

All semester you will be asked to journal. This can be easy marks or it can be really difficult marks. Your option.

Essentially you will be marked for effort.

For your journal, I will be the only one reading them. I will never have a supply read it and it is your journal. In many ways I hope it is something you can look back on in ten to twenty years and say stuff like "I thought like that?" Or "I liked that girl?" Or "Who the heck was Mr. Eagan?"

As for marking. I am looking for five key points. Some of you may go into great detail with those points, some of you may like it short and sweet. These journals count towards different marks depending on the question. They will always count towards one of the following; Knowledge , Application , Inquiry or Communication marks.

First Journal Question (Not a personal one so this will just be in your notebook. You will come back to your answer at the end of this semester.)

What is your definition of God?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Journal #1 - Being Human

What does it mean to be human? How do we differ from other beings in Creation? How are we connected to God? Describe the advantages and disadvantages of being human.

Being Human

1. Humans are **spiritual-material beings**. We are bodies with souls. They are not separate from one another and that's what makes us human.
 - This means that:
 - We can think - Although other animals demonstrate advanced levels of instinct, what do you think humans can do (thoughts-wise) that animals cannot?
 - extend:
 - We are free – Choosing to do right rather than wrong makes us free. How does this reflect why God created us?
 - extend:
 - We can love – We can use our freedom to do good for others. When we treat others wrongly, it is a misuse of our freedom.
 - e.g.
 - We have a God-given body – The fact that Jesus became human makes our need to care for our bodies all the more important. The Spirit lives in us.
 - extend:
2. Humans are **related to others in a community**. We live with ourselves as well as others, and we must be comfortable with who we are (self-esteem) in order to be completely comfortable with others.
 - This means that:
 - We need one another – It is God's plan that we should not be alone (Genesis creation story). Other people need us just as much as we need others.

- extend: what are the advantages of living in community?
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- We have a history – We are a member of the human community, so we have inherited all the benefits (and mistakes, as well) of those who have gone before us. Humans have learned that what we do today has consequences for tomorrow.
 - extend: How do you think this relates to caring for the earth?
 - We are images of God and stewards of the Earth – We are all unique, and God's own image in the world. When we use our talents, we are being fully human. We are called to share God's work in Creation (e.g. new people, new ideas).
 - We are God's prized Creation - He cares for us, so we should treat everyone with equal dignity. No person is an object, they are a child of God.
 - e.g. How do people treat others like objects?
 - We are good, but weakened by sin – We need to realize that we make mistakes, but that God forgives us and we can strive to do better.

Activity

1. Name 5 ways you depend on others:
2. Name 5 ways others depend on you:
3. Describe what life would be like without other people involved in it.

Spirituality ...

- ❖ is something you already possess - it is a pure gift from God: grace.
- ❖ is all about being aware - it is about listening to your heart.
- ❖ is a lifelong journey of discovery. It is not about having all the answers, but it is about asking the right questions.
- ❖ requires silence, solitude, and stillness.
- ❖ needs carefully chosen mentors and guides. Often, these mentors are people you already know.

1. Do you consider yourself spiritual? If yes or no explain why or why not?

2. What are traits of a spiritual person?

3. How could you or others be more spiritual?

4. Do you think it is important?

A People's Religious Beginnings

History and Prehistory

- People have been around for a LONG time
- Comparatively, very recently their histories have been available in print
- Books were written by hand
- As a result, very few books were around
- Before the written “alphabetic languages” (c. 1350 BCE) people depended on drawings and word of mouth for communication of ideas, thoughts, messages etc.
- No narratives before that time (prehistory)

History and Prehistory in the Bible

- From scientific evidence, parts of the Bible were first written around 13th C. BCE
- The further back we look, the less detail we have
- Creation of the earth did happen, but in just 2 chapter (Genesis 1 and 2)
- Sections written later, are more detailed and accurate, especially the NT
- By the time the NT was written, people began keeping records
 - Wrote down ideas, events, which they considered important
- The Bible was not put together at one time
- Some events were written hundreds, thousands, or even millions year after they occurred
 - Ex. Creation story

The Bible

- The Bible was not meant to be a history book
- It is about a particular people's religious beliefs and development
- OT – explained the story of God's continuing revelation to and relationship with a particular group of people
- People didn't realize that historical accuracy would be important
- Concerned with God's revelation and relationship
- The Bible is about *religious truths*

The Bible is a *living book* about the living God who continues to be revealed to us

HOMEWORK - Think of a creation story that you know of and be prepared to share it tomorrow.