



SCHOLÉ ACADEMY
CLASSICAL ACADEMIC PRESS

God's Great Covenant: Old Testament 1

Mrs. Elizabeth Kaufman

Yearlong Course

2023-2024

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:

Grades 4-6 This course is designed as an introductory Old Testament course for upper-elementary students. While it is expected that enrolling students have a some familiarity with biblical scriptures, this is not required. The course text we will use is wonderfully engaging, accurate, not watered-down, gentle yet profound, and punctuated with just the right amount of historical and scholarly content to interest curious students who naturally wonder “beyond the text.” Young students will learn to engage with scripture through picture journaling and dialoguing with peers, which is a rich benefit of studying the Bible with others, even (and especially!) at a young age.

Students will be asked to read portions of text aloud (or, at least follow along with text), join in dialogue with instructor and peers, reflect on questions and pose their own, memorize some scripture passages, and practice the oral tradition of “re-telling” scriptural accounts with accuracy and interest. Students should be able to read fluently and write basic sentences and paragraphs without trouble.

REQUIRED TEXTS:*

[God's Great Covenant: Old Testament 1](#), (Student Edition), by Claire Larson. Classical Academic Press.

[The World of the Old Testament: A Curious Kid's Guide to the Bible's Most Ancient Stories](#), by Marc Olson. Beaming Books. October 1, 2019

A Bible: Instructor recommends [NIV Kids' Visual Study Bible](#). Zonderkidz. June 6, 2017; *Although “kids” is in the title, this is a standard NIV translation, not modified or paraphrased. Hardcover and leather covers are both available. One benefit of this publication is the single-column format that makes the text more readable and accessible for narrative purposes.*

Scripture Journal (recommendations forthcoming, not lined pages)

*Required texts are not included in the purchase of the course.

NOTE: While our primary text will be *God's Great Covenant: New Testament 1*, the instructor will adapt and augment the curriculum as she sees best for the learning objectives of the course. As such, students should also be prepared to regularly print PDF files supplied by the instructor.

COURSE SCHEDULE

ORIENTATION SESSION:

Tuesday, August 29 at 9:15 a.m.

CLASS SESSION DATES:

Classes will take place on Tuesday and Thursday, 9:15:00-10:15 a.m. (ET) for 32 weeks.

Semester 1: September 4 to January 19

Thanksgiving Break: November 20-24

Christmas Break: December 18-January 5

Semester 2: January 22 to May 24

Winter Break: February 19-23

Holy Week Break: March 25-29

OFFICE HOURS: Your teachers are available outside of scheduled class times! During “Office Hours” students and parents may raise questions, seek assistance, or review class material. This can happen via email or a meeting in the Zoom classroom. Your teacher will do her best to respond within 24-48 hours; please note that your instructor lives in a timezone that is ET+7 hours, which may cause some delay in response time.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Learning to love God's Word and loving to learn it are the goals of this course! Together, we will become both scholars and (hopefully) lovers of God's word. This course will set a basis for beginning biblical scholarship as well as for personal (and communal!) spiritual formation. The academic goals of the course are to build biblical literacy, memory and fluency, and to form a foundational understanding of God's Covenant with humankind as it plays out through the Creation narrative and the historical books of the Old Testament. The spiritual formation goals are the same but reach more deeply into how to DELIGHT in God's word. This will be cultivated through individual classwork and activities shared together.

Students will gain an overview of Old Testament scriptures and work to revive the oral tradition of scripture-telling in our current historical context. We will use "God's Great Covenant: Old Testament 1" as our course text and will utilize additional multi-media resources to make lessons come alive and texts take on new meaning for students. For many students, this may be the first "formal" study of biblical texts in a context with peers, and as such, provides a wonderful opportunity to develop skills in biblical/spiritual dialogue.

We will seek to identify and delight in how the Bible is a collection of writings that contain God's Truth expressed in poetry, historical record, and other beautiful literary art forms. A scripture journal will be kept weekly (which is both personalized and interactive) and the skills of oral recitation and retelling of biblical texts will be practiced regularly.

Music has been specially designed by the instructor to aid in memorizing scripture with beauty and ease. For pre-published previews of music samples, you are invited to visit www.elizabethkaufman.org and specifically www.elizabethkaufman.org/ggc.

