Name: Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*God Reveals: An Introduction to the Bible*

Chapter 1: God Wants to Be Known

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: Discovering God

1. Briefly differentiate the following terms:

Monotheism

Atheism

Polytheism

Pantheism

Theology

True or False? Abraham is previewed in the Old Testament and shared in the Gospels.

True or False? Christian faith is not a “religion of the Word of God” but a “religion of the book.”

1. Because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ continues to guide the Church’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in every generation, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ herself determined the complete \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the writings included in the Bible called the “canon.” For non-Catholic Christians, every \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ concern can be answered in the pages of Scripture itself, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christians accept, honor, and reverence both Sacred Scripture and Sacred \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

# Section 1: Our Built-In Desire for God

True or False? According to Maslow’s hierarchy of human needs, the need to satisfy hunger, thirst, and sleep supersedes the need to know, explore, and achieve.

1. St. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ famously wrote, “our hearts are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ until they rest in God.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (*CCC*) is likeminded, stating that because the desire for God is written on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, only in God will we find \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and truth. We are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by God and for God. As a result, we can never stop \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for God.
2. According to Pope Benedict XVI, what two aspects of the desire for God remain even for those who will not acknowledge that desire?

(a)

(b)

What does our desire for *perfection* in the areas of knowledge and truth, love, justice and goodness, beauty, and home and being collectively say about them?

True or False? Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ, says that the human desire to answer the “Why?” questions of life never leave us; even adults crave perfect knowledge, truth, love, justice, goodness, and beauty.

# Section 2: God Is Revealed through Human Reason

True or False? A person can know that God exists by deducing evidence observed in nature through what is known as Divine Revelation.

Briefly explain what influenced the renowned atheist philosopher Dr. Antony Flew, who came to acknowledge God at the end of his life?

What question remains even if one accepts Dr. Avi Loeb’s proposal that our universe was created in a laboratory by beings from a more advanced civilization?

Below are brief descriptions for each *of the “five ways” for God’s existence expressed by St. Thomas Aquinas. Write the appropriate name in the space provided.*

Our senses observe that many things are in motion, including both time and space, which requires a “first mover” who started everything.

There cannot be things that are more perfect or less perfect unless there is a perfect being which is the cause of perfections.

Everything that exists is the result of something or someone that came before it.

The possibility of human life forming in the universe out of chance alone is staggeringly improbable.

Nothing cannot create something.

1. We can discover that God exists and identify some of his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ using our senses and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This truth is revealed in the Book of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which calls those who cannot determine God from his creation “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” St. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, too, asserts that the invisible attributes of God can be understood in what he has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

According to the text, why is an intimate relationship with God important in discovering God’s existence?

# Section 3: God Reveals More of Himself

1. The word “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” means “making unknown or secret \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ known to others.” There are two categories of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Revelation: public and private. Examples of the latter include \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a vision of Jesus’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—as a symbol of his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for all people—experienced by St. Margaret Mary Alcoque. Public revelation includes the Church’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Deposit of Faith includes the revealed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God from Sacred Scripture and Sacred \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ taken together. Sacred Tradition hands on God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ given to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by Christ and the Holy Spirit. It is now the Church’s task to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people with God, and she teaches that there is no further \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Divine Revelation after \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. What are the two criteria established by the Church to judge private revelations?

(a)

(b)

True or False? Faithful Catholics are obliged to believe in the private revelations approved by the Church.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Immaculate Conception, proclaimed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, states that Mary was preserved from **\_\_\_\_\_\_** from the moment of her **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** throughout her entire life. This belief was already believed by many in the Church since at least the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** century. Indeed, years before he proclaimed the dogma, he found that **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** percent of Catholics wanted the pope to proclaim it.

True or False? All dogmas must have roots in Sacred Scripture and are essential for complete faith and the deepest relationship with God.

Why was Bernadette Soubirous’s local pastor stunned when the fourteen-year-old girl reported that the apparition identified herself as the Immaculate Conception?

1. God is the Holy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Three \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Persons in one God. Since God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the Holy Trinity is an active \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of love between the Three Divine Persons: the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and each has existed for all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We know this mystery because of the written record of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

What does it mean to say that Sacred Scripture records all of salvation history?

True or False? While the Old Testament records the steps in salvation history preparing the way for the coming of Christ, the New Testament records the climax of salvation history.

True or False? God’s Revelation to humanity began with the Fall of Adam and Eve.

1. Put the following stages of Divine Revelation into chronological order by writing the numbers 1–7, respectively.
2. God called Abraham and his descendants to be stewards of God’s promises.
3. Anytime the Chosen People fell into sin, God sent prophets who called them to purification and spoke of Jesus’s coming.
4. John the Baptist, the last of the prophets, is a forerunner of the coming of Jesus.
5. God’s covenant with Noah was an early sign that God wanted to save all people from the punishment of sin.
6. Throughout their history, the Chosen People received wisdom literature from God which would support their prayer and contemplation of life’s mysteries.
7. The Son of God took on a human nature to achieve salvation for all.
8. God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and gave them his Law through the prophet Moses.

True or False? While Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition both help us understand the mysteries of faith, Sacred *Scripture* is a body of written literature that grows over time as times change.

# Section 4: God Records His Revelation

1. The Bible is really a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of books which spans the breadth of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_history. While God is its true \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, he worked through many different human authors to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ himself. God inspired them to write those \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_necessary for salvation and to do so without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. However, these authors were free to use their own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and discretion in doing so.
2. The Jews and earliest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ believed certain writings clearly indicated that God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had guided the authors in the truth. The task of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which writings were inspired fell to the Church. The inclusion of the books of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meant that the Church appreciated that the Jews were God’s Chosen People which prepared for the coming of Christ.
3. In your own words. briefly explain the four main criteria for a text’s inclusion in the New Testament:

(a) *Inspiration of the Holy Spirit*

(b) *Apostolic origin*

(c) *Liturgical use*

(d) *Universality*

True or False? While we can be confident of the Bible’s moral and religious truths, the Bible does not contain modern mathematical or scientific truths.

Explain what is meant by the *sensus fidei*?