

Grade 10 Bible: BST21G  
The Old Testament and the History of Israel  
2016-17

The Grade 10 Bible course is a study of the Old Testament and the history of Israel.

What are my goals for the Grade 10 Bible class?

1. To help you develop an appreciation for the Biblical story, its history, literature, teachings and its power to draw us into a relationship with the one who created us.
2. To help you understand the importance and relevance of the Old Testament in our world.
3. To help you develop an understanding of some of the major **themes** running through the Old Testament:
  - a. There is only one God.
  - b. God is active in history.
  - c. The importance of prayer and a personal response to God.
  - d. The role of covenant in Israel's relationship with God.
  - e. The role of the prophets in Israel's history and the importance of justice in Israel's faith.
  - f. Tradition.
  - g. Hope and promise.
  - h. The mystery of God's ways.
4. To help you develop an understanding of current Jewish culture, faith and recent history.

**Term 1**

1. How did we get the Bible?  
Readings:  
"The Bible of Jesus and the Early Church",  
"Extra-Canonical Literature",  
"The Transmission of the Old Testament"  
Selected readings from the Apocrypha including excerpts from Judith, Tobit and additions to Daniel and Esther.  
Video: How the Bible came to be
2. Origins: Genesis and Science  
How did we get here? Why are we here?  
Readings:
  - a. Genesis 1-11
  - a. "Lord of the Scientific Process" by Robert Vandervennen
  - b. " In Defense of Genesis" by IanTaylor
  - c. "The Vast Silence of Science" by Allan Moen
  - d. Four Christian Approaches to Origins – notes
  - e. "Genesis" – handout
  - f. Prologue to the Hebrew Faith – handout

**Term 1 and 2**

2. An overview of the Old Testament
  - a. Patriarchal narratives
    - Patriarchs
    - Egypt and slavery

- Deliverance
- Sinai and the Mosaic covenant – The 10 Commandments, Tabernacle worship, the Sacrificial system
- The years of wandering
- Conquest and settlement of Canaan
- Period of Judges
- Monarchy – Saul, David and Solomon
- The Divided Kingdom – Israel and Judah, the rise of the prophets of the 8<sup>th</sup> century
- Assyrian conquest of the northern kingdom
- Babylonian conquest of the southern kingdom – the period of exile
- The slow return of the exiles; Jerusalem is rebuilt
- The Intertestamental period

### Terms 2 and 3

5. Old Testament topics and themes:
  - a. The use of **stories** in the Old Testament
    - Ruth
    - Esther
    - Daniel
    - Jonah
    - David
    - Elijah and the prophets of Baal
  - b. Violence in the Old Testament
    - The wars of Conquest
    - Killing in God's name
    - Yahweh as warrior
    - Isn't God a God of love?
  - c. Why is there evil and suffering in the world? or, Why do bad things happen to good people? Or Why do evil people seem to do so well?
    - Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, Job
  - d. Is God concerned about the poor and marginalized?
    - Amos and Micah
    - The Year of Sabbath and the Year of Jubilee
    - Laws relating to the poor, slaves and foreigners
  - e. Knowing God in Ancient Israel
    - Worship – the tabernacle and temple
    - Psalms – Israel's prayer and praise book

We will use a number of different Bible translations including the New International Version translation of the Bible. Copies will be available in the classroom and are accessible online at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com). You do not need a hard copy to complete an assignment; if you have a computer (a cell phone, a tablet or laptop) a copy of the Bible (NIV translation) is always with you.

### Electronic devices

Please feel free to bring along your electronic device to class. **DO NOT SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN FORMATTED PROPERLY.** This occurs frequently when students use their cell phone to

do written work. Wi-Fi access here at school is a privilege. Please make sure that you use your device in a responsible manner. Cell phone use in class is to be used for educational purposes. You don't want to find out how high your cell phone bounces when I drop it out my window.

### **Evaluation**

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|---|---------|
| 1. Understanding and Knowledge                          | 10-20 % |
| 2. Application of Knowledge                             | 10-20%  |
| 3. Research and Inquiry                                 | 20-40%  |
| 4. Communication (verbal, written, visual, multi-media) | 20-30%  |

### **Major Assignments:**

#### Term 1

1. A creative assignment that draws on the theme of Creation.

#### Term 2 (One of the following)

1. A model tabernacle
2. A synagogue Sabbath service observation
3. An interview with a rabbi
4. An essay – a comprehensive list of topics, questions and issues will be given

#### Term 3

1. The Meaning of Life: A Comparative Study of Biblical Wisdom and Popular Culture