

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Unit 4 Final Performance Task Options

The following is a list of the enduring understandings for unit 4. Demonstrating your grasp of these understandings will be essential to completing your chosen final performance task successfully. See the descriptions below to understand the specific elements that will be required for each option.

- Following the Babylonian Exile, the Jewish People rebuilt their religious identity by focusing on proper worship at the Temple in Jerusalem.
- In challenging times characterized by violence and persecution, many Jews gave witness to their steadfast faith in God.
- The Bible's wisdom literature helps us to explore profound questions regarding faith, suffering, and human relationships.

### Option 1: An Interview with a Person of Faith

1. Interview an adult you would identify as a person of faith. Ask this person questions that are related to this unit's enduring understandings. Sample questions may include the following:
  - In what way(s) have challenges or struggles you have encountered deepened your faith?
  - Who have been role models for you on your journey of faith?
  - What biblical people and biblical books are especially inspiring and important to you? Why, or in what way(s)? *You may want to ask specifically about the biblical people and books you have studied during this unit.*
  - What role does personal prayer play in cultivating your relationship with God? What about communal worship? Do praying and worshipping in a particular place help you feel close to God? If so, what is that place?
  - In what ways has your faith grown and changed over the years? Under what circumstances has your faith become stronger? When has it become weaker?
  - If someone were to ask you the following question, how would you respond? "If God loves us so much, why is there suffering?"
  - What advice would you give to a young person who is trying to develop and nurture a relationship with God?
2. Record the interview as either an audio or video file.
3. Choose one of the following formats to present the information you discovered during the interview. Regardless of which format you choose, you must include at least three direct quotes from your interviewee.
  - a. Write a substantive essay (at least five paragraphs) in which you report the results of the interview.
  - b. Record a podcast in which you report the results of the interview in a format similar to a radio broadcast.
  - c. Make a video in which you report the results of the interview in a format similar to a news show.



4. Conclude your essay, podcast, or video with a brief personal reflection on what you have learned from the person you interviewed, particularly any further insights you have gained into this unit's enduring understandings.
5. Turn in both the audio or video recording of the entire interview and your essay, podcast, or video to your teacher.

## Option 2: A Talk Show with Biblical Figures

1. Imagine you have been invited by the BNN (Biblical News Network) to produce a talk show called "Hidden Figures: Lessons from Lesser-Known Biblical Characters."
2. Choose three biblical characters from this list to be guests on the show.
  - Ezra
  - Nehemiah
  - Tobit (or another character from the Book of Tobit)
  - Judith
  - Esther
  - Judas Maccabeus
  - Eleazar (or other Jewish martyr from the Maccabean wars)
  - Job
  - Lady Wisdom
3. Write a script for the show (minimum of four typed, double-spaced pages). As the interviewer, pose questions to your guests about these or similar topics:
  - their religious identity
  - the struggles and joys they encountered in their lives
  - their understanding and experience of the power of prayer and worship
  - the ways in which challenging times deepened their faith in God
  - the importance of sharing our faith with others
  - their beliefs about the meaning of life
  - their thoughts about the causes of evil and suffering
  - advice they would share with young people trying to live a good and holy life

The biblical figures may interact and converse with one another as well as with you. For example, perhaps they compare their life experiences, their relationships with God, and the historical context in which they lived. Because this is an imaginative exercise, even fictional characters like Job, or a personification like Lady Wisdom, can reflect on and share insights about their lives.

4. Conclude your script with a one- to two-paragraph personal reflection on what you, as the interviewer, have learned from spending time with these biblical figures. (**Note:** If you are completing this task with a partner, you must each write your own personal reflection.)
5. In consultation with your teacher, do one of the following:
  - a. Arrange to film your talk show. Upload the video to a site your teacher can access.
  - b. Perform your talk show "live" for your class.
6. In either case, you will play the host. You will need to recruit other willing friends or classmates to read the roles of the biblical figures. Your teacher can help you with these logistics.
7. Turn in the written script to your teacher.



## Option 3: An Exegesis Paper

*Note:* If you are completing the semester-long project for this course, you must choose this exegesis option for units 2–4.

1. Select one of the following eight passages. (If you wish to choose a different passage related to this unit, check with your teacher first.)
  - Ezra 1:1–11 (the decree of Cyrus ending the Babylonian Exile)
  - Psalm 42:1–12 (a psalm of lament)
  - Tobit 3:7–17 (Sarah’s sufferings)
  - Judith 8:1–14 (Judith’s background story and words to the city elders)
  - Esther 1:5–22 (King Ahasuerus’ banquet and the deposal of Queen Vashti)
  - 2 Maccabees 12:38–46 (Judas Maccabeus and his army praying for the dead)
  - Song of Songs 7:1–14 (the beauty of love)
  - Wisdom 7:22b–8:1 (Lady Wisdom)
2. Using the seven-step method of biblical exegesis that you learned in unit 1 (see the handout “Making Sense of Old Stories in the Bible” [TX005929], on pages 67–68, which outlines the seven steps of exegesis), write a three-page (minimum) exegesis paper on this passage.
3. You must use at least five of the seven steps of exegesis. (You may omit up to two steps if it seems they don’t apply to your selected passage.)
4. To the extent possible, incorporate this unit’s enduring understandings into your paper. Even enduring understandings that do not connect directly to your passage could still be referenced briefly as background information.
5. In your research, use at least two reliable, accurate print or online sources other than the Bible and your student book. You may need to ask your teacher or library media specialist for help in locating acceptable sources.
6. List these sources in a bibliography. (*Note:* The bibliography does not count as one of your three pages.)

