

BIBLICAL STUDIES 8

How is the Holy Spirit at work in the church and how can the Gospel inform how I engage faithfully in the world?

MAY 2022

The story of the Bible leads us to discover who God is, who we are, how to love others, and what the world is like.

Learning about the Biblical story can encourage a sense of joy, curiosity, and wonder.

Discernment and wisdom involve applying Scripture to differing perspectives to make the best decision.

In response to the Creator God, we express ourselves as creative beings when we use our giftings to serve others and respond to Biblical teachings.

LEARNER ATTRIBUTE GOALS



- Use inquiry processes and textual interpretive skills to recognize the literary, social, and historical context, values, and perspectives in the Biblical text. *(Purposefully Disciplined)*
- Recognize diversity in the different forms, features, genres, and contextual structures of the Biblical text that reflect different purposes, audiences, and messages. *(Purposefully Disciplined)*
- Participate in dialogue and apply strategies to disagree humbly and facilitate respectful, critical conversations about difficult topics that require Biblical-discernment. *(Grace-filled Integrity)*
- Empathize with the experiences of vulnerable people, minority communities, and build an understanding of the negative consequences and impact of harmful actions in our own community by building a Biblical framework of diversity as part of God's design for the world. *(Engaged & Faithful)*
- Explore diverse theological perspectives and expressions and participate in respectful dialogue. *(Engaged & Faithful)*
- Think creatively and reflectively about Biblical connections within, between, and beyond to develop a sense of hope, joy, and wonder. *(Hopeful & Thriving)*
- Identify collaborative and community-based partnerships and strategies to participate and respond to real needs, for real problems, and real people. *(Servant Stewardship)*
- Identify and reflect on giftings and participate in opportunities for student leadership that encourage equipping and active participation in service-learning experiences. *(Servant Stewardship)*
- Explore and evaluate ideas from a variety of sources and perspectives, including those that are Biblically-informed. *(Faith-Informed Discernment)*
- Make ethical decisions by applying effective critical thinking that engages with scripture to assess impact of ideas on people, identity formation, and communities. *(Faith-Informed Discernment)*

CONTENT LEARNING GOALS

- Acts (early church, historical development, Holy Spirit)
- Pauline letters (Romans, Galatians)
- Corporate worship practices (prayer, Lord's supper)
- Diversity of church traditions & doctrines (predestination, sacraments, denominations)
- Needs in the local community (service & leadership; sources of division)
- Controversial ethical issues (gender, technology, politics, unity, diversity, and divisiveness with theological diversity)
- Relationships and Identity (respect in relationships, empathy, healthy decision-making, boundaries, and personal codes of ethics)

BIBLICAL STUDIES 8 RATIONALE

Grade 8 students investigate the mystery of God the Holy Spirit as Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer of the universe. They will be equipped with Bible study skills to examine Scripture as an ancient library and culmination of God's work through the nation of Israel, redemptive work of Christ, and early church, reclaimed and understood by reformers and modern people as written for the life of the church. Students will study scripture to develop an understanding how we participate in God's reconciliation and redemption and allow the Spirit to do the work of redeeming. They will develop an ethical decision-making framework to apply scripture to assess impact on critical issues. And students will apply their learning experientially as they develop strategies to lead others, and serve, while reflecting on what is taking place in their own thinking as they develop as courageous and creative learners who express their God-given giftings cooperatively and in meaningful personal ways. Students apply the practices of life journaling to engage deeply with scripture individually, corporately, and applicably in their lives. The essential question for the course is, "How is the Holy Spirit at work in the work of the church and how can I engage faithfully in the world?"

REQUIRED RESOURCES

R. McLaughlin, *10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and Answer) about Christianity*, 2021

P. Sprinkle, *Living in a Gray World: A Christian Teen's Guide to Understanding Homosexuality*, 2015

CROSS-CURRICULAR INTEGRATION

Social Studies 8: *philosophical and cultural shifts; exploration, expansion, and colonization; changes in population and living standards; Explain different perspectives on past or present people, places, issues, or events, and compare the values, worldviews, and beliefs of human cultures and societies in different times and places (perspective)*

Science 8: *Demonstrate an awareness of assumptions and bias in their own work and secondary sources; Consider social, ethical, and environmental implications of the findings from their own and others' investigations; Exercise a healthy, informed skepticism and use scientific knowledge and findings from their own investigations to evaluate claims in secondary sources; Contribute to care for self, others, community, and world through personal or collaborative approaches*

Language Arts 8: *Recognize and appreciate how different features, forms, and genres of texts reflect different purposes, audiences, and messages; Synthesize ideas from a variety of sources to build understanding; Construct meaningful personal connections between self, text, and world; Recognize an increasing range of text structures and how they contribute to meaning*

Mathematics 8: *Use mathematical arguments to support personal choices; Use reasoning and logic to explore, analyze, and apply mathematical ideas*

Health & Physical Education 8: *consequences of bullying, stereotyping, and discrimination; Identify factors that influence health messages from a variety of sources, and analyze their influence on behaviour; Propose strategies for avoiding and/or responding to potentially unsafe, abusive, or exploitive situations; Propose strategies for developing and maintaining healthy relationships; Create strategies for promoting the health and well-being of the school and community*

