

Scope and Sequence of the Course

God Reveals: An Introduction to the Bible is a companion for learning about the Bible and how it was inspired and formed as the Word of God. The text references both the Old Testament and New Testament in order to help students clearly understand the stages of Divine Revelation, from creation to the fullness of Revelation in the Incarnation of Christ and his Paschal Mystery.

The text opens with an explanation of how God reveals himself and how he wants to be known. From this basic understanding of Divine Revelation, the text focuses on the origins of the Bible. A more detailed explanation of how the Bible should be read as a sacred text as well as an overall synopsis of the organization and books of the Bible follow in Chapters 3 and 4. God's Kingdom initiated in the life of Christ is the focus of Chapter 5 and detailed in the synoptic Gospels. Christology from the Gospel of John is the subject of Chapter 6. In Chapter 7, Christ's particular mission as priest, prophet, and king is explained and evidenced from Scripture. Chapter 8 explains how Sacred Scripture is essential to liturgy, prayer, and the overall life of the Church. The sequence of the course is viewed in the focus question and chapter outline of each chapter.

Chapter 1: God Wants to Be Known

Focus Question

How can I know God?

Chapter Outline

Introduction: Discovering God

Section 1: Our Built-In Desire for God

Section 2: God Is Revealed through Human Reason

Section 3: God Reveals More of Himself

Section 4: God Records His Revelation

Chapter 2: How the Bible Came to Be

Focus Question

How is God's Word collected and codified in the Bible?

Chapter Outline

Introduction: What Do You Know about the Bible?

Section 1: How God's Word Was First Shared

Section 2: The Development of Written Books

Section 3: Setting the Canon of Scripture

Section 4: Different Biblical Translations

Chapter 3: How to Understand the Bible

Focus Question

What are ways I can use the tools of biblical scholarship to grow in a faith-filled understanding of Sacred Scripture?

Chapter Outline

Introduction: How Catholics Read the Bible

Section 1: How the Church Studies the Bible

Section 2: Reading the Bible according to the Holy Spirit

Section 3: Biblical Truth and Scientific Truth Are Compatible

Section 4: Tools of Biblical Scholarship

Chapter 4: What Is in the Bible

Focus Question

What are the scope, style, and message of the Old Testament and New Testament?

Chapter Outline

Introduction: The Two Testaments of the Bible

Section 1: Old Testament Categories and Contents

Section 2: Surveying the Old Testament

Section 3: New Testament Categories and Contents

Section 4: Surveying the New Testament

Chapter 5: Jesus and God's Kingdom Seen through the Synoptic Gospels**Focus Question**

When seen together, how do the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke help me to know more about Jesus and God's Kingdom?

Chapter Outline

Introduction: Understanding Matthew, Mark, and Luke

Section 1: Individual Characteristics of the Synoptic Gospels

Section 2: The Time before Jesus's Public Ministry in the Synoptic Gospels

Section 3: Jesus's Teachings, Pronouncements, and Miracles in the Synoptic Gospels

Section 4: The Passion and Resurrection Accounts in the Synoptic Gospels

Chapter 6: Christology in the Gospel of John**Focus Question**

In what ways is the Gospel of John different from the synoptic Gospels?

Chapter Outline

Introduction: The Uniqueness of the Fourth Gospel

Section 1: Formation of John's Gospel

Section 2: What Do the Seven Signs in the Gospel of John Reveal about Jesus?

Section 3: Jesus Preaches in Long Discourses

Section 4: How John Presents Jesus's Passion, Death, and Resurrection

Chapter 7: The Bible Shares Christ's Mission as Priest, Prophet, and King**Focus Question**

How are titles and images for Christ linked between the Old Testament and New Testament?

Chapter Outline

Introduction: Christ Is the One Word of Scripture

Section 1: Christ Is the New High Priest

Section 2: Christ Is Prophet

Section 3: Christ Is King

Section 4: Christ Is the Alpha and the Omega

Chapter 8: The Bible in the Life of the Church**Focus Question**

How is the Bible used in communal and personal prayer?

Chapter Outline

Introduction: The Bible and Prayer

Section 1: Common Biblical Prayers

Section 2: The Liturgy of the Hours

Section 3: Using Scripture for Meditation

Section 4: What's Next for You and the Bible?