



## Frequently Asked Questions

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1. What is <i>Venture: The Bible Timeline for High School</i> , and what makes it unique? .....	2
2. What is <i>The Bible Timeline</i> ®? .....	2
3. Who are the author and presenters? .....	4
4. What age group is <i>Venture</i> intended for? .....	6
5. What settings can the program be used in? .....	6
6. What are the components of the <i>Venture</i> program? .....	6
7. How many lessons are in the program? What topics are covered? .....	7
8. How long does a typical lesson last? How are the lessons structured? .....	8
9. Who can lead the program? Does the leader need to be familiar with <i>The Bible Timeline</i> ? .....	9
10. Are digital or online versions available? .....	9
11. What version of the Bible is recommended? .....	9

## 1. What is *Venture: The Bible Timeline for High School*, and what makes it unique?

*Venture: The Bible Timeline for High School* is the teen edition of the revolutionary *Great Adventure Bible Timeline*® Learning System, which hundreds of thousands of Catholic adults have used to learn the Bible. Dynamic teen presenter Mark Hart makes the Bible come alive for