

**ALL THE WORLD IS...
(A) A STAGE (B) TORAH (C) ALL OF THE ABOVE
BIBLIODRAMA**

What is Bibliodrama?

Bibliodrama is a creative exploration through which to see Torah stories by applying theatrical ideas, principles and theories. Situated somewhere between school and theatre, bibliodrama allows people to both explore the Torah text as well as their connection to the stories.

The two phases of Bibliodrama:

1. The Narrative Dialogue

This model uses the narrative and dialogue based Torah stories as little scenes. These scenes take the Torah translation and make dialogue. The group leader or teacher has students read the scene and the characters. Periodically, the group leader or teacher stops the scene and asks questions of each character. It is important to have students respond as the voice of the character. Usually, in this form, previous information about the characters does not come into the discussion, as background information is not paramount. This model tries to understand the psychology of the character, and provides for active participation in the “acting” out of the stories.

2. Character Analysis

This model, which is a bit more advanced and complicated, applies theatre textual analysis to Torah text. Mixing the Aristotelian idea of the character arch with Sanford Meisner’s, the great acting teacher of the early twentieth century, stress on sub-textual evidence, practitioners of this phase of bibliodrama are able to flesh out the biblical characters and try to understand, textually, why the characters act they way they do. This phase can be both active in the acting out of the subtext of the story, or can be used to for Torah discussions and the creation of modern “midrash”.

Resources:

Pitzele, Peter. **Our Father’s Wells: Personal Encounters with the Myth of Genesis**. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1995. Available in the Frances-Henry Library call # BS 1235.5 P5.8

Pitzele, Peter. **Scripture Windows: Towards A Practice of Bibliodrama**. Los Angeles: Alef Design Group, 1998. Available in the Tartak Learning Center.

Krondorfer, Bjorn, ed. **Body and Bible**. Trinity Press International, 1992.

www.bibliodrama.com