The Challenge

Increasingly, teachers at the high school level are in need of resources to help them teach the Bible as an academic subject in their classrooms. In answer to this need, the Society of Biblical Literature, the oldest and largest scholarly organization in the field of biblical studies, has committed itself to making the latest in academic scholarship available to public and private school teachers. The SBL currently has a number of publications that will prepare secondary school teachers to teach the Bible as an academic subject. But this is just the beginning. We invite you to visit our website at http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/teachingBible.aspx#PublicBible for updates and additional resources as we continue to find ways to make the academic expertise of our worldwide community of scholars more readily available to teachers and their students in appropriate formats.

Resources for Teaching the Bible from the Society of Biblical Literature

For more information, or to get involved, please contact:

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Teaching the Bible: Practical Strategies for Classroom Instruction
Mark Roncace and Patrick Gray, editors

Teaching the Bible is a collection of ideas and activities written by dozens of innovative college and seminary professors. It outlines effective classroom strategies—with a focus on active learning—for the new teacher and veteran professor alike and shows how to introduce students to key passages and characters of the Bible. It includes everything from ways to incorporate film, literature, art, and music to classroom writing assignments and exercises for groups and individuals.

HarperCollins Study Bible
Fully Revised & Updated
Harold Attridge, General Editor, with the Society of Biblical Literature

This classic reference book offers the full text of the New Revised Standard Version, and has been updated with new introductions and notes, diagrams, charts, and maps. This study Bible is non-denominational and is annotated with the latest critical scholarship by leading experts in the field. The concise notes, careful analysis, and abundant maps help the reader understand the context of the Bible and the complexity and beauty of the text itself.

Teaching the Bible through Popular Culture and the Arts
Mark Roncace and Patrick Gray, editors

This book takes students’ lingua franca—pop culture—and applies it to the Bible. Seminary and college professors who have successfully integrated media and the arts with study of the Bible and its context offer hundreds of easily accessible examples of ways to use art, music, film, and media in the classroom.

HarperCollins Bible Dictionary
Revised Edition
Paul J. Achtemeier, General Editor, with the Society of Biblical Literature

The HarperCollins Bible Dictionary, recently revised, is recognized worldwide as the standard Bible dictionary. From Aaron to Zur, this comprehensive dictionary explains terms and concepts found in the Old Testament, Apocrypha, and New Testament. In addition, teachers will find color maps of the Bible regions, empires, and kingdoms, along with copious photographs throughout the text.

The Dead Sea Scrolls
Society of Biblical Literature and Biblical Archaeology Society

This magazine-style book provides readers with a historical and photographic account of the Dead Sea Scrolls, from their initial discovery in 1947 to their recent publication and ongoing interpretation. Teachers will learn not only how the Dead Sea Scrolls were found but also why many scholars believe that other scrolls still await discovery. In addition to becoming acquainted with the Scrolls and the ancient sect that wrote them, readers will find out why the Dead Sea Scrolls continue to be significant for the Jewish and Christian religions today.

HarperCollins Bible Commentary
Revised Edition
James L. Mays, with the Society of Biblical Literature

This reference book offers lucid, expert guidance in a highly readable format on each of the books of the Old Testament, the Apocrypha, and the New Testament. Designed for use with any English translation of the Bible, this commentary interprets Bible passages in sequence with introductory articles and attention to the historical, literary, and interpretive aspects of the Bible.

Digital Resources

The SBL website currently has a section for educators, with a growing slate of resources for public school teachers and Bible courses. Visit our website at: http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/teachingbible.aspx.

Teacher resources on the SBL website include:

- syllabi collection. See how others teach Bible courses
- links to websites of interest to students and teachers
- the Review of Biblical Literature, a comprehensive online collection of book reviews
- articles and essays on teaching the Bible
- notices of upcoming workshops and lectures on the Bible
- the SBL bookstore, for online ordering of SBL publications, including those featured here