# Preaching the OT (2): Preaching the Stories

The importance of the story and of stories

The difference between telling a story and teaching a point

# Preaching on Stories

1. What stories aim at

What God did once for all

How God recurrently acts

How we seek to serve God

1. How stories preach

Straight telling (Mark, Ezra-Nehemiah)

Build an application into the story (Matthew, Chronicles)

Interweave direct teaching (John, Exodus)

Link the story with the ongoing life of God’s people (Acts, Ruth)

1. How stories engage their readers

They have plot

They bring a concrete situation alive

They encourage people to identify with the story

They look at events through the eyes of characters

# How OT Stories Work

1. Stories told more than once

Kings and Chronicles

1. Stories of individual and community

Genesis and Exodus

1. Stories with a plot

Kings and Chronicles

1. Stories facing sex and violence

Judges

1. Stories that show and tell character

1 and 2 Samuel

1. Stories facing up to the day of small things

Ezra and Nehemiah

1. Short stories about God’s involvement with individuals

Esther, Ruth, Jonah

# Understanding Stories

* What is the question or the problem or the issue that the story starts from?
* What is its answer to the question or solution of the problem or resolution of the issue?
* How does it get from question/problem/issue to answer/solution/resolution?
* Does it leave issues unresolved or incorporate surprises that hold attention to the end?
* Who are the story’s implied audience, the people it looks designed to speak to?
* Who is the main character in a story, who are the other characters, what role do they have, and how do the events in the story affect them or change them?

Try those questions on familiar stories such as Genesis 1–4 or stories about David