

CATHOLIC BIBLICAL SCHOOL

Introduction

The Catholic Biblical School (CBS) is a four-year program offered by the Ann & Joe O. Neuhoff School of Ministry that provides concentrated study that covers every book of the Bible from a Catholic perspective. The program is recommended for those wishing to meet the Lord in a deeper way through scripture. It is especially beneficial for leaders of Bible study groups including Little Rock Scripture Study, religious education teachers, and lectors. No particular academic background is required and the program is designed to educate students at all levels. Each module consists of 10 classes, which are offered in various modalities including on-site, synchronous (live-stream) and online. The program is offered in English and Spanish.

Program Objectives

By the end of CBS students will have:

1. Experienced God's word as alive and able to change their lives.
2. Studied every book of the Bible from a Catholic perspective.
3. Exercised exegetical skill to identify the distinctive structure, themes and messages of Sacred Scripture.
4. Experienced the Catholic Church's approach to biblical interpretation and exegesis.

Content & Assessment

To achieve these objectives, the CBS is split into 12 10-week modules over four (4) years. The first two years of the CBS program focus on the biblical books that form the foundation of both the Old and New Testaments. Years three and four of the program cover the remaining books of the bible, emphasizing their contexts and principle themes. While starting at the beginning of the four year cycle is encouraged, a student can join the program at any point. Participant's success in meeting the outcomes is measured through embedded assessments in each course, which include attendance, written assignments and tests. Pass / No Pass grade is assigned for each module completed.

Course Sequence

The recommended course sequence is as follows:

CBS YEAR 1: MODULES 1-3: Old Testament Foundations - Genesis through Kings

| Module | Topics |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <i>Module 1: The Exodus Experience</i> | Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers |
| <i>Module 2: Reflections on the Origins</i> | Deuteronomy and Genesis |
| <i>Module 3: Taking, Governing, Losing the</i> | Joshua, Judges, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 |

CBS YEAR 2: MODULES 4-6: New Testament Foundations - Jesus and Discipleship

| Module | Topics |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <i>Module 4: Jesus: Two Synoptic Views</i> | Mark and Luke |
| <i>Module 5: Jesus: A Pauline View</i> | Acts and the Letters of Paul |
| <i>Module 6: Jesus: Johannine Views</i> | John, the Letters of John, and |

CBS YEAR 3: MODULES 7-9: Old Testament Continued - Exile and Restoration

| Module | Topics |
|--|--|
| <i>Module 7: Prophecy Before the Exile</i> | Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, Zephaniah, |
| <i>Module 8:: Exile and Restoration</i> | Lamentations, Obadiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, |
| <i>Module 9: After the Exile</i> | 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Joel, Malachi, |

CBS YEAR 4: MODULES 10-12: Old & New Testaments Concluded – The Word in the Hellenistic World

| Module | Topics |
|--|---|
| <i>Module 10: Wisdom in Israel</i> | Proverbs, Habakkuk, Job, Ecclesiastes, |
| <i>Module 11: Judaism in the Hellenistic World</i> | Jonah, Esther, Tobit, Baruch, 1&2 Maccabees, Judith, Daniel |
| <i>Module 12: Early Christian Development</i> | Matthew, Pastoral Epistles, Catholic Epistles, Hebrews |

CERTIFICATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS

The Catholic Biblical School is designed as a certificate program:

- After completing the four years of the program (12 modules), students earn a Certificate of Advanced Biblical Studies.
- To earn a certificate, the student must meet all attendance and coursework requirements.

SUMMARY OF THE FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM

Objectives for each class are included in the student workbook. A summary of each year of the program is found below:

Year 1:

The first year covers the Pentateuch and the Deuteronomistic History. It deals with the chronological period from the patriarchal era (ca. 1850 BC) until the exile (587 BC). This long sweep of history gives the students a basic familiarity with the story of the Israelite people. It is also an essential prerequisite for understanding the New Testament.

Year 2:

The second year introduces students to the basics of the New Testament. They synoptic gospels of Mark and Luke along with the Acts of the Apostles, proclaim the Christian message in a narrative form. Paul's letters introduce texts that are not narrative form and are challenging, as Paul's theology is sometimes difficult to grasp. Students are also introduced to Johannine literature where they can appreciate the differences that John presents both in literary style and in theological content. The Book of Revelation and the apocalyptic literature are also explored completing a mix of materials that provide a basic overview of the types of literature found in the New Testament.

Year 3:

The third year examines the prophets, the Psalms and other Old Testament books from the post-exilic era. Along with these writings, the students study the history of Israel and Judah from the eighth century through the restoration after exile (ca. 750-400 BC). During year three, the students are introduced to the power of poetic discourse and begin to appreciate the style and patterns of Hebrew poetry.

Year 4:

The fourth year deals with a variety of materials that allow us to complete our study of the books of the Bible. With the Wisdom literature and the deuterocanonical books, the focus shifts to the later post-exilic period. These books familiarize the students with the period from about 400 BC to the New Testament era. In the final module, the students encounter the gospel of Matthew and the non-Pauline letters of the New Testament. This module gives the students the opportunity to review redaction criticism and challenges students to deepen their faith and to be ready to proclaim it.