

Final Performance Task Options for Unit 6

Important Information for All Three Options

The following are the main ideas you are to understand from this unit. They should appear in this final performance task so your teacher can assess whether you learned the most essential content:

- In his suffering and death, Jesus stands in solidarity with all humanity.
- We are called to follow the example of Jesus by standing with and serving those who suffer.
- Jesus gives us a powerful example of redemptive suffering: suffering willingly taken on for the good of others.
- When viewed through the eyes of faith, suffering presents us with a unique opportunity to see and experience God's grace.

Option 1: A Letter from God to Humanity

Because human beings have so many questions and concerns regarding suffering, God has decided to speak to humanity directly regarding this difficult subject. More specifically, God has decided to write humanity a letter. In this substantive, essay-like letter, God will offer important, helpful insights and commentary regarding both the suffering of Jesus and the suffering of humanity. God would like for people to be able to read this letter and find peace, wisdom, and clarity regarding this troublesome, complicated topic.

God has asked *you* to compose this letter. Your letter will need to contain or demonstrate the following:

- understanding of the four main concepts of this unit, as listed at the beginning of this handout
- in-depth, substantial content appropriate for a high school religious studies course
- responsible and accurate use of at least one Scripture passage
- at least five substantive paragraphs that creatively and accurately engage with and interpret the material in this unit



Option 2: The Suffering Body of Christ: A Prayer Experience

Note: For this option you may draw on material from unit 4 of this course; specifically, the Gospel Passion narratives.

You have been asked to create a PowerPoint presentation that will be used as part of a prayer service at your school. The presentation, entitled “The Suffering Body of Christ: Then and Now,” will help viewers to understand how the suffering of Jesus (throughout his life or in his death) relates to the suffering of people today. Your presentation requires at least six images of contemporary suffering (each on a separate slide), each paired with a corresponding image or Scripture quotation that depicts or describes some suffering that Jesus endured (at any point during his life). As well as sharing your presentation with the class, you will also submit a written explanation that offers substantive commentary on the meaning and significance of each slide. You may use music to enhance the effectiveness of your presentation.

Your PowerPoint presentation, and the accompanying written commentary, will need to contain or demonstrate the following:

- understanding of the four main concepts of this unit, as listed at the beginning of this handout
- in-depth, substantial content appropriate for a high school religious studies course
- responsible and accurate use of the Scriptures
- creative, accurate engagement with, and interpretation of, the material in this unit

Option 3: A Service-Learning Experience

In this unit you have learned about many ways contemporary people are suffering: locally in your town or city, nationally, and globally. Choose one of these issues around which to develop a concrete plan of action and service in which your class, or even your whole school, can engage. Follow these steps to create your action plan:

- Write a substantive essay (at least several paragraphs) that details the important facts about the issue, explains why it is important to you, and reflects *theologically* on the issue in light of what you have learned about suffering during this unit.
- Determine how your class or school will get involved in this issue. Will you raise money for a charitable or justice-oriented organization? If so, how? Will you write letters to an elected official? Will you conduct an educational campaign that seeks to raise awareness of this issue? Will you organize students to attend a rally, march, or similar event?



- Initiate your plan, carrying out as much as you are able in the time you have available for this assignment. Be sure to check with your teacher regarding how much of your plan he or she expects you to carry out, and how much can be completed during a future unit.
- After you have carried out some portion of your plan of action and service, write at least two paragraphs in which you evaluate the effectiveness of your plan and comment on the deeper insights you have gained into suffering in general and this instance of suffering in particular.

Both written components of this option, as well as every aspect of your concrete, hands-on work of service, will need to contain or demonstrate the following:

- understanding of the four main concepts of this unit, as listed at the beginning of this handout
- in-depth, substantial content appropriate for a high school religious studies course
- responsible and accurate use of the Scriptures in at least one of the two written components
- creative, accurate engagement with and interpretation of the material in this unit

