

## **Summary Method for Understanding Old Testament Stories**

Never forget that the aim of all Christian teaching is: **To glorify God and stir up a love for Jesus Christ, revealing him as the centre of all the Scriptures.**

**Begin with begging.** (Prayer is essential throughout!)

**Next read, read and re-read again.**

As you read, ask and note down your thoughts:

**What is the structure of the passage?**

**How do the parts fit together?**

**Does anything not fit?**

**Does anything surprise you?**

**Is anything memorable?**

**Where is the turning point (if there is one)?**

**Is there important speech?** (Does God (or his prophets) say anything?)

**Is there repetition?**

**Are there any “theological comments”?**

**What is the historical context?** (Where is this passage in the history of the bible? Are there any significant places / tribes etc. mentioned? Do these places / people etc. come in other texts of the bible? Ask a friend for help or look these up in a bible dictionary.)

**What is the literary context? –Immediate, book and whole bible?**

(Need to work hard here)

**Scripture interprets Scripture: Is there a reference to this passage in the New Testament or later in the Old Testament?** (Ask a friend/study bible/www.livingworduganda.org)

**What are the timeless truths? – What does it teach about God? What does it teach about mankind? What does it teach about our relationship with God /our enemies?**

**Are you sure these truths are timeless?** (Is the “truth” taught elsewhere? Is it contradicted elsewhere?)

**Are there any types?**

**Are you sure that this type is correct?** (Does anything not fit with the type?)

**How does this passage point to Jesus?** (His character/works, our need for him, our response to him etc? Is your understanding God centred? Is God the hero? Or is it focused instead on man & our needs?)

Finally:

**Write a “theme sentence” to summarise the teaching of the passage.**

**Write an “aim” sentence to summarise the aim of your teaching.**