How and Why to Teach the Old Testament Without Spoiling It
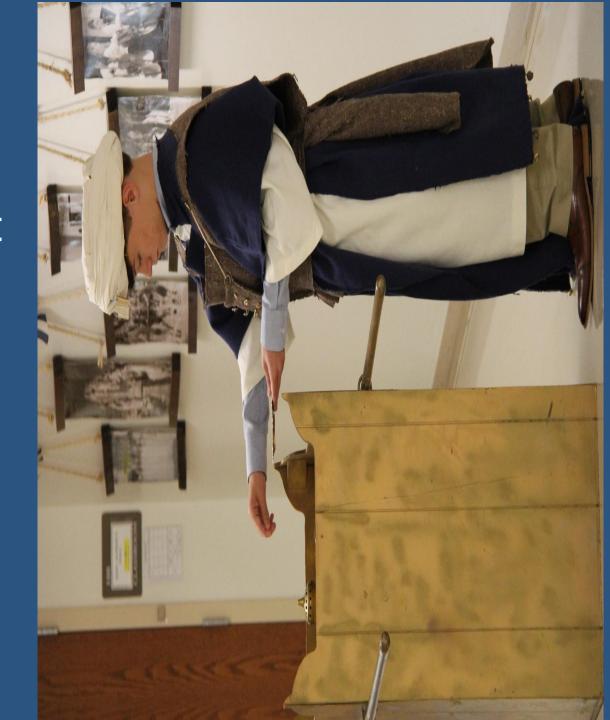
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Why avoid spoilers?

- Preserve innate excitement and wonder
- Equip students to understand Scripture's argument
- Safeguard students' confidence that the Old Testament really points to Jesus
- Submit to Scripture's teaching authority

Preserving the drama of the Old Testament

- Reenactments
- Persona presentations
- Exilic frame
- Big picture

The Unfolding Plan of God

Person/
Purpose: Adam   Abraham   Moses   David

⇩   ⇩   ⇩   ⇩

Pattern: Noah   Joseph   Joshua   Solomon

⇩   ⇩   ⇩   ⇩

Problem: Fall   Sojourn Apostasy   Exile

⇩   ⇩   ⇩   ⇩

Promise: Seed Exodus   King   Resurrection
             (Gen 1-11)   (Gen 12-50)(Exod-Judg)(1 Sam-Mal)

The Unfolding Plan of God

Person

Purpose

⇩

Problem foreshadowed

Promise

⇩

Pattern

⇩

Problem

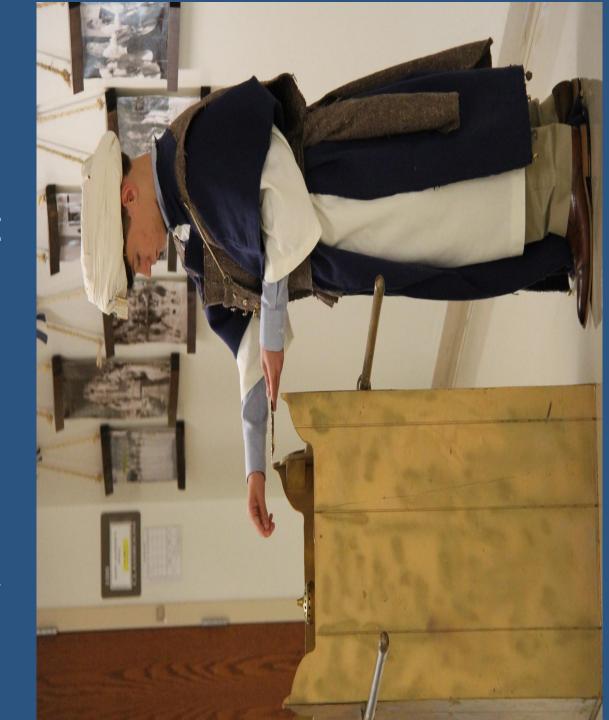The Unfolding Plan of God

Preserving the drama of the Old Testament

- Reenactments
- Persona presentations
- Exilic frame
- Big picture
- Inductive study

Inductive Study

- Observation
- Connection
- Principle
- Application

Principle:

statement of truth formulated for broad application

Genesis 5

Genealogy of Seth

1. Gather observations
(directed by questions)

. . . When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he fathered Jared. Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.

When Jared had lived 162 years he fathered Enoch. Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.

When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah.

Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died. . .

Genesis 5

Genealogy
of Seth

1. Gather observations
2. Draw connections
   (directed by questions)

External

- and he died
  "in the day you eat of it you shall surely die"
  Abel

- begat
  "seed of the woman"
  Seth principle

Internal

- God took him
  ~~and he died~~

- walked with God

  He walked with God, therefore God took him

Genesis 5

Genealogy
of Seth

1. Gather observations
2. Draw connections
3. Derive principle:

*One who walks with God
can escape death!*

Genesis 5

Genealogy
of Seth

1. Gather observations
2. Draw connections
3. Derive principle
4. Make application

Noah: "Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generations. Noah walked with God."
One who walks with God can save his people!

Abraham: "Walk before me and be blameless"

Joseph:
The righteous savior is rejected by his people but is raised by God to the highest power!

1 Samuel 21-26 Saul v David

- Saul becomes King (1 Samuel 9-12):
  - God's prophet anoints Saul
  - God's Spirit comes upon Saul
  - God's people elect Saul by lot
  - Saul proves himself in battle and judgment
  - Saul is installed in a coronation ceremony
- David becomes king? (1 Samuel 16)

1 Samuel 21-26
Saul v David

- Observation/Connection: Interview

As host of the talk show *Promised Land in Perspective* you decide to cover the conflict between Saul and David. You obtain an inter-view with Doeg, Abishai, and Abigail. You ask each of them three questions:

- Who is the king?
- Why do you think so?
- What does it mean to be loyal to the king?

1 Samuel 21-26
Saul v David

- Doeg (1 Samuel 21-22)
  - *Who?* Saul
  - *Why?* Trappings of authority
  - *How?* Obey, no matter what!
- Abishai (1 Samuel 24, 26)
  - *Who?* David
  - *Why?* Keen fighter
  - *How?* Take out the king's rivals
- Abigail (1 Samuel 25)
  - *Who?* David
  - *Why?* Good shepherd
  - *How?* Prevent him from doing evil

1 Samuel 21-26
Saul v David

- Principle:

  When God's people find themselves living in a world with two kings, they must be loyal to both, but loyalty means doing what is in the king's best interest – not necessarily doing what the king says.

1 Samuel 21-26
Saul v David

- Application:
  - God and Nebuchadnezzar
  - Christ and Caesar

Questions?

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