

Portfolio Instructions

This project is designed for students who feel they have a relationship with God but would like to take it to the next step or for curious students who are unsure of faith but willing to try to encounter Jesus in a direct way. However, any student could use this project. Please note that this is a very personal project. You will be directly sharing your faith journey with your teacher.

You will keep a portfolio of your faith and discipleship throughout the semester using the three chart handouts in this appendix. As you learn about faith, discipleship, and ways to holiness, you will keep track of examples, particularly from Jesus and the life of Mary. Then, toward the end of the semester, you will use the information and examples to create a discipleship integration plan for yourself. You will chart the progress of your plan for three weeks and then write a summary report. You will also submit a résumé and personal statement.

Follow these steps:

1. After the introductory unit, "What Is Revelation?" describe your faith life in terms of holiness, prayer life, discipleship, service, and justice. Use the handout "Where Are You Right Now in Your Faith Life?" (Document #: TX001290) to note where you are right now in your faith life, and then write a one- to two-page description of your faith life, including an answer to the scriptural question: "Who do you say that I am?"
2. Throughout the semester, use the handout "Definitions" (Document #: TX001291) to keep a running list of concepts and definitions for the areas charted in your faith life and to describe how you could apply the teachings to your life. Give specific examples, situations, and scenarios.
3. Throughout the semester, use the handout "Where Have Jesus, Mary, the Apostles, Disciples, and Others Modeled the Ways to Discipleship?" (Document #: TX001292) to identify where Jesus, Mary, the Apostles, disciples, and others have modeled the ways to discipleship.
4. Reflect on the three handouts. Where did you start? What have you learned? How does it affect your beliefs and faith? How are you going to become a disciple and grow in your faith? What are ways you can concretely integrate Jesus' teachings into your life? Based on your reflection and the areas you identified as places to grow, use the handout "3-Week Discipleship Integration Plan" (Document #: TX001293) to create an integration plan to fulfill over the next three weeks and to chart your progress as you go. What did you do? How did you feel? Did you notice any results (reactions from others, your own reactions, changes in relationships, how your days felt)?
5. Imagine that you would like to be a retreat leader for the youth ministers' retreat team network, which is a team of youth ministers that travels around to local parishes to lead retreats. Part of the application process is to assess your faith and discipleship. Create a résumé and prepare a personal statement describing how you express your faith through the habits of your daily life and interactions, through prayer, and through acts of charity, service, and justice. In addition, explain how this way of life has affected you and your interactions over time. Your acceptance as a retreat leader will be determined by the completeness of the résumé and personal faith statement as it applies to expressing your faith and discipleship.
6. Gather all of your materials—the four handouts, your résumé, and your personal statement—and submit them in the format indicated by your teacher.

