \_\_\_\_\_

- The Bible is honest about the flaws and \_\_\_\_\_ of its characters — it reports on them but doesn't always endorse them

**Tool 2 — Spotting Literary Techniques**

TECHNIQUE	WHAT TO LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
<b>Repetition</b>	A word or phrase used _____ and over	The author is waving a flag: "Pay attention to this!"
<b>Dialogue</b>	When characters _____	Those words were chosen very carefully
<b>Contrast</b>	Two things set _____ each other	The author is making a deliberate point
<b>Plot Structure</b>	How the story is _____ and where it climaxes	Reveals what the author thinks is most important

**IV. THREE FAMOUS STORIES RE-READ**

**Story 1 — Abraham & Isaac (Genesis 22)**

- **Literary technique:** Repetition — "Your son, your \_\_\_\_\_ son, Isaac, whom you love" — the author wants you to feel the weight
- **Common moral:** Trust God even when it feels \_\_\_\_\_ (true, but not the main point)
- **Real climax:** God Himself provides a \_\_\_\_\_ — a substitute to take Isaac's place
- **Theological point:** God's character as a \_\_\_\_\_ — foreshadowing the ultimate substitute He would one day provide in His own Son

**Story 2 — Gideon (Judges 6–7)**

- **Literary technique:** Irony — the angel calls a man \_\_\_\_\_ in a wine press "mighty man of valor"
- **Common moral:** When unsure, put out a fleece and ask God for a \_\_\_\_\_
- **Descriptive vs. prescriptive:** The fleece is describing Gideon's \_\_\_\_\_ faith — not prescribing a model for us
- **The contrast:** Army reduced from 32,000 to just \_\_\_\_\_ soldiers — "so that Israel couldn't boast"
- **Theological point:** God intentionally works through our \_\_\_\_\_ so there's zero doubt about who gets the credit

**Story 3 — The First Church (Acts 2:42–47)**

- **Common reading:** A prescriptive model — every church must own everything \_\_\_\_\_
- **Better reading:** A description of what the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ in one specific amazing historical moment
- **The deeper principle:** The Spirit creates genuine, generous \_\_\_\_\_ — the specific form can look different
- The \_\_\_\_\_ is timeless, but the specific practice was historical

**II PAUSE & REFLECT**

Pick one of the three stories above. What did you always think the main point was — and how does shifting the focus to God change the meaning for you?

\_\_\_\_\_

**V. THREE QUESTIONS FOR EVERY STORY**

**Question 1:** What does this story show me about God's \_\_\_\_\_, His plan, His values?

**Question 2:** Is this action just being \_\_\_\_\_, or is it being prescribed as a model for me?

**Question 3:** Where do I see \_\_\_\_\_, dialogue, contrast, or plot structure guiding me to the main point?

When you ask these questions, stories stop being simple \_\_\_\_\_ about us and become rich, complex, true stories about the God who is rescuing and redeeming the world.

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. Think of a Bible story you learned as a child. What was the moral you were taught? Now ask: What does this story reveal about God's character? How does the meaning change?

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\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why is the descriptive vs. prescriptive distinction so important? Can you think of a story where confusing the two could lead to a wrong conclusion?

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3. What literary technique (repetition, dialogue, contrast, or structure) stands out most to you in a story you've read recently? How does spotting it change your understanding?

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