

Making Sense of Old Stories in the Bible Answer Key

Suggested responses for some parts of the biblical interpretation process appear below. Students' actual responses may vary greatly depending on their skill level and the results of their research.

Step of Biblical Interpretation	Notes for Exodus 20:1–17	Notes for 1 Samuel 3:1–10	Notes for Luke 10:29-37	Notes for 1 Corinthians 12:12–31
Literal sense: What is the basic message the human author is trying to convey?	The human author is conveying God's expectations for human behavior as detailed in the Ten Commandments.	God calls the prophet Samuel when he is very young. It takes a while for Samuel to realize that it is God who is calling him.	The human author is recounting a parable that Jesus told in response to a question posed by a scholar of the Jewish Law: "Who is my neighbor?" (verse 29).	All baptized people form one Body of Christ that is rich in diversity, gifts, and talents.
Literary genre (form)	laws	Any or all of the following are correct: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short story • historical account • call narrative 	parable	An extended metaphor comparing the Body of Christ (i.e. the Church) to a human body. The metaphor forms part of a letter that Saint Paul wrote to the Church in ancient Corinth.
Society, culture, and historical context	The students may conduct research on any or all of the following terminology/aspects of the socio-historical context that are referenced in this passage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • polytheism • slavery • adultery • bearing false witness • coveting 	The students may conduct research on any or all of the following terminology/aspects of the socio-historical context that are referenced in this passage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the "lamp of God" • the temple (in Shiloh, not in Jerusalem) • the Ark of God (Ark of the Covenant) • prophets (e.g., Samuel) • priests (e.g., Eli) 	The students may conduct research on any or all of the following terminology/aspects of the socio-historical context that are referenced in this passage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerusalem, Jericho, and the road between them • Samaria/Samaritans • Priests and Levites 	The students may conduct research on any or all of the following terminology/aspects of the socio-historical context that are referenced in this passage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jews and Greeks (including possible tensions between these two groups) • Apostles, prophets, and teachers • spiritual gifts • the struggles of the Church in ancient Corinth that may have prompted Saint Paul to write this letter



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Findings of biblical archaeologists	A scroll of the Ten Commandments was among the findings in the Dead Sea Scrolls.	The tomb of the prophet Samuel is located in the West Bank, in the Palestinian territories just outside of Jerusalem. It is a place of pilgrimage for Jews, Christians, and Muslims.	Numerous archaeological investigations have uncovered information and artifacts related to ancient Samaria. In addition, a site on the Jerusalem-Jericho road that served as a way station for travelers in biblical times has been dubbed “the Inn of the Good Samaritan.” The site now houses a museum.	Numerous archaeological investigations have been conducted in ancient Corinth. The excavated ruins of the ancient city are adjacent to the modern-day city.
One or more of the spiritual senses: allegorical, moral, and/or anagogical	Moral sense: These laws, although ancient, should continue to guide our words and actions.	Allegorical: This passage connects with, and foreshadows, many passages in both the Old Testament and the New Testament in which God calls someone who may not be initially ready or willing to hear and respond to that call. These include the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah and the some of the disciples called by Jesus.	Moral: This parable teaches us that we must set aside our prejudices and preconceptions and engage in loving service toward <i>all</i> people.	Anagogical: The passage prepares us for our heavenly home by leading us toward a greater sense of unity and respect for all of God’s people. It emphasizes the common dignity of our Baptism.
Teachings of Church Tradition and the Magisterium	<i>Student responses will vary but may make reference to “Inspired by the Holy Spirit” (“Divino Afflante Spiritu,” 1943), Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum, 1965), or other documents issued by the Magisterium.</i>	<i>Student responses will vary but may make reference to “Inspired by the Holy Spirit,” Divine Revelation, or other documents issued by the Magisterium.</i>	<i>Student responses will vary but may make reference to “Inspired by the Holy Spirit,” Divine Revelation, or other documents issued by the Magisterium.</i>	<i>Student responses will vary but may make reference to “Inspired by the Holy Spirit,” Divine Revelation, or other documents issued by the Magisterium.</i>
Prayer/guidance of the Holy Spirit	<i>Student responses will vary.</i>	<i>Student responses will vary.</i>	<i>Student responses will vary.</i>	<i>Student responses will vary.</i>

