

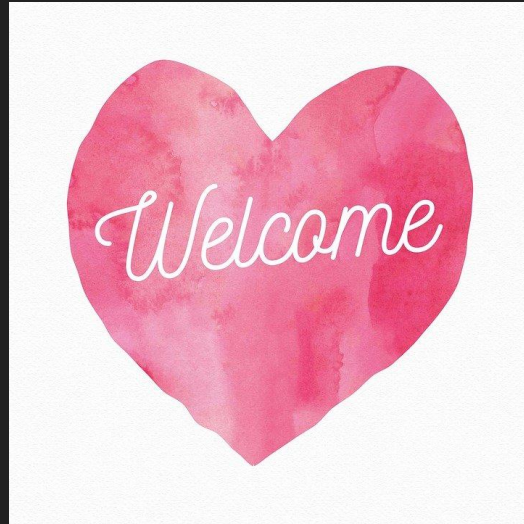
# Bible Basics: Narrative

November 17, 2020

Pastor Karen Natterstad

Zoom Host: Stephanie Broussard

# Introduction



## Biblical Characters

1. Who built an ark?
2. Who followed her widowed and childless mother-in-law back to Bethlehem?
3. Who was swallowed by a fish?
4. Who first saw the risen Jesus Christ?

TIP: [enterthebible.org](http://enterthebible.org), [bibleletutor.com](http://bibleletutor.com)

# Biblical Characters

CHARACTER can refer to:

- a. A person
- b. Quality of a person that make up their personality

# Biblical Characters

Characters in the Bible are rarely described with very much detail.

LIZ CURTIS HIGGS



# BAD GIRLS of the BIBLE

And What We Can  
Learn From Them

LIZ CURTIS HIGGS



# Really BAD GIRLS of the BIBLE

More Lessons from  
Less-Than-Perfect Women

One Million Sold in the Series!

LIZ CURTIS HIGGS



# Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible

Flawed Women Loved by a Flawless God

# Biblical Characters

Biblical authors might occasionally tell you if a person is “bad” or “good.”

Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign; he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, following the abominable practices of the nations that the Lord drove out before the people of Israel. - 2 Kings 21:1-2

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign; he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right or to the left. - 2 Kings 22:1-2

## **Biblical Characters**

The main ways that biblical authors will evaluate characters for you is mostly just through their choices - what they do - or through their speech.

