



# River City School of Leadership

Syllabus for  
**BIB 103 The Life of Christ**  
Spring 2025

Professor  
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## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to examine the life of Christ from his birth to his death. Students will learn about Christ through his teachings, parables, miracles, and prayers found in the Synoptic Gospels. There will also be an emphasis on how Christ should be understood from a doctrinal perspective.

## II. COURSE GOALS & OUTCOMES

- A. To help students better understand and appreciate the birth of Christ including the prophecies and significant events around his birth.
- B. To help students explore numerous significant parables and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- C. To help students understand the heart of Jesus through his prayers.
- D. To help students explore both the humanity and deity of Christ against various heretical beliefs facing the early church.
- E. To lead students through the last days of the life of Christ leading up to his crucifixion.
- F. To help students understand the impacts of the Resurrection.

## III. TEXTBOOK(S)

Stalker, James, *The Life of Christ: A Biographical Overview of the Life of Christ*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Abbotsford, WI. Aneko Press, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-62245-735-9.

#### IV. ASSIGNMENT & DUE DATES

##### A. Online Discussion (10%), Every other Tuesday beginning February 11<sup>th</sup>

On alternate Tuesdays, a class discussion question will be posted by the professor under the “Discussions” portion of the online class portal. Provide a six to eight sentence response to that question by the following Tuesday. Additionally, read, review and respond to at least two posts of your classmates. This bi-weekly assignment is designed to facilitate an online dialogue that enables students to glean from one another.

##### B. Book Response (20%), Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

Response to *The Life of Christ: A Biographical Overview of the Life of Christ* by James Stalker. The paper should be a minimum of 750 words. The response should be comprised of a 250-word summary of the text and a 500-word response. When writing the response, the following questions may help you formulate your ideas.

- How do you agree or disagree with the author? Why?
- What insights were most helpful to you? How will you apply these insights to your life and ministry?
- What do you believe to be the author’s purpose for writing this book? Did they achieve that purpose?
- To whom would you recommend the book and why?

Note: Please do not list these questions in your Book Response. These questions are meant to help create meaningful content for the response portion of this assignment.

Submit your essay in a Word or PDF document under the “Assessment” portion of the online class portal.

##### C. Exams:

###### 1. Midterm Exam, (20%), Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

A midterm exam will be due by midnight on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. This exam will cover the first six weeks of class. There will be a thorough exam review that can be found under the resource tab the week prior to the due date. The exam will be available to take from Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> until Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Students will have two hours to

complete the exam once they open the window. The exam will be set up as True/False and Multiple-Choice questions.

2. Final Exam (20%), Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup>

A final exam will be due by midnight on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. This exam will cover the last six weeks of class. There will be a thorough exam review that can be found under the resource tab the week prior to the due date. The exam will be available to take from Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> until Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup>. Students will have two hours to complete the exam once they open the window. The exam will be set up as True/False and Multiple-Choice questions.

D. Final Reflection Essay (30%), Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

Write a 750-word essay on the course topic that most impacted your life. You should include the important themes discussed in class using specific examples that were discussed. You may use a few short portions of scripture as necessary to make your thoughts clear but DO NOT fill up the required word count with many or lengthy passages of scripture. In addition to the themes we discussed, use a paragraph to describe what this teaching means to you and how you believe it will impact your life and ministry.

Submit your essay on the due date as word or PDF documents under the “Assessment” portion of the online class portal.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. Grades and Assessments

1. Grading Scale

- A 90 - 100%
- B 80 - 89%
- C 70 - 79%
- D 60 - 69%
- F 59% and below

2. Percentage of Final Grade per Assessment & Due Date

- a) Online Discussion (10%) Every other Tuesday beginning February 11<sup>th</sup>
- b) Book Response (20%) Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>
- c) Mid-term Exam (20%), Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

- d) Final Exam (20%), Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>
- e) Final Reflection Essay (30%), Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

## B. Correspondence

All correspondence with professors should be done through the email address provided in this syllabus.

My preferred way to correspond with questions or concerns is through text at 804-938-2256 or you can email me at: [alice.joyner@rivercityschool.com](mailto:alice.joyner@rivercityschool.com)

## C. Academic Honesty

1. Plagiarism is copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structures and submitting them as one's own. which is claiming the work of others as your own without specific acknowledgment. It is always required that a student cite resources used in any paper that is written. Both students and faculty at River City School of Leadership are expected to deal ethically with other's materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software.
2. Collaboration (e.g., writing a paper with someone else so that the resulting paper is not the product of the person turning it in) is not permitted unless specifically allowed by the instructor. Unless noted on the course syllabus a student should assume that the required work is meant to represent their own efforts. It is permissible to have a proofreader review one's paper and comment on the grammar and general paper structure; however, the thought and content of the paper must be the student's own.

## D. Late Assignment Policy

For each week that an assignment is late, it will receive a 10% grade deduction. An assignment will be considered late unless the student has prior permission from the instructor for a later due date. No homework will be accepted after the end of the term. Additional points can be docked by the teacher for not meeting assignment requirements or standards.

Example:

- 1-7 Days Late – Maximum Grade 90
- 8-14 Days Late – Maximum Grade 80
- 15-21 Days Late – Maximum Grade 70

22-28 Days Late – Maximum Grade 60

29+ Days Late – Maximum Grade 59

#### E. Absenteeism

An absentee is defined as not being present in-person or online when a class is being taught. Students are allowed two absences in each semester. If a student is absent more than twice, they will be given an I (Incomplete) for the semester. An **absentee can be erased if a student watches/listens the full video/audio content** of a class that they missed, writes a 250-word response to the class video that was watched/listened to, and **send the notification and the response to River City by email** ([info@rivercityschool.com](mailto:info@rivercityschool.com)) that they have made up the absence, noting the date of the absence. The latest a student can submit an email to this effect is the day following the last class of that semester.

#### F. Tardiness

When attending an online class via Zoom, if a student joins 10 minutes or later after the start of the class, a Tardy will be noted for that week's attendance.

#### G. Zoom Protocol

When attending a River City class that is held via Zoom, students are expected to adhere to the following protocol. The camera must be on the whole class and audio muted unless a question is being asked or answered. It is expected that students will be interactive in the class, answering or following the instructions given by the professor.

#### H. Recorded Class Protocol

There are times when a professor might need to record a class meeting for students to view instead of meeting on the designated class night. If this does occur, in order for a student to be counted as present for that class week, the class recording will need to be viewed and then an email sent to [info@rivercityschool.com](mailto:info@rivercityschool.com) notifying that the recording has been watched. No written response is needed.

## VI. COURSE CONTENT / SCHEDULE

A. The Birth of Christ/Prophecies

B. Jesus the Christ – Attributes and Purpose

C. Heresies/Synoptic Gospels Overview

D. The Synoptic Parables of Jesus

E. The Synoptic Miracles of Jesus

F. The Synoptic Prayers of Jesus

G. The Sermon on the Mount

F. Events Leading up to the Crucifixion

G. The Crucifixion

H. The Resurrection

## VIII. MODIFICATIONS

This syllabus is subject to change. It is the responsibility of the student to note any revisions when released.