

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Semester-Long Project Description

To complete this project successfully, you must create a portfolio of exegetical papers. Your completed portfolio will consist of the following:

- **Three exegetical papers written as your final performance tasks for units 2–4.** The details for writing these papers are included on each unit's "Final Performance Task Options" handout. The copies in your portfolio will include your grade and your teacher's comments.
- **A reflective synthesis created as your final performance task for unit 5.** The details for creating this final synthesis are outlined on this handout.

Follow your teacher's directions regarding the creation of a print portfolio or a digital portfolio:

- For a print portfolio, assemble all required elements into a folder or binder, along with a table of contents.
- For a digital portfolio, follow your teacher's directions regarding uploading your materials to a cloud-based drive.

## The Reflective Synthesis

The reflective synthesis invites you to consider all that you have learned throughout the semester, especially what you have learned from the process of writing your exegetical papers. Rather than simply summarizing your knowledge, a synthesis invites you to step back, consider the big picture, and notice associations, connections, relationships, and common themes in what you have been learning. As you create your synthesis, think about connections between elements of this project, the course content you have been studying all semester, and your personal experience.

Your reflective synthesis may be a four-page paper or a digital option that your teacher offers, such as a twelve-slide (minimum) PowerPoint presentation, a 5-minute (minimum) podcast or video, or a creative multimedia presentation. Whatever format you select, be sure to respond to the following questions in some way. (You don't have to include the numbered the questions and your responses in a list, and it isn't necessary to respond in this exact order. Simply ensure that you cover each of these topics thoughtfully and thoroughly.)

- Examine your three papers carefully, noting the order in which you wrote them. How did your skills in biblical research and writing grow over the course of the semester? For example, what is some aspect of biblical exegesis that you understood much more clearly by the time you wrote the third paper?
- Which of the seven steps of exegesis did you find to be the most interesting or intriguing? Why?
- Which of the seven steps of exegesis did you find to be most difficult or challenging? Why?
- How might you use these exegetical skills in other courses, in other reading, or in other aspects of your life?
- How has your understanding of Sacred Scripture grown, changed, or deepened through the process of writing these papers?



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- How has your study of Sacred Scripture this semester—and especially your careful exegesis of Scripture passages—helped you to grow in faith? For example, what have you learned about the essential role that Sacred Scripture must play in the life of a disciple? What new insight have you gained into how God reveals himself to us through Scripture?
- How do the Scripture passages on which you wrote your papers call you to action? For example, does one or more of the passages invite you to make some concrete change in your life? Does one or more of the passages motivate you to take action to make our world more just? If so, in what way?
- Listed below are the focus questions for each unit of this course. Choose any one of these questions and explain how one or more of the Scripture passages you wrote about in your papers provides particular insight regarding this question.
  - Unit 1: How does the Bible help me know God?
  - Unit 2: How do I keep my focus on God?
  - Unit 3: Why do the kings and prophets matter?
  - Unit 4: How do challenging times deepen our faith?
  - Unit 5: How is Jesus' mission kept alive?
- What further questions do you have about Scripture? What have your studies this semester made you curious about? How will you satisfy that curiosity?

