

Name: _____ Date: _____

God Reveals: An Introduction to the Bible
Chapter 2: How the Bible Came to Be
Directed Reading Worksheet

Directions. Read through the chapter and fill in the missing information. All the questions run sequential to the chapter. If a true/false statement is false, correct it. Enter the missing word or words for the fill-in-the-blank questions.

Introduction: *What Do You Know about the Bible?*

1. True or False? *Sensus fidei* refers to the responsibility of every baptized Catholic to study and know the truth of the Catholic faith.

2. True or False? While Protestants are taught to be cautious in personal interpretations of Sacred Scripture, the Church encourages Catholics to do so.

3. Read the brief statements below and circle *T* (true) or *F* (false) appropriately based on your reading of this section.

T F	The word <i>Testament</i> is another word for “proof.”
T F	The Latin translation of the Bible grew out of a desire to give Catholic laity greater access to the sacred text.
T F	The Bible is the singular means that God passes on the truths of revelation.
T F	The New Testament has greater importance than the Old Testament.
T F	When reading the Bible, we should be aware of the history, cultural, and variety of literary styles found there.
T F	The word <i>bible</i> comes from a Greek word for “book” and is a kind of library collection of books.

4. What is the most important message of the Bible?

5. Briefly note the purpose of the following aids for studying the Bible:

Biblical commentary

Biblical atlas

Biblical dictionary

Biblical concordance

6. True or False? In a biblical reference, the colon separates the chapter from the verse or verses.

Section 1: How God's Word Was First Shared

7. It was the goal of the _____ to share the significance of Jesus's _____ rather than to record a word-for-word narrative of what he said. Jesus is the culmination of God's _____, God's very presence, God himself in the _____. Consequently, the _____ are the heart of not only the New Testament but also the entire _____.

8. Write a brief description of each of the three stages in the formation of the Gospels:

First stage

Second stage

Third stage

9. _____ in ancient times was not like the "_____" you may have played with your friends. While it is the transmission of key events by only _____, ancient people had a more precise way of _____ and communicating than people today. For instance, they utilized a "_____" which helped them to associate where they first heard a story with the _____ it was told.

10. True or False? The word *didache* is a Greek word meaning "proclamation," and it refers to the core message preached by the Apostles in the first years of Christianity.

11. Explain the challenges the early Christians faced in sharing the good news about Jesus with others, both linguistically and culturally.

12. True or False? The New Testament was formed over a long period of time—approximately 950 years—portions of which were shared orally for thousands of years.

13. True or False? Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Israelites may have adapted some of the myths from the ancient Near East to explain how God had been working throughout their history to form them as a people.

14. St. Paul—the Apostle to the _____—undertook three major missionary trips, often writing _____ to the communities he visited, offering them _____ and further instruction. Being born a Jew, he had the advantage of being familiar with _____ customs and practices. He also possessed _____ citizenship which allowed him to travel freely and safely on Roman _____ during a period of the “_____.”

15. Explain how Paul acted as a kind of bridge in the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ.

16. True or False? The Gospels were successfully preserved through oral storytelling for thirty to forty years because the oral culture was commonplace and the early Christians knew how to use patterns for remembering the stories and words of Jesus.

17. Briefly explain how each of these three types of oral stories were made memorable:
 - Pronouncements*
 - Miracles*
 - Parables*

18. True or False? Initially, the stories of Jesus were told in Hebrew to those who had converted from Judaism, but by the time they were put into written form, a majority of the converts were Latin-speaking Gentiles, so the stories had to be both translated to a new language but also to a new culture.

Section 2: The Development of Written Books

19. True or False? The books of the Bible were composed over a period of about one hundred years.

20. During the era of King _____, Israel began to employ _____ to record the oral tradition. The first things recorded were likely the material found in the _____, the first section of the Bible. This included Israel's history from the time of _____ up to the conquest of Canaan. In time, the written text began to supersede the oral tradition in _____.
21. True or False? The canon of the New Testament took place from approximately AD 30 until 100, a total of about seventy years.
22. Briefly explain the three reasons why the New Testament were put down in writing.
- (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)
23. Explain what we learn about the early Church from the second-century document known as the *Didache*.
24. Many Old Testament books are the _____ of several authors and editors. The scribes recorded stories of the kings, and some of the _____ wrote their own books. Often these prophecies, sayings, and _____ were collected and recorded by their secretaries and _____. The Book of _____ may have been compiled by two additional _____ or editors, over many years.
25. True or False? In the sixth century BC, editors collected, combined, and improved the biblical texts of the Old Testament.
26. True or False? The identity of the New Testament authors is generally more difficult to gauge based on the names of the Gospels and epistles.
27. Explain what it means to call the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke "synoptic."
28. Note what we know about the identity of the synoptic Gospels:

Matthew

Mark

Luke

29. True or False? St. Paul probably personally wrote thirteen of the epistles in the New Testament.
30. The job of _____ and copiers was made more difficult by the fact that the _____ form of Hebrew and Aramaic uses no _____, capital letters, or _____. Sometimes transcription mistakes _____ into their works. They not only copied the material but also _____ it, taking several different scrolls with something in _____ to form an entire book that blended the material together.

Section 3: Setting the Canon of Scripture

31. True or False? The Church existed before the New Testament canon was even formed.
32. From the _____, as descendants of the Jewish people, the _____ accepted as inspired the books of the _____ Scriptures. In the first century AD, however, the Jews had more than one _____—an older edition written in Hebrew and another written in _____. The latter was referred to as the “_____” and included seven more books along with additional material from Esther and _____.
33. True or False? While most Jews began to use only the Hebrew version of the Hebrew Scripture in the first century AD, early Christians preferred the longer Greek Septuagint.
34. Explain how the Old Testament canon changed for Protestants during the sixteenth century reformation.
35. True or False? The apostolic tradition of the Church determined the New Testament canon, and both Catholics and Protestants agree on the forty-six books of the New Testament canon.

36. Explain why other books of the first two centuries, such as the Gospels of Thomas and Judas, were not included in the New Testament canon.

Section 4: *Different Biblical Translations*

37. St. Jerome's translation of the Bible is known as the _____, created at the request of Pope _____. In a monastery in _____, Jerome translated the Septuagint into _____. His translation became the most commonly used edition in the _____. Due to his attention to the original _____, the Vulgate was known for its clarity, fidelity to the original translation, and _____ of diction.
38. True or False? In 1943, Pope Pius XII encouraged the translation of the Bible using the original languages: the Old Testament from the original Latin; the New Testament from the original Hebrew.
39. Fill in the information below based on your reading of the text.

Type of translation	Goal of the translation	Disadvantage of the translation	Example
Formal/Literal translation			
Dynamic <i>equivalence</i>			

40. True or False? The New American Bible Revised Edition—the translation used for the readings at Mass and other liturgies—combines both the literal and dynamic approach of biblical interpretation.

41. Why were chapter and verse references added to the Bible?