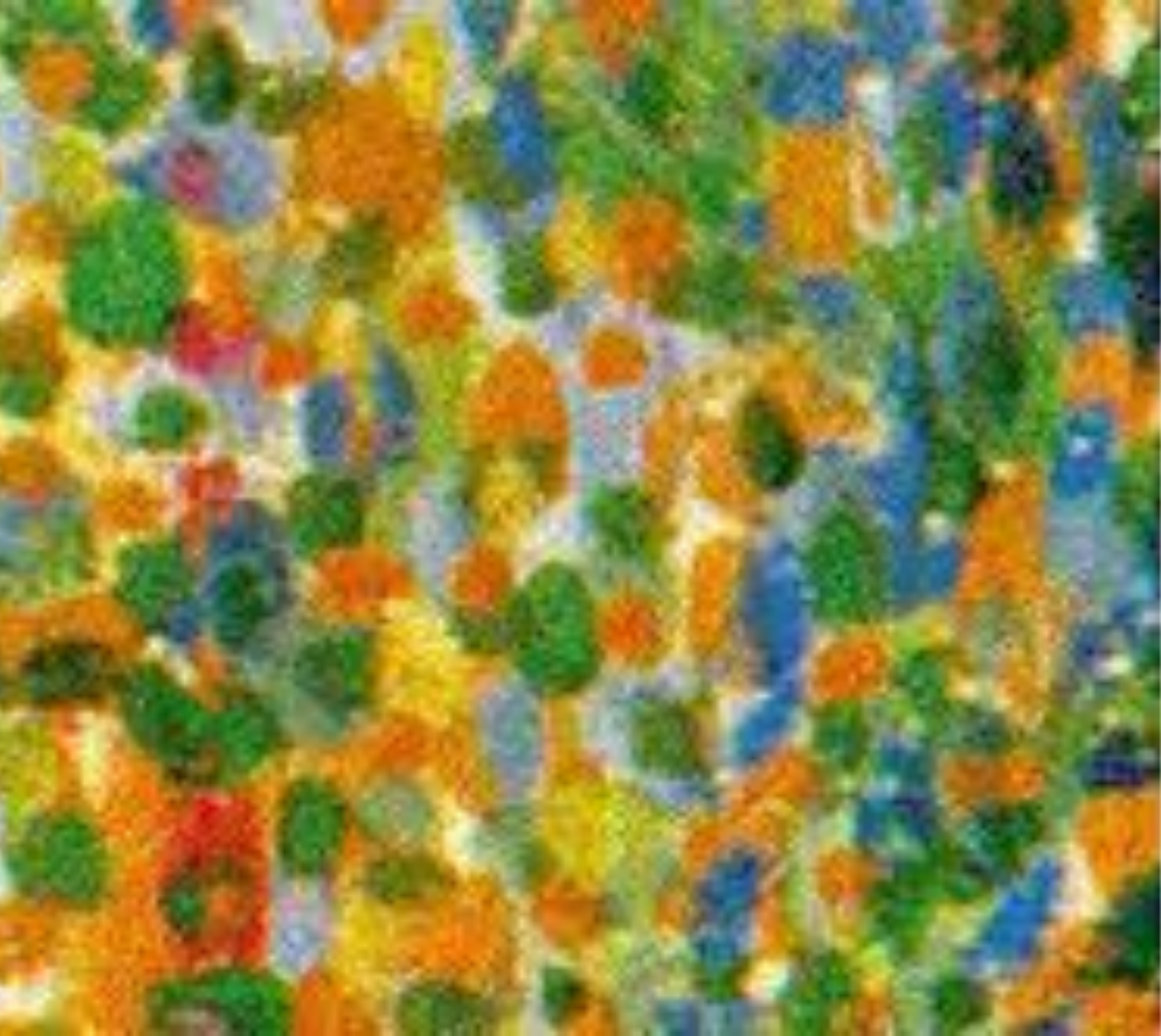
**Ruth 1:12-18**

**Jonah 1:1-3**



## Biblical Characters

Biblical authors just have a really different way, of employing characters. **Lack of detail - is intentional.** The biblical narratives force you to work. They are engaging you in a wrestling match by this. To asking, "Oh, why did he do that?"



## Biblical Characters

Just because a character does something in a story, doesn't mean it's been endorsed. It's just "this person did this and now look what happened."

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." - Genesis 16:1-2

# What did they look like?

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea..... Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. - Matthew 3:1-4

- He wore sackcloth (camel hair) as Elijah did, symbolizing repentance.
- He came to the river Jordan in possibly the exact place where Elijah was taken up in a chariot of fire.
- His diet may also have reflected Elijah having relied directly on God to provide his food in the wilderness day to day.

**Joseph** - “a righteous man”

Matthew 1:18-2:23

# Video - Bible Project: Setting

How to Read the Bible

## Setting in Biblical Narrative



**Joseph** - “a righteous man”

**SETTING:**

Bethlehem

Egypt

Nazareth

**Joseph** - “a righteous man”

**Righteousness** = a standard of right relationship

**Justice** - actions to create a right relationship



# Joseph - “a righteous man” Mt 1:19

Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. (NIV)

Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. (NRSV)

- Blameless & obedient
- Merciful

**Joseph** - “a righteous man” Mt 1:20

*What does the Lord require of you?*

- Share in disgrace/and fulfilment
- Steadfast love for God (dreams) and Mary

**Joseph** - “a righteous man” Mt 1:20

*What does the Lord require of you?*

THEME in Matthew's Gospel

Next Class: Tues, **December 1st** (in 2 weeks) @7:00pm

## SESSION 5

# Parables in the Bible

Luke 18:1-8 The Persistent Widow