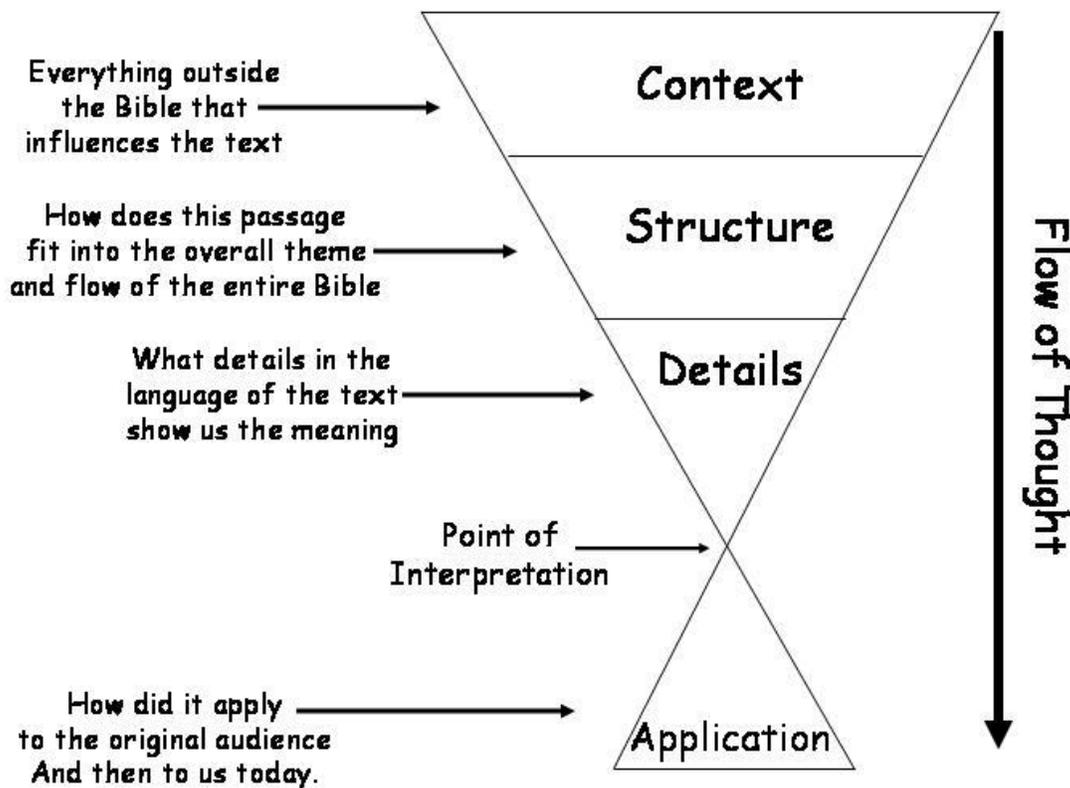


**Review- Hermeneutics- the science of Biblical interpretation**

What are some basic principles of interpreting the Bible?

1. Let Scripture interpret scripture (*Sacra Scriptura sui interpres- Sacred Scripture is its own interpreter*)-
2. The Bible should be interpreted literally, i.e. as a piece of literature
3. Let scripture speak for itself (Grammatico-historical)- original intended meaning

**Interpretation Hourglass**



**Context-** What is going on in the world right now?

**Structure-** Where are we at in the timeline of the Bible?

**Details-** What does this particular verse/passage tell us?

•Today we are going to build on the principles we learned last week in order to properly interpret a narrative, or a story. We’re going to look at two very familiar stories and use these basic principles to interpret the passages.

## **Genesis 22:1-19 The Sacrifice of Isaac**

**I. Context-** Lots of individual nations, Egypt is a super power to the south, but there is no one really affecting Abraham because he is very wealthy and has a lot of influence in the area because of that. We're in the land of Canaan.

**II. Structure-** Where are we at in the storyline of the Bible. If the Bible were a structure, where would this passage fit.

- We in the midst of the promised Kingdom that is being realized under Israel's first patriarch or father, Abraham. God is working again with a people and has entered into a covenant with Abraham.

- We have to also ask what genre are we reading? This is a narrative

- These first two are pretty straight forward. You can get this information from study notes or from knowing your world history. Now that we move into details things tend to change though. Because we're in a narrative we have a different grid we look through to understand the story.

### **III. Details**

Who are we reading about? We have to understand first that God is the narrator. He is the one giving us the story. He has a purpose for everything He tells us. So we have to ask, what is God trying to tell us, either about Himself (character trait), about how He works, about His Son, or about how we should respond to Him.

- To do that God gives us characters in these stories. We have to decide do we want to imitate these characters or do the opposite of these characters, and we have both kinds of stories in the bible.

- Comedy- this is a story that you could say has a happy ending. There has been positive growth in the character or characters and we should try to emulate them so we can experience the same kind of growth.

- Tragedy- This has a sad ending. There is disintegration at the end, things fall apart, and there is usually a drifting away from the Lord, or negative growth. We want to not emulate the characters in these stories.



**Personal Crisis-** God tells Abraham to sacrifice Isaac

- Why is this a crisis for Abraham? He is being asked to kill his son, the son of promise, for no apparent reason other than God told him to do it.
- Abraham has to decide if he is going to obey or not, and he ultimately decides to obey

**Public Crisis** (facing the enemy)- Abraham binds Isaac, and brings down the knife. The enemy that faces Abraham in this story is both the temptation to disobey God and the fact that he is going to kill his son.

**Problem Solved-** God intervenes at the last minute, Isaac is spared, and God tells Abraham he passed the test. God provides a substitute sacrifice for Isaac, and the story ends.

#### **IV. Application**

A. What is the absolute truth God is communicating about Himself, His desires for us, etc.

- About His character- God keeps His promises and is pleased with the obedience of His people at any cost to themselves or their desires
- About how He works- God doesn't always do things the way we would want Him to
- About how we should respond- with faith and obedience to His commands
- About His Son- God will one day sacrifice His son in place of us. Just as he rescued Isaac from the knife and death, he will also rescue us and have the perfect lamb of His son be sacrificed in our place. Our response is the same in that situation as it was for Abraham, faith and obedience.

## 1 Samuel 17- David and Goliath- Together as a Group

(Review what they are looking for)

Context

Structure

Details

Characters

Agents

Actors

Fill in the Character Development Arc

Comedy or Tragedy?

### **Application**

What is God teaching me:

About Himself (His character/ attributes)?

About how He works?

About what He desires from me (comedy- be like the main character, tragedy- be unlike the main character?)

About His Son, Jesus?