



## 7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

Syllabus for 2015 - 2016 School Year

Veritas Christian Academy

Mr. Norris

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

New Testament Gospels is a full-year course that focuses on the life of Jesus. The course will be divided into two large sections - the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) and the Gospel of John. Synoptic topics include (but are not limited to) Jesus' birth, baptism, temptation, Sermon on the Mount, teaching on the Kingdom, transfiguration, passion, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Johannine topics include Jesus' miracles ("signs"), "I Am" statements, and other unique features to John. Course content is presented chronologically and topically with the reading of the gospel texts. Students grow in their understanding of the life and teaching of Jesus through class lectures, discussions, activities, small group interactions, and written personal reflections.

Below is a general outline of the course of study for this class:

Week	Unit
Week 1-4	1. Introduction to NT/Overview of the Gospels
Week 5-9	2. Synoptics (pt. 1) - Birth to the Beginning of Jesus' Ministry
Week 10-13	3. Synoptics (pt. 2) - Sermon on the Mount
Week 14-18	4. Synoptics (pt. 3) - Jesus and the Kingdom of God
Week 19-22	5. Synoptics (pt. 4) - Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem
Week 23-27	6. Synoptics (pt. 5) - Jesus' Death and Resurrection
Week 28-31	7. John (pt. 1)
Week 32-36	8. John (pt. 2)

### COURSE MATERIALS:

**Textbooks:** The primary textbook for this course is the Bible - specifically the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We will utilize the English Standard Version (ESV, 2011 text) in our classwork. **You will need to obtain a personal copy of the ESV for use in class and at home.**

The secondary textbook is *Dig Deeper: Tools for Understanding God's Word* by Nigel Benyon and Andrew Sach.

**Notebook:** The white 3-ring binder and black composition book in your VCA 8<sup>th</sup> Grade supply kit will be used for this class. No dividers are needed.

**Composition Book:** The black and white composition book in your VCA 8<sup>th</sup> Grade supply kit will be used for this class. (See description below for “response journals.”)

*\*Students should bring their white notebook (with paper), pencil pouch, and a Literature Reader to class each day. (Failure to come to class prepared will result in a reduction in the student’s “class participation” grade.) On specifically assigned days, you will also need your Journal.*

**\*\*Additional materials will be distributed in class as needed.**

### **COURSE EVALUATION:**

Students will be evaluated through class participation, classwork, quizzes, projects, journals, and tests. There will be at least two test grades per quarter and study guides will be provided at least 2 days before the test.

### **MISSED ASSIGNMENTS:**

If a student is absent for any reason, he or she is responsible for getting their own assignments, notes, and/or handouts from the class period missed. A “record of assignments” notebook is located in the classroom and contains a description of what the student missed and any handouts that they need to obtain. Notes should be copied from a classmate.

**Illness:** If an assignment is missed due to illness, the student has 3 days to turn the missed assignment in for credit. If a test is missed for any reason, the student must take the test the day he or she returns to school. All projects and papers must be turned in on the due date regardless of whether the student is in school on that day.

**Late or incomplete:** If an assignment is late or incomplete, the student will receive a 10 point deduction for every day it is late. At day four, the assignment receives a grade of zero (Saturday and Sunday are excluded).

### **VCA ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Students should keep in mind that more than 7 absences from this class will result in a review of student work by Dr. Norman for his determination of eligibility of credit for this course.

### **RESPONSE JOURNALS:**

In order to reinforce the concepts discussed in class and ensure that these concepts are applied to real life situations, each student will be keeping a response journal. The specific requirements for these will be listed below. Class time will be given for students to complete journal assignments and they will be turned in approximately every two to three weeks for grading.

