**International Bible Syllabus**

**Pioneer Valley Christian Academy**

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**I. Academic Information:**

**Department: Bible**

**Course: International Bible**

**Length: Two Semesters (4 Quarters)**

**Grade Level: High School (Grades 9-12)**

**Primary Text: *Unlocking the Bible Story,* Colin S. Smith. Moody Press: Chicago, IL. (Volumes I – IV). *Holy Bible* (ESV). Assorted materials including a variety of electronic media and teacher-prepared information.**

**II. Course Objective: The primary purpose of this course is to introduce the international student to the Christian Faith in a friendly, welcoming manner consistent with ACSI’s Curriculum Guide for international student programs (ISP):**

**“Standard # 3 Spiritual Formation**: ‘The school shall provide a holistic approach to spiritual development that enables international students to learn about God in a non-coercive environment. The goal is to allow students to experience Christ in a loving community of faith through classes and outside of school experiences’ (ACSI ISP Endorsement, Page 3, 5-30-19).”

**III. Description and Performance Standards:** International Bible is the high school course for international students who are being introduced to the Christian faith. At PVCA, we follow the ACSI guidelines and standards protocols for ACSI’s ISP (International Student Program). A variety of materials are used by the instructor to provide a holistic approach to the spiritual introduction and development of the international high school student. The Holy Bible is the primary resource; however, the primary text is *Unlocking the Bible Story*. The author of *Unlocking the Bible Story*, Colin S. Smith was himself an international student from the UK (Scotland) not so many years ago. He wrote that there are two ways to use *Unlocking the Bible Story:* a) “You may use these volumes as a road map for your journey to understanding [the Judeo/Christian] God and how to have a personal relationship with Him; or, b) as an aerial photograph to gain a ‘big-picture’ perspective on the Bible so that…you will have a better sense of your journey to understand God and the Bible” in a personal way (*Unlocking the Bible Story*, p. 14).

*Unlocking the Bible Story* shows how the whole Bible points to Jesus Christ. He is the focal point of the Biblical narrative. Smith writes: “If you take a diamond and move it in the light, each facet will reflect a different shade of color. The diamond sparkles as the light reflects on the stone at different angles. *Unlocking the Bible Story* will help you [international students]… see new facets of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

*Unlocking the Bible Story*will help the student to understand the Bible’s vocabulary. Each chapter introduces a key word in the Bible story, and as the Bible’s major themes are grasped, students will begin to enjoy insights that otherwise might have been missed.

**IV. Course Outline:** Note: Each learning unit features whole-class learning, small group learning, individual one on one discussions, independent learning, and performance based assessment experiences and evaluation. There are two major projects: two written papers during the year and a class presentation at the end of the year. These projects may include electronic media, digital media, and a variety of multimedia.

The text, *Unlocking the Bible Story,* by Colin S. Smith, is divided into four volumes composing a total 80 chapters. Each chapter begins with a key question to unlock and ends with a summary of the answer from the Bible. At the beginning of each chapter there are signposts that point out discoveries students will make, truths they will learn, and insights designed to introduce them to God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Bible as God’s Word.

*Unlocking the Bible Story* does not cover every chapter of the Bible, but it will take the international student on a journey that reveals the whole of the Bible story and how it fits together. It will also introduce the major themes of the Bible. Each volume is designed to provide the questions and answers that lead to a saving faith in Jesus Christ, so students who enter the class at various times are able to start where and when they enter the syllabus schedule without having to start at the beginning.

***Unlocking the Bible Story* –**

**Volume 1: The Bible Story, Abraham to Jesus Christ –**

Chapter 1 – Life. Who is God and why does it matter? Genesis 1 - 2

Who am I and why am I here?

Chapter 2 – The Curse: If God made everything good, Genesis 3

why is the world the way it is?

Chapter 3 – Salvation: What do I need to be saved from, Genesis 6

and how can I be saved?

Chapter 4 – Judgment: Why did God cause the peoples of Genesis 11 – 12:3

the world to speak in different languages?

Chapter 5 – The Blood: Why is there such a strong emphasis Exodus 3, 12

on blood in the Bible story?

Chapter 6 – The Law: What is the role of the Law in the life Exodus 20

of a Christian?

Chapter 7 – Atonement: What is atonement, and why is it Exodus 32

necessary?

Chapter 8 – Priest: What does God do with our sins when we Leviticus 16

confess them?

Chapter 9 – Blessing: If God’s love is unconditional, why does Leviticus 26

obedience matter?

Chapter 10 – Courage: How can we contribute to advancing Numbers 13 – 14

God’s purpose in the world?

Chapter 11 – Giving: How can you stay spiritually healthy in a Deuteronomy 14-16

materialistic culture?

Chapter 12 – Evil: How can we create a culture that is conducive Deuteronomy 19

to holiness?

Chapter 13 – Covenant: How can we keep our covenants with God? Joshua 24

Chapter 14 – Deliverer: What is idolatry, and how is it practiced in Judges 2

America today?