Please note: Are you wondering if this course would take away from your family Bible instruction? While the course could certainly stand on its own as an independent Bible course for the school year, it is never our intention to replace parents in the biblical instruction of their children. Please feel free to reach out to the instructor to better understand how this course might be used to guide and enrich your family Bible instruction.

COURSE MAP

“God’s Great Covenant: Old Testament 1, Genesis to Ruth” provides a wonderful guide through our scriptural study. We will use this book to guide us through the academic year, covering approximately one chapter per week. Looking through this course will provide a clear overview of the material we will cover. A more detailed explanation of our coursework follows:

Unit I: In the Beginning... God is Powerful (Genesis 1-11)

In chapters 1-4, we will investigate Genesis 1-11 and witness God’s power to create, to design mankind in His image, to carry out a plan for sin, and to judge with grace. Week 5 is a review of weeks 1-4.

These first 5-6 weeks we will establish the rhythm of our class lessons, practicing habit-making for reading, reflecting and reviewing. We’ll also learn how to picture journal to make our understanding personal and how to intentionally copy scripture for the purpose of memorizing.

Unit II: By the Patriarchs... God Makes Promises (Genesis 12-50)

In chapters 6-10, we are introduced to the patriarchs and God’s covenant with the family of Abraham. We learn about God’s faithfulness to His people, even when His people were unfaithful to Him. Studying God’s character helps us to understand His sovereignty and to trust His steadfastness. We begin to understand how we are included in His covenant with Israel and that He is our Covenant Keeper. Week 11 is a review of weeks 6-10.

By this time, students should have a good handle on weekly journaling work and we will add more emphasis on oral retelling of the scripture passages that we study together.

Unit III: Out of Egypt... God’s Redemption (Exodus 1-34)

In chapters 11-17, we focus on the theme of how God redeems His people. We see how God dramatically cares for and protects His people out of His great love. In these weeks, we will consider closely how God’s laws are loving (the 10 commandments) and how having a God that shows both justice and grace is necessary. Chapter 18 is a review.

Our habits of journaling and oral retelling will continue, and we will become more proficient in looking up scripture without having to use the Table of Contents. We also begin to understand the need to cultivate virtue, as we consider how God sets rules in place to guide and protect us, helping us to also think about how we organize our time and obey guidelines that are set lovingly for our good.

Unit IV: Through the Wilderness... God's Provision (Exodus - Deuteronomy)

Chapters 19-23 demonstrate God's patient provision for Israel. We are introduced to the plan for the Tabernacle, for sacrifices, and for worship of the One True God. Even when His people are unwilling to trust Him, God proves his faithfulness. We also hear God describe Himself to Moses as gracious, compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. This important scripture is repeated over and over again in the Old and New Testaments.

We will spend a bit more time looking at God's instructions and understanding why being careful and thorough is important in our lives (daily habits) and in our worship.

Unit V: In the Promised Land... God's Faithfulness (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Job)

When God's people choose repentance, God forgives! Because of His forgiveness, God's people are equipped to serve Him. He chooses ordinary, rebellious, vulnerable and righteous people to demonstrate His power, forgiveness, mercy and love. Character studies will help us to better understand how God loves us unconditionally, and looking back, we will see how the person of Jesus is consistently introduced to us throughout the Old Testament. Through people, he accomplishes His truth, goodness and beauty in the world.

We are exalted by God only because of His great love for us. This is true when we are rebellious, when we choose our own way, when we feel helpless and when we are in need. Understanding our need for the love of God in Jesus is the ultimate goal of this study.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS: EXECUTIVE FUNCTION SKILLS

Students enrolling in Scholé Academy's Canterbury House of Studies will be expected to show development of Executive Function Skills throughout the year. Executive Function Skills speaks to a set of qualities and skill sets students can develop and hone to better to approach the courses, lectures, readings, and teachers they will encounter in their future academic coursework.

The expected disposition is that of an 'engaged student'. Scholé Academy commends four other important skills which ought to be observed by students.

1. **An Engaged Student:** One who is willing to step into the arena of class discussion, ask questions, supply answers, and consider how the discussion at hand applies to oneself.
2. **Note Taking:** A student must be engaged with the class by taking notes on important and relevant content in an organized fashion. They should then independently consult those notes for assignments and in preparation for assessments. It is essential that all students acquire a

notebook for use during the class, as this will keep them organized by subject.

