



Old Testament Survey



GROUP GUIDE – MODULE ONE

DEVOTIONAL

Read Luke 24:13-49, paying special attention to verses 25-27 and 44-48.

Notice that on two different occasions (to two different groups of disciples) Jesus uses the Old Testament to explain and teach about Himself. He claims that the Old Testament speaks about Him - His suffering and resurrection. He then commissions the disciples to proclaim Him, presumably using the Old Testament (among other means) to do so.

What specifically about the Old Testament do you think caused Jesus to speak about it in this way? How has your reading of the Old Testament helped you to grow in your knowledge and experience of Jesus in the past? In what ways do you hope that this course will help your discipleship and ministry? What about the Old Testament made it effective in your past, and how does that impact your present and future expectations?

MODULE ONE OBJECTIVES

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this module, the student will:

- Favorably consider the necessity of and the means to study the Old Testament.
- Articulate the ‘Big-Picture’ history of the Old Testament People of God and the overall message of the Old Testament.
- Articulate God’s purpose for creation and the ‘Big-Idea’ themes of the Old Testament.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the literary divisions of the Old Testament Scriptures.
- Place the Major historical epochs of the Old Testament in a general chronology.

MODULE ONE CHECKLIST

Preparation	<input type="checkbox"/> Read the Assigned Bible Passages <input type="checkbox"/> Watch the Assigned Video Lectures <input type="checkbox"/> Read the Assigned Textbook Sections
Reflection & Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Devotional Reflection & Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Response Reflection & Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Course Material Response Reflection & Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Reflection & Discussion Questions
Research & Presentation	<input type="checkbox"/> Timeline Step 1
Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Review Slides
Exam	<input type="checkbox"/> Review Quiz

MODULE ONE ACTIVITIES

ONE: DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

Instructions:

The student will read and consider the devotional above. The student will then reflect and write on the following:

- The student will describe their own experience with the Old Testament, and how it has helped them connect with Jesus.
- And then they will describe the growth they desire in this area as a result of this course.

The student will be prepared to discuss the devotional with the group and to encourage one another with their findings and insights.

TWO: BIBLE & TEXTBOOK READING

Instructions:

Students will read selected portions of the Old Testament and the course textbook. The readings are listed on the Reading Schedule for module 1, which is posted in a separate document on the course website. Each Reading Schedule has two columns.

- The first column (labeled “Bible Reading”) lists those portions of the Old Testament that are required.
- The second column (labeled “Textbook Reading”) lists those portions of the course textbook which are required. Other portions of the chapters assigned for each week may be read for profitable insights.

It is recommended that you complete all the Bible reading before watching the Lecture Videos as the videos assume an exposure to these passages. The textbook reading may profitably take place after watching the Video Lectures to supplement any material which you would like to pursue in more detail.

THREE: BIBLE RESPONSE REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

Instructions:

The student will choose one or more portions from the Bible reading assigned for the module which stood out as personally significant to them. The reflection must be connected with the Assigned Old Testament Reading for the current module. As you read from the Old Testament, let it be a devotional experience. Let God speak with you through the text. Think about what it was saying to the first people who heard it, and how that applies to your life. Respond in appropriate ways: prayer, worship, repentance and change.

The student will then reflect and write on the meaning of the passage; how it challenged or added to their current understanding; how they have personally responded; and how their worldview, life and/or ministry should be impacted in the future by their new understanding.

The purpose of this activity is:

- to connect with God in a devotional/worshipful/prayerful manner (going beyond just academic information to personal commitment/transformation)
- doing so through the Scripture readings (clearly focusing on the Scriptural teaching)
- clearly documenting that these first two things have taken place for future reminder and encouragement
- and encouraging one another from the understanding that has been gained.

This activity is purposely left somewhat vague so that you have freedom to process and write on your devotional reading in a way that works best for you. The form is not as important as the fact that you are reading the Old Testament, not just as an assignment for information, but as a way to meet with and know God.

The student will be prepared to discuss their Bible reading and response with the group and to encourage one another with their findings and insights.

FOUR: VIDEO LECTURES

Instructions:

Students will interact with the video lectures on the course website. The student should actively engage with each presentation and not just passively watch. Blank Lecture notes are available on the course website to help the student engage with the Video Lectures.

FIVE: COURSE MATERIAL RESPONSE REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

Instructions:

The student will choose one or more items from either the Video Lectures or the Course Textbook which stood out as personally significant to them. The student will then reflect and write on the item(s); how it/they challenged or added to their current understanding and how their worldview, life and/or ministry should be impacted by their new understanding.

The purpose of this activity is similar to the Bible Response Reflection:

- to hear the message of the Old Testament (and thereby to hear God) through secondary teachers
- to internalize and intentionally respond to the message of the Old Testament
- to clearly document that the first two have taken place
- and to encourage one another from the understanding that has been gained.

The student should feel free to respond in whatever way is most appropriate for how they have been informed/challenged by the course material.

The student will be prepared to discuss their Course Material response with the group and to encourage one another with their findings and insights.

SIX: TIMELINE STEP ONE

Instructions:

The student will research and present an Old Testament Timeline in seven steps over the course of all seven modules.

See the Timeline Project Instructions on the course website for detailed instructions which apply to every step of the project.

Step One of the Timeline should include the following information:

- The general time periods covered by the five historical epochs.
- This is just a framework designating the approximate beginning and ending of each of the epochs, which will be used in subsequent modules as a guideline for placing new information.

SEVEN: REVIEW SLIDES

Instructions:

The student should take advantage of the review slides on the course website in order to help commit the course material to memory. The review slides are a summary of the key ideas of each course lecture put into memorable form to aid memorization. The student should not just attempt to memorize the summaries, but also to use the summaries as a framework to understand and learn the nature and content of the Old Testament.

The group leader may choose to use the review slides as the basis of a group review, possibly including a game/competition format.

EIGHT: REVIEW QUIZ

Instructions:

The student will complete the review quiz on the course website as a learning and review experience. This will give the student a good assessment of how well they have learned the course material. The quiz will primarily cover material from the Video Lectures, but material from the Textbook Reading may be included.

No notes or study materials should be used while completing the quiz. Because the quiz is randomly generated, it includes different questions each time.

Therefore, it may be profitably taken more than once.

NINE: REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Instructions:

The student will thoughtfully consider and write in response to each of the reflection questions listed on the course website. The purpose of this activity is to help the student connect the Old Testament material with their own life and ministry. The student should prayerfully think through the difference the course material can make in their personal context.

The student will be prepared to discuss their response to the discussion questions with the group and to encourage one another with their applications and insights. The group may share encouragement and accountability in how to apply these insights.