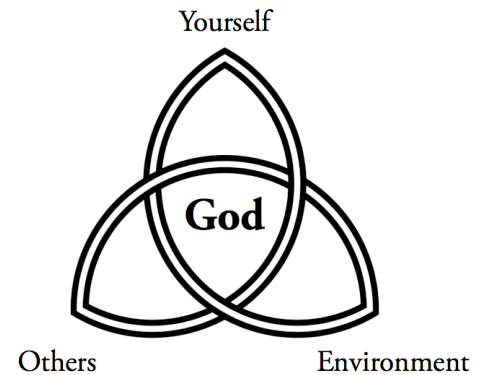
### **CLASSROOM RULES:**

My basic classroom rules flow out of the diagram on the next page. Everything is based on a foundation of respect. This begins with a student’s respect for God. At Veritas, we are seeking to live out Jesus’ command to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. This means giving our best in everything that we do - in and out of the classroom, knowing that we do it as unto God (Colossians 3:17, 23; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

Flowing from this respect of God, I expect a high level of respect in our classroom interactions:

- Respecting yourself in giving your best effort in all your assignments (cheating will not be tolerated).
- Respecting the authority role that the teacher is called to fulfill in our class by not causing distractions, arguing, and giving your full attention to class lecture/discussion.
- Respecting your peers by helping create an environment where learning can take place (not causing distractions or division in class). I expect you to treat one another with love and respect as brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Respecting your environment by being good stewards of the resources God has given us (taking care of school property and grounds).

## The Respect Triangle



### PLAGIARISM:

All students are expected to produce their own work. Plagiarism – the act of claiming another’s work as your own – and all other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. If you quote another author, you must always put it in quotation marks and give proper credit to the original author. If you use pictures from the internet on a project, you must give credit by citing your sources. Any violations will be handled according to the school policy in the Parent-Teacher Handbook. Do not test me on this!

### WEBSITE:

I have created a website to assist students in this class. Here, you will find tips to help you with learning your memory verses, review quizzes for tests, and a calendar with due dates for assignments. **There is also a section on the website for an electronic parent “signature.”** Please take time to find that page and fill out the corresponding information. You may access that website at:

[www.vcatheology.wordpress.com](http://www.vcatheology.wordpress.com)

### RENWEB:

Veritas uses a program called RenWeb in the tracking and reporting of students’ grades. Parents have the ability to check their student’s progress by logging in to this website throughout the term (not just at report card time).

*To the parents: If you do not have a parental log-in, please contact the front office for assistance. I strongly encourage you to keep up with your student’s work and discuss any concerns with your student sooner rather than later.*

### HELP:

All students who wish to seek out additional help for the class are welcome to contact me for an appointment. I am also available should you need someone to pray with you, listen, and counsel with you. Parents, if you have any concerns or questions, please call the school at (828) 681-0546 and ask the receptionist to leave a message in my box or you may email me at [snorris@veritasnc.org](mailto:snorris@veritasnc.org). I will get back to you as soon as possible.

I have included the VCA Statement of Faith as a reminder and clarification of the primary doctrinal beliefs of our non-denominational Christian learning environment.

## Response Journals

In order to reinforce the concepts discussed in class and ensure that these concepts are applied to life, each student will be keeping a response journal. This will give students the opportunity to interpret a passage of scripture on their own and apply it to their own lives. Every two to three weeks, a new entry will be turned in for grading.

- Each student needs to use their composition notebook as their journal
- Each response should have a title (the subject of their journal entry) at the top of the page
- Each entry should be between 150-200 words in length (students need to include a word count on the bottom of the page)
- Journals should use proper grammar and spelling (use cursive unless you have an SWS accommodation)
- Entries should include a brief summary of the passage in the New Testament and a response that describes how that concept is meaningful to the student. (The student may include how that concept can be applied to his or her life or a story demonstrating how it has been applied already.)
- As your teacher, I want to respond to your entries and interact with you through this. Therefore, please give me something substantial to which I can respond.

### How will Response Journals be graded?

Title	10
150-200 words	10
Cursive, proper grammar, and spelling	10
Summary	20
Response to the Passage	50
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<i>Total</i>	100 pts.

### Suggestions on writing Response Journal entries:

#### *Summary:*

- What is this passage about? (Who, What, When, Where, Why, How)
- What is the main idea?
- What is the context?
- How would you say that in your own words?