3. **Attention to Detail & Preparedness:** These students are ones who consistently adhere to deadlines, submission requirements, adhere to style guides and codes, confirm technology is working prior to the start of class, are responsible to determine how to proceed after an absence, are responsible for consulting their course syllabus and adjusting as the class proceeds, etc.
4. **Critical Reflection:** These students are ones who receive feedback to their submissions, and then apply that feedback to future assignments rather than repeating mistakes. These students also glean information from the live class critiques of fellow students and learn from others what mistakes to avoid.
5. **Initiative/Maturity:** This student will be proactive in listening to the teacher's comments, assessing how they apply to his/her work, taking the initiative to schedule office hours with the teacher if necessary.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS IN ACTION

Since we are studying the Bible together, it is of utmost importance that students come to class with a respect for the text and a desire to uphold and understand its treatment as sacred. In this spirit, the classroom will be an environment of respectful, joyful, and friendly learning, which will facilitate the study of a complex but approachable text. Our goals are to learn to love and love to learn what we regard as "God's holy and inspired Word."

Students will be following the sequence of study contained in *God's Great Covenant: Old Testament I*. **The primary goal for the student will be to acquire an understanding of the character of God as demonstrated in Genesis through Ruth in the Old Testament and to begin to see Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of God's Great Covenant made to His people from the beginning of the scriptural accounts.**

Some student work will be completed in the textbook. However, a large portion of the class will involve regular classroom participation, discussions with peers, reading aloud from scripture, sharing journal work, and being attentive to various multi-media sources selected by the instructor to enhance content.

During class time, students will share responses, pose questions, and dialogue with peers. Each week the teacher will lead discussions informed by the content laid out in the text or assignments. Class time will also make use of multiple outside sources that are highly engaging: videos, websites, music and occasionally poetry. The "table will be set" with a rich assortment of "foods," and students should find multiple ways to enjoy the process of learning together.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time with all assigned material completed. The instructor will facilitate learning for the student, but the responsibility for staying up-to-date with classwork and assignments is ultimately the responsibility of the student.

Students who have not submitted their homework to the appropriate Schoology assignment folder prior to the start of class may be asked to leave the Zoom session to work privately

until they have completed the day's assignment. After they have completed their homework submission, they will be permitted to rejoin the class in session. Time spent in a breakout room will constitute an absence from class.

All assignments will be due in the appropriate Canvas Assignment folder prior to the start of class each day. Students turning in late work will not be able to receive full credit. Students will submit their work by scanning their homework pages and uploading it into the Canvas assignment window as **one PDF document**. **Photographs of completed assignments will not be accepted as they are incredibly difficult to read.**

STUDENT GRADING AND EVALUATION

While pursuing Old Testament 1 will be “restful” and enjoyable, we also recognize the need to provide grades for students who will be using this course as part of their prepared college transcript. It’s a delicate balance to achieve both restful learning and excellent academic performance, especially in the subject of biblical studies and spiritual formation. Earning a specific grade should not overshadow achievement goals for mastery of this discipline. Scholarly study of biblical scripture calls upon core disciplines central to a Classical Education: careful reading, accurate recording, reflective consideration, logical reasoning, critical thinking, and socratic dialogue. Practicing these aspects of thoughtful learning will be a necessary and significant component of future satisfaction and success in upper-level biblical studies. In that sense then, attaining a mastery of biblical study is its own reward, though the instructor will assign the following grades to your student’s level of achievement: *magna cum laude* (with great praise); *cum laude* (with praise); *satis* (sufficient, satisfactory) and *non satis* (not sufficient).

Ideally, every average student working diligently should do praiseworthy work (*cum laude*). Those who excel beyond this expectation will receive *magna cum laude* for their efforts. Work which demonstrates minimal but sufficient mastery will be designated *satis*. *Non satis* designates work that demonstrates insufficient mastery; a student with a consistently *non satis* grade will not be recommended for continuation to the next level New Testament study. Additionally, we will provide a transcript with a traditional percentage grade to the requesting parent at quarterly intervals. All students will receive both a Scholé evaluation and a percentage grade at the end of the year.

