

Name: _____

Date: _____

God Reveals: An Introduction to the Bible
Chapter 3: How to Understand the Bible
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: *How Catholics Read the Bible*

1. _____ read the Bible contextually, which means examining and defining the literary form in its _____. Many _____, however, are fundamentalists, reading the Bible without reference to the _____ of the passage or the _____ in which the passage was written. The latter method means interpreting each word or phrase from a _____ point of view.
2. Explain how literalists understand the first creation account in Genesis differently than Catholics.
3. True or False? Both Catholics and Fundamentalist Protestants agree that Christ is the center of the Bible.
4. True or False? Catholics do not view the Bible as part of the historical Church, that the Church determined the biblical canon, and that the Church now teaches and interprets the Bible.
5. Briefly summarize how Fundamentalists *differ* in their belief about each of the following seven points about the Bible:

Catholic belief	How Fundamentalist believe this differently
The Bible is supernatural	
The Bible is inspired	

The Bible is infallible	
The Bible and Church are sufficient	
The Bible is authoritative	
The Bible is not always literal	
The Bible is practical	

6. The problem with the _____ approach to biblical interpretation is that it does not penetrate the biblical text's true _____. The primary _____ of the Bible is to present _____ truths that God wishes to reveal through _____. With the guidance of the _____, scholars discover what the author intended to convey.

Section 1: *How the Church Studies the Bible*

7. True or False? In 1943, Pope Pius XII called for new translations of the Bible using modernism to aid in understanding the meaning of Scripture passages intended by the author.
8. True or False? The word "criticism," when applied to biblical study, means to look carefully at biblical texts for their historical and literary contexts.
9. What is the three-fold purpose of historical, source, form, and redaction criticism?
- (1)
 - (2)
 - (3)
10. What is especially important about the third stage for Christians?

11. List the kinds of questions asked in a critical interpretation of Scripture called “exegesis.”
12. _____ criticism seeks to determine how each book of the Bible took _____ during the period of _____ tradition, prior to taking its current written form. The form of the text provides _____ about the text’s meaning. Knowing the literary genre helps the reader adjust _____ about what he or she is reading and what he or she can learn from the _____.
13. Write the appropriate literary genre next to the examples below.

Literary genre	Example
	<i>Then the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders, and brought us to this place, and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Now, therefore, I have brought the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, LORD, have given me.” You shall set them before the LORD, your God, and you shall bow down before the LORD, your God.</i>
	<i>Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.</i>
	<i>“Hear me, Lords of Shechem, and may God hear you! One day the trees went out to anoint a king over themselves. So they said to the olive tree, ‘Reign over us.’ But the olive tree answered them, ‘Must I give up my rich oil, whereby gods and human beings are honored, and go off to hold sway over the trees?’</i>
	<i>Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven columns; She has prepared her meat, mixed her wine, yes, she has spread her table.</i>
	<i>Thus says the LORD: For three crimes of Gaza, and now four— I will not take it back— Because they exiled an entire population, handing them over to Edom, I will send fire upon the wall of Gaza, and it will devour its strongholds</i>
	<i>Then the man said, “You shall no longer be named Jacob, but Israel, because you have contended with divine and human beings and have prevailed.”</i>
	<i>Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.</i>
	<i>When the time of David’s death drew near, he gave these instructions to Solomon his son: “I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong and be a man! Keep the mandate of the LORD, your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, commands, ordinances, and decrees...</i>

	<i>“The kingdom of heaven is like yeast^[a] that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened.”</i>
	<i>Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar.</i>

14. Explain the goal of historical criticism. Then briefly note the example cited in the text.

15. Explain the goal of source criticism. Then briefly note the example cited in the text.

16. Explain the goal of redaction criticism. Then briefly note the example cited in the text.

17. True or False? The Magisterium of the Church, through access to important Scripture scholarship and personal expertise, helps Catholics come to a sound interpretation of the Bible.

18. True or False? Pope Benedict XVI, himself a biblical scholar, warned about ignoring the coherency of the Bible as well as examining the scriptural texts according to the time in which it was written.

