

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

Panthéism

Theology

2. True or False? Abraham is previewed in the Old Testament and shared in the Gospels.
3. True or False? Christian faith is not a “religion of the Word of God” but a “religion of the book.”
4. 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*

5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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)
8. 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?
9. 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*

10. True or False? A person can know that God exists by deducing evidence observed in nature through what is known as Divine Revelation.
11. Briefly explain what influenced the renowned atheist philosopher Dr. Antony Flew, who came to acknowledge God at the end of his life?
12. 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.

13. Our senses observe that many things are in motion, including both time and space, which requires a “first mover” who started everything.
14. There cannot be things that are more perfect or less perfect unless there is a perfect being which is the cause of perfections.
15. Everything that exists is the result of something or someone that came before it.
16. The possibility of human life forming in the universe out of chance alone is staggeringly improbable.
17. Nothing cannot create something.
18. 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 _____.
19. According to the text, why is an intimate relationship with God important in discovering God’s existence?

Section 3: God Reveals More of Himself

20. 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 _____.
21. 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 _____.

22. What are the two criteria established by the Church to judge private revelations?
- (a)
- (b)
23. True or False? Faithful Catholics are obliged to believe in the private revelations approved by the Church.
24. 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.
25. True or False? All dogmas must have roots in Sacred Scripture and are essential for complete faith and the deepest relationship with God.
26. Why was Bernadette Soubirous's local pastor stunned when the fourteen-year-old girl reported that the apparition identified herself as the Immaculate Conception?
27. 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 _____.
28. What does it mean to say that Sacred Scripture records all of salvation history?
29. 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.
30. True or False? God's Revelation to humanity began with the Fall of Adam and Eve.

31. Put the following stages of Divine Revelation into chronological order by writing the numbers 1–7, respectively.

- _____ God called Abraham and his descendants to be stewards of God's promises.
- _____ Anytime the Chosen People fell into sin, God sent prophets who called them to purification and spoke of Jesus's coming.
- _____ John the Baptist, the last of the prophets, is a forerunner of the coming of Jesus.
- _____ God's covenant with Noah was an early sign that God wanted to save all people from the punishment of sin.
- _____ Throughout their history, the Chosen People received wisdom literature from God which would support their prayer and contemplation of life's mysteries.
- _____ The Son of God took on a human nature to achieve salvation for all.
- _____ God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and gave them his Law through the prophet Moses.

32. 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

33. 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.
34. 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.

35. 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*

36. 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.

37. Explain what is meant by the *sensus fidei*?