Chapter 15 – Redeemer: Why do we need a redeemer? Ruth

Chapter 16 – King: Why did God not want His people to have a king? 1 Samuel 8

Chapter 17 – Throne: Where should we look for stability and security? 2 Samuel 7

Chapter 18 – Prophet: How has God spoken to us? 2 Samuel 12

Chapter 19 – Temple: Where can we go to meet with God? 1 Kings 8

Chapter 20 – Worship: What are the distinguishing marks of 1 Kings 18

authentic worship?

Chapter 21 – Sin: What is sin and why is it serious? 2 Kings 17

Chapter 22 – Righteousness: What is righteousness, and how can 2 Kings 22-23

it be established in our land?

Chapter 23 – Joy: How can God’s people experience His joy? Nehemiah 8

**V.** **Methodology and Pedagogy**: While based on Bloom’s Taxonomy, the teacher will employ a variety of academic, instructional methodologies: text and supplemental materials, lecture, group discussion, memorization, digital curriculum, student presentations, individual coaching, guest speakers, presentations, videos, etc. All papers should be written using either MLA or APA style guides.

**VI. ASSESSMENT AND GRADING POLICY**

**Grade Weights and Measures: Grade Weights Grading Measures**

**Participation and Homework 30% 90 ­ 100 = A**

**80 ­ 89 = B**

**Written:** (Writing assignments) **10% 70 ­ 79 = C**

**65 - 69 = D**

**Quizzes and Exams**  **40% 0 ­ 64 = F**

**Scripture Memorization 15%**

**100%**

**VII. Homework, Attendance, Behavior, and Discipline:**

**A. Homework –** All homework is due on the date assigned. Late work is homework not turned in on time. Any work that is missing will receive an automatic zero in the grade book.  The work can be made up, but will receive a percentage off according to the day of the class it was due: one class period late = 15% off, two class periods late = 30% off.  After the third class period late, no credit will be granted. Excused absences, such as illnesses, family emergencies, death of a relative, etc. are treated on an individual basis.

**B. Attendance –** Attendance is vital to keeping up with the class. Participation grades require your presence and it’s difficult to catch up once you fall behind. Please respond accordingly. See Handbook for Policy.

**C. Behavior –** Behavioral expectations are provided in the PVCA Student & Parent Handbook. See D below.

**D. Discipline –** My philosophy is this: **Respect God, Respect People, and Respect Property**. Though unexpected, if these guidelines are not met, the PVCA Handbook Discipline Plan will be followed.

**VIII. Miscellaneous:**

You are in charge of your own behavior: speech, actions, looks, tone, and attitude – these are within your power to control. Each of you determines how our class will go. My primary objective is for you to be successful and enjoy Bible, perhaps for the very first time in your life. It is my belief that if you fail, I have failed – both you and myself. I want to be successful. I do not like to fail. If we work hard as a team together (Colossians 3:23 – 24) and put forth our best effort, we will both be successful.

**IX. Additional Instructional Materials:**

A. Bible translations, such as New International Version, King James Version, New Living Translation, American Standard Version, English Standard Version, etc.

B. Bible Commentaries, such as those written by Matthew Henry, John Stott, J. Vernon McGee, etc.

C. Videos and Electronic Media produced by ACSI, The Hope Project, Hillsong Ministries, Gateway Ministries, etc.

**X. Office Hours: TBA**

***Unlocking the Bible Story***

**Volume II:**

Chapter 1 - Suffering: What does God have to say about the Job 1

Suffering of His people?

Chapter 2 – Resurrection: How can I hold on to m faith in the Job 19

Darkest of times?

Chapter 3 – Revelation: How can we know God? Job 38

Chapter 4 – Wisdom: How can I put my life together with success? Proverbs 8-9

Chapter 5 – Holiness: What is God like? Isaiah 6

Chapter 6 – Comfort: How can I live with problems that won’t Isaiah 40

Go away?

Chapter 7 – Servant: How can God’s will get done? Isaiah 42, 49, 53

Chapter 8 – Calling: What does Jesus Christ offer, and how can Isaiah 55

It be yours?

Chapter 9 – Heart: What is the key to real and lasting change? Jeremiah 31

Chapter 10 – Tears: How should I deal with discouragement in Lamentations

God’s service?

Chapter 11- Glory: In what sense is God’s presence always with us? Ezekiel 1, 10

Chapter 12 – Shepherd: What does effective leadership look like? Ezekiel 34

Chapter 13 – Breath: How does God bring life to people who are Ezekiel 37

Spiritually dead?

Chapter 14 – Alien: How can I live in the world without being Daniel 1

Squeezed into its mold?

Chapter 15 – Love: What is love? Hosea 11

Chapter 16 – Faith: What are we to make of the evil God allows Habakkuk 2

In the world today?

Chapter 17 – Hope: Is there any hope? Malachi 4

**Unlocking the Bible Story**

**Volume III:**