19. As a biblical scholar, Pope Benedict XVI proposed three essential points to remember when studying the Bible. Write these below.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

Section 2: Reading the Bible according to the Holy Spirit

20. In studying the Bible, one must remember the difference between studying the Bible and studying other _____ sources. Scripture is organized around the real people, places, and events of _____ . It must be read within the _____ Tradition of the whole _____ , and it must be read and interpreted in the light of the same _____ by whom it was written.
21. Jesus Christ is the center and _____ of the Bible. Typology in the Bible notes the _____ of the Old Testament and the New Testament. As St. _____ puts it, “the New Testament lies _____ in the Old, and the Old Testament is _____ in the New.” Put another way, the Old Testament _____ Christ and illuminates the New Testament.
22. True or False? The New Testament story of the Prophet Jonah in the belly of a great fish for three days and nights prefigures Christ’s three days in the tomb before his Resurrection.
23. True or False? The *analogy of faith* recommends to “read Scripture within the living Tradition of the whole Church,” taking into consideration both parts of the Deposit of Faith: Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.
24. Explain the literal sense of Scripture.
25. There are three subdivisions of the _____ sense of Scripture. The _____ sense, similar to typology, considers the entire Bible in light of its _____ in Christ. The moral sense focuses on proper ways to live and _____ and to act justly. The _____ sense helps us to view earthly events in the context of our _____ to heaven.
26. Note the examples of each of the three senses of Scripture cited in the text:
- Allegorical sense* —
- Moral sense* —
- Anagogical sense* —

Section 3: Biblical Truth and Scientific Truth Are Compatible

27. Popes _____ and John Paul II taught that truth cannot _____ truth. Consequently, what you learn in your _____ class does not contradict what you learn in _____ class. Leo maintained that if _____ remain between the two, the _____ should continue to see whether a _____ has been made on either side.
28. St. John Henry _____ was open to new scientific evidence, living in at the time when Darwin's _____ was introduced. He held that theology could _____ from new discoveries and that nothing discovered by _____ should shake our faith. Indeed, Pope John Paul II later said that "faith and reason are like _____ on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of _____."
29. True or False? The quote from Cardinal Baronius essentially advises that while we should rely on the Bible for information about our eternal salvation, we cannot necessarily rely on it to teach us the intricacies of science.
30. What can Roman and Jewish historical sources confirm about the historical Jesus?
31. True or False? In 1992 Pope John Paul II, after a reexamination of the famous case of Galileo by a commission of theologians, scientists, and historians, expressed regret for Galileo's misjudgment of the Church.
32. True or False? While holding to the conviction that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, the Church doesn't reject anything that is true and holy in other religions, such as the Muslim faith.

Section 4: Tools of Biblical Scholarship

33. True or False? Anthropology is one of the most important tools of biblical scholarship, in which archeologists literally dig up the remains of ancient peoples to learn about their civilizations.

34. The _____ of the Jews—a small strip of land just _____ miles wide and _____ miles in length—was situated between the Mediterranean Sea and the _____. In spite of its humble size, it served as an important trading _____ between Egypt and several great empires of the world. _____ from these various cultures provide important background and _____ for biblical accounts.
35. True or False? Biblical scholarship is encouraged by the Church to help us not only appreciate the Bible but to help dispel those who attempt to make the Bible simply a collection of myths.
36. True or False? Archeological evidence reveals that humans have lived in the region of ancient Canaan for over ten thousand years.
37. The nation of _____ was formed after the Exodus from Egypt in approximately _____ BC. These early Israelites established themselves in the _____ of Canaan rather than the _____ of the large cities. The dating is confirmed from an inscription on the _____ which records the words of an Egyptian _____ who brags about a people called Israel.
38. Explain what it means to call biblical archeology “the fifth Gospel.”
39. What are two main ways that archeology helps the reader of the Bible?
40. _____ also involves studying and decoding the ancient _____ of the Bible. Archeologists, along with other biblical scholars, _____ texts from various biblical languages and in doing so, help us to gain a greater understanding about what the _____ were like and how people _____.
41. From the earliest times the Jewish people were part of a multicultural society, often living under the dominance of more powerful nations. *List these nations in chronological order below and then note how each group somehow impacted each era of Jewish history as noted in the text. The first letter of the nation’s name has been provided.*

The Nation	The Nation’s Impact on Jewish history
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E	
A	
B	
G	
R	

42. True or False? One important way the Ancient Greek Empire affected the development of the Bible was the use of the Greek language in the Old Testament.
43. Both the Old and New _____ reflect the fact that the People of Israel as well as the early _____ lived their lives in a _____ with the occupying powers. They lived their faith at the risk of _____. Jesus, for his part, generally instructed his _____ to remain outside foreign _____.
44. Jesus and most of his _____ were Galileans, and many of Jesus's _____ reflect the topography of Sea of _____ and its environs. While the _____ of the area was primary Jewish, there were many _____ living in the region as well, making the Galilean _____ more worldly than their Jewish counterparts living in _____.
45. Explain why Judean Jews tended to look down on the Galilean Jews.
46. True or False? Herod the Great, the son of Herod Antipas, was the Roman ruler of the Roman province that included Galilee in the time of Jesus.
47. Explain why Egypt is so important in the history God's People in particular.