

Introduction to Scripture Grade 9

Course Description

This course will introduce students to God’s plan of Salvation History as revealed in Sacred Scripture. Students will learn how the various Covenants established by God and shared in the Bible play a major role in understanding Divine Revelation. They explore the Bible as the Word of God and come to appreciate how God’s plan of Salvation unfolds from the Old Testament to the New and is fulfilled in the Person of Jesus-the Word made flesh. Introduction to Scripture coursework emphasizes the importance of respecting human worth and dignity and guides each student to develop a socially just perspective that will help guide his/her life and the lives of others. In alignment with the school's **Portrait of the Crusader**, students are taught and encouraged to follow a moral compass rooted in respect, character, integrity, hope, and kindness and to demand fairness, respect others’ beliefs, and value the uniqueness of every human being.

Essential Questions for the Course

- What is the Bible and its relationship to Revelation?
- How did Palestine become the homeland of the Jewish people?
- How do Christians understand the Gospels?
- How did Jesus approach his role as the Messiah for the Jewish People?

Course Curriculum

Unit 1 - Introduction to Scripture (Quarter 1)

Guiding Questions

1. How is Scripture used to discover the Jesus of History and the Christ of Faith?
2. How do we understand the Jewish roots of Jesus?

Enduring Understandings

- ❖ Sacred Scripture invites an encounter with Jesus Christ.
- ❖ We uncover the basics of the Christian faith by tracing key stages of Salvation History.
- ❖ Through examining both the Old and New Testaments, we see how God revealed Himself to the world through the prophets of the Old Testament and through His Son, Jesus Christ, in the New Testament.

Concepts and Skills

- Explain how the Bible is regarded as a written record of God’s Revelation.
- Answer the question *Who wrote the Bible?*
- Read the Bible differently than any other book.
- Answer the question *Why do we read the Old Testament ?*
- Classify and arrange the Old Testament Books.
- Characterize the First 5 Books of the Bible as “Books of Moses.”
- Interpret the Mosaic Laws - The Covenant Code, Deuteronomic Code, and Levitical Code, three different collections of the Law in the Pentateuch.

Summative Assessment - Research the world of the Hebrew Scriptures. Follow up with a student-designed prayer service using Scripture, Bible research, scriptural reports.

Unit 2 - Historical Transitions (Quarter 2)

Guiding Questions

1. How does the Book of Deuteronomy provide a historical transition to the books of Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings?
2. What was the function of the judges?
3. How are the Wisdom Books a unique form of spirituality?

Enduring Understandings

- ❖ Reading myths & legends from ancient civilizations with Biblical stories helps us explore questions of the human condition (Who am I? What are our origins? What is evil?).
- ❖ Rediscovering & redefining major Biblical characters reveals God and Man's response to God.
- ❖ Comparing roles of family members in biblical times with contemporary families helps to depict our place in the microcosm of family and in larger society.
- ❖ Researching occupations (carpentry of Jesus) and their effects on people provides some insight into how we can love God through our work.

Concepts and Skills

- Chart the Course of God's People – From Joshua to the rise of Ancient Israel, and from the exploits of the Judges to the establishment of a home in Palestine.
- Trace Jewish History to the Roman Rule
- Extrapolate themes and styles from the Wisdom Books.
- Distinguish the *Marks of the Prophets*, both *Major and Minor*.

Summative Assessment- Research the traditions and culture of the Hebrew people during the time of the Scriptures and compare these with how you characterize your current time and culture.

Unit 3 - The Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles (Quarter 3)

Guiding Questions

1. How do Christians understand Jesus' dream/vision for the world?
2. How do we read the New Testament?

Enduring Understandings

- ❖ Jesus' life, preaching, and teaching are all "Good News" central to Sacred Scripture.
- ❖ Identifying the significance of the Infancy Narratives, Baptism, and Temptation stories of Jesus guides our own navigation through faith and life.
- ❖ Extrapolating the significance of parables, Jesus' own words, reveals for us that without God, true happiness is fleeting if achievable at all.
- ❖ Understanding Jesus' attitudes toward suffering may inform my own attitude.

Concepts and Skills

- Identify the centrality of Christ in Scripture.
- Classify and Arrange the New Testament Books
- Investigate the New Testament – begin at the Gospels and progress in the narrative of Christ and his church.
- Discover the Good News.
- Differentiate the Synoptic Gospels.
- Contrast the Synoptic Gospels with the Gospel of John.
- Interpret the Acts of the Apostles.

Summative Assessment -Research miracles & healings. Parallel these stories with Jesus' experiences as reported in the New Testament.

Unit 4 - The New Testament Letters (Quarter 4)

Guiding Questions

1. How do Christians understand the historical events of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection?
2. How did Paul become one of the most influential figures in Christian history, second only to Jesus?
3. How does one remain faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Enduring Understandings

- ❖ Comparing the gospel writers' messages behind the Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost provides insight into the Christian understanding of death and the afterlife.
- ❖ Comparing the Pentecost of the Gospels with our individual Pentecosts may encourage us to examine the ways in which the Holy Spirit works in our lives.

Concepts and Skills

- Identify the Letters attributed to Paul.
- Index the 13 New Testament Letters.
- Examine the Letters to the Entire Church.
- Explore the Revelation to John.
- Recognize the Christian understanding of Jesus as the New Covenant.

Summative Assessment - Create a Church bulletin with the purpose to proclaim that Christ was crucified, rose from death, and is still living today. (Utilize the scriptures.)

Supplemental Resources May Include:

- New American Bible Revised Edition, via USCCB.org
- Catechism of the Catholic Church, selections