STUDENT EVALUATION : MASTERY PORTRAIT

In this course students will receive the foundations of biblical literacy that will prepare them for further biblical studies. This course will also provide the components necessary to reference certain biblical texts from memory in order to apply them to conversation and faith development. Students will practice respectful dialogue about spiritual and biblical topics with peers, which is a key skill for the formation of belief, for the gentle and respectful treatment of those who hold differing beliefs or viewpoints, and for the confident articulation of personally held beliefs.

1. At the completion of this course *cum laude* students will know by heart:

- Assigned scripture passages
- A basic timeline of events from the first half of the Old Testament
- Geographical locations central to the Old Testament scriptures
- Certain prophecies that the Protestant Church asserts are fulfilled in Christ

2. Additionally, students will have begun to practice certain skills necessary to contemplate scriptural texts:
 - Basic map work
 - Copywork
 - Word study: Hebrew translations of some key concepts
3. Students will also be guided in development of the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Love. This course intends for students to encounter something of the beauty and power not only of the written *logos*, but of the living *logos*, the “Word made flesh,” as they consider how the “God of our Fathers” points to the “Son of God.”

STUDENT EVALUATION: ASSIGNMENTS, TYPES & WEIGHTS

The teacher will communicate with students regarding assignment feedback and grading through the free online grading system, Canvas. The teacher will provide students with more detailed information and access to the Latin 1 course page.

Students’ grades will have the following weight (out of 100):

1. Class Participation: 40
2. Homework assignments: 30
3. Recitation & Retelling: 30

Typically Speaking:

- magna cum laude is the grade range of 94% or above.
- cum laude is the grade range of 85-93%
- satis is the grade range of 75-84%
- non satis is any grade lower than a 75%

This reflects the student’s mastery and commitment to being fully prepared for and engaged in the course.

Students and their parents will receive quarterly feedback from their teachers in the form of a quarterly update.

STUDENT EVALUATION: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are on their honor to abide by Scholé Academy’s Learning Philosophy which assumes the personal cultivation of Student-Virtues described in the Student-Parent Handbook. **We ask that parents proctor any quizzes or tests to help keep their children accountable.**

Specifically, cheating and plagiarism are punishable offenses. Copying the work of other students is prohibited and proper citation of all sources is essential.

THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:

We will be using the free online “virtual classroom” software provided by Zoom. The live, interactive nature of our courses is foundational and we require cameras to be on during all class sessions. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio and an interactive

whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom. Courses will be managed through our learning management system, Canvas.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Elizabeth Kaufman is an educator, musician, and homeschooling mother of four. She teaches at Scholé Academy online in the Canterbury House of Studies. She is passionate about guiding children and families into biblical literacy and learning how to form a life that is increasingly guided by the study of scripture and the observations and rhythms of the church calendar.

Elizabeth holds a M.Ed. and earned her BA in Spanish from Hope College with minors in Music (piano performance) and Elementary Ed.. A missional mindset led her to work in various countries, teaching art and music in an American School in the Dominican Republic, grades 2 and 3 in a British school in Tanzania, and Spanish at a Montessori school in Michigan. Elizabeth went on to choose motherhood and homeschooling as a full-time pursuit and has loved teaching her four sons for the past nine years while living mostly in East Africa.

Throughout this time, she has grown increasingly committed to Classical Christian education and has developed a love for “living” literature and biblical scholarship. She has also combined her love of music and scripture to compose several collections of songs for young students and families to learn scripture together and to sing through liturgical seasons. Elizabeth believes that every course of study is an invitation to witness God’s redemptive work in the world and to be formed and transformed by it.

Elizabeth lives in Kenya where her husband teaches biblically-based church discipleship and her sons enjoy living and learning “in the bush.” When not teaching or composing, you can find Elizabeth researching the Bible through books and podcasts, trail running, hosting meals for friends and travelers, watching her sons ride motorbikes, or pursuing drawing and watercolor as an amateur artist. One day she hopes to learn a thing or two about gardening. You can listen to her music for learning scripture at www.musicmemorize.org.

Please note: While this syllabus addresses details specific to this course, it is not extensive. Parents should also read the Student-Parent Handbook located on scholeacademy.com and be familiar with the ideas, policies, and procedures outlined.