#### *Response:*

- What stood out to you about this passage?
- Why did this passage stick out to you?
- How does this affect your daily life?
- How does this passage make you feel?
- What is this passage calling you to do and/or be?
- How does this passage relate to the world as a whole or to current events in the world?
- Is there a story or even in your life that connects to this passage? (For example, if the passage is on baptism, have you been baptized? If it is on temptation, how have you experienced temptation? If it is on forgiveness, when have you forgiven someone or been forgiven by someone?)

## **Veritas Christian Academy Mission Statement**

INTELLIGENT FAITH: EQUIPPING MINDS AND ENGAGING HEARTS  
FOR GOD'S KINGDOM PURPOSES

### **Mission Concept**

The mission of Veritas Christian Academy is to provide families with a quality education by means of classical methods that emphasizes the basic tools of each subject and their proper utilization so that students will be competent in understanding and expressing all knowledge through a Christ-centered worldview.

#### **BY CHRIST-CENTERED WE MEAN:**

1. All subjects will be taught as part of an integrated whole, based upon the truth of God's Word.
2. A clear model of biblical, grace-centered Christian life and worldview is exemplified through repentance, love, and faith.

#### **BY CLASSICAL WE MEAN:**

1. The method known as the Trivium emphasizes three stages of learning: grammar, logic, and rhetoric. Grammar represents fundamental facts of each subject; logic the ordered relationships of the particular facts in each subject; and rhetoric, how the grammar and logic of each subject may be clearly expressed.
2. The introduction and emphasis of these three stages of learning are correlated with phases of childhood development. Lower School students absorb the grammar of subjects most easily, Middle School the logic and argument, and High School the rhetoric.

### **Veritas Christian Academy Philosophy**

1. Parents have a God-given responsibility for the education of their children, and therefore, parents are expected to take an active role in the education process.
2. Teachers and staff who stand in place of the parents during school hours, should genuinely model the Christian world and life view with love and grace.
3. Since God's truth is revealed in Scriptures as well as all creation, the Christian worldview approach integrates the truth of the Scriptures with learning in all subject matter.
4. We aspire towards academic excellence and conduct that is honoring to God in an attempt to love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, and mind.
5. Academic and character development should promote principled reasoning, a love of learning that brings glory to God, and an attitude of servant-leadership which allows the student to become all that God calls him/her to be.
6. Prayer is essential to this Christian institution, and we solicit the prayers of all who are involved with its mission so that the unity of the Spirit and the peace of the Lord will be manifest in all our activities.

## **Veritas Christian Academy Statement of Faith**

The Statement of Faith adopted by Veritas Christian Academy is limited to primary Christian doctrine, which is considered to be central to all Christian denominations and which sets Christianity apart from other faiths. These truths are also the key elements of Christianity that will be unapologetically taught in various ways through all grade levels. The substance of these statements is that which will be considered primary doctrine at VCA. Secondary doctrines will not be presented as primary doctrine.

1. We believe the Bible to be the only inerrant, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
4. We believe that, for the salvation of lost and sinful men, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary.
5. We believe that salvation is by grace through faith alone.
6. We believe that faith without works is dead.
7. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
8. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved to the resurrection of life and they that are lost to the resurrection of damnation.
9. We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **SECONDARY DOCTRINE**

Classroom discussion of secondary doctrine should be on an informative, non-partisan level. Teachers must be careful not to speak to the students in a manner that would cause offense to the parents. Presentation of all sides of an issue is encouraged. The teacher should encourage the students to follow up any questions they have with their parents and pastor.

I have read over the Syllabus for 7th Grade New Testament (Gospels) and understand the policies and procedures explained there.

**Don't forget to go to the class website and fill out the electronic signature, letting me know that you have located those class resources as well.**

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Parent Signature

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Date

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Student Signature

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Date

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Print Student's Name

Please detach this last page and return to Mr. Norris by Thursday, August 20, 2015.