



Old Testament Survey



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

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) and
- clearly documenting that these first two things have taken place for future reminder and encouragement.

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.

However, it is necessary to make one caution to help the student avoid a common mistake in Bible reading. The Bible is God's Word to us, and so, we should avoid injecting our own thoughts and opinions into the Bible reading. Rather, we should strive to set aside our own thoughts and prior experiences, and attempt to hear the Old Testament on its own terms. The reflection and discussion should communicate the truth of the Old Testament first, and then how that truth applies to the student's life. It should not be used to communicate the student's experiences and/or opinions. It is likely that no one in your group really wants to hear your opinions or experiences. Rather, they would be thrilled to hear truth from God and how it is changing your life.