

Exegetical Methodology: Literary Criticism

A. Write the names of your group members here.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

B. Circle the Scripture passage your group has chosen for a literary analysis.

- Mark 7:24–30 (the Syrophenician woman)
- Matthew 4:1–11 (the temptation of Jesus)
- Matthew 8:5–13 (healing of the centurion's servant)
- Luke 1:46–55 (Mary's *Magnificat*)
- Luke 8:4–8 (Parable of the Sower)
- John 8:1–11 (woman caught in adultery)

C. Using the methodology of literary criticism, analyze your chosen text. Each member of the group should record notes on your group's responses to the questions below, as well as additional comments. You will have 15 to 20 minutes to work on these questions.

1. What is the form or literary genre of the text?

2. How would you summarize the text? Is there a plot? What is the plot?



3. What do you notice about the placement or repetition of words?

4. What particular words are used? What do they mean?

5. What images or symbols are used? How are they used? What is their significance?

6. What characters appear in the text if any? What do you know about them?

7. How do the characters interact and relate to one another in the text?

8. Using the insights gained from literary criticism, what do you think is the primary message being communicated in this text? What meaning does this text have for us today?

D. Based on your group's responses to these questions, create a movie trailer that conveys what you have learned about this text through literary analysis. Be prepared to perform your movie trailer for the class.

