

Assignments

There are two options when it comes to assignments for those who wish to participate in these sessions to the degree necessary to receive a certificate when this cycle of the Gifts of Finest Wheat program comes to an end. The first option is to write three 500 word essays on any of the main topics that will be covered as part of our study of the Old Testament. Because the 2nd and 8th sessions will each cover two main topics this means you have ten topics to choose from. The second option is to write one 1,500 word essay. I would personally prefer that you choose this option, but if you prefer the three shorter assignments please feel free to do so.

I would also prefer that your assignments cover those topics which are most challenging and which pose the greatest difficulties as we seek to discern God's will as it is revealed to us in the Old Testament. It is my opinion that the most important topics for you to wrestle with are:

1. Genesis and Original Sin
2. Joshua and Judges and the Problem of Violence in the Old Testament
3. Song of Songs
4. Job: Hope and Challenge in the Midst of Suffering

If you chose to write one 1,500 word essay it must be on one of these four topics. For those who write three shorter essays you can choose from among any of the ten main topics, but I would encourage you towards choosing from among these four. These papers should focus on a particular question you will answer, dilemma you will attempt to resolve, or statement you will explain. Examples of these would be:

How can we reconcile the violence depicted in Joshua and Judges with the fact that we will follow a loving God?

As Catholics we are called upon to accept that from birth we face the consequences of original sin. If God loves us how come we suffer as a result of actions we are not directly responsible for?

A thorough study of the Song of Songs and the opening chapters of Genesis helps us to understand God's will in regards to marriage, sexuality, and the proper use of the human body.