Text: ____________________

1) Original meaning of the text. (If possible/necessary, translate text first)

a) Where does the story/unit begin and end? How do you know?

b) What is the setting for the story? Work from larger units (i.e. Old vs. New Covenant) to lesser units (i.e. between Joshua and the Monarchy) to the contents of the book itself.

c) Is there any connection with what comes before or after? What significance does this have?
d) Who are the main characters and in the story? What do we know about them? Use the story itself or other references to these characters to find your answers. Use Biblegateway or other concordance tools to find these references.
e) What are some key terms/ideas/locations in the story that need to be explained? Start by seeing what can be learned from the passage itself. Next, use Biblegateway to see if these terms/ideas/locations are found elsewhere in the Bible. When the term/idea/location cannot be understood simply by looking at the passage itself or other passages in the Bible, consult a commentary or other relevant secondary material. When consulting secondary material, make sure you understand where they get their information from and whether or not it is valid.

f) Are there any references or allusions to other passages in the Bible (or any other piece of ancient literature) in this passage? If so, what is the significance? Be careful not to read more of the original context of the reference into the passage than is warranted by the passage itself.
g) Where possible/appropriate, ask content questions to try to make sense of the story. Often this will take the form of “why” questions (e.g. why did this happen? why did the character do this?). Keep in mind that the text might not always answer the questions we want to ask.
Sermon Preparation Worksheet - Narrative

(Last Updated: Jan. 16, 2018)

h) Divide the text into manageable sections and summarize. Be careful not to word these summaries in terms of how you might want to apply the text.

i) If possible, summarize the main subject matter of the story in one sentence.
2) Applying the Text

a) Are there any parts of the story that are restricted to the time period or persons depicted in the text? If necessary, discuss why these parts of the story are limited to those time periods or persons.

b) Are there any theological truths, especially about God’s character, that apply outside of this immediate context?

c) Are there any analogies to the specifics of the text that might still apply today? Be careful not to allegorize! Support these analogies using reasoning from elsewhere in Scripture.
3) Putting the Message Together

a) What type of setting will the message be for? (i.e. formal weekly sermon? informal sermon in a smaller setting? bible study / interactive format? guest sermon? conference address?)

b) What main things are you wanting your audience to learn from the message? Which ones are primary and which ones are secondary?

c) What type of sermon progression will help you deal with the most content in a way that will be clear and easy for your audience to follow? (i.e. transform the narrative into a sermon or study)
Sermon Preparation Worksheet - Narrative

(Last Updated: Jan. 16, 2018)

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d) What type of introduction do you think would be most effective for this content? (Application-based, Problem-solving, Review/Summary, Text-focused analogy)

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e) Will it be most effective to read the passage before getting into the body of the message or will it be most effective to go through the passage as the sermon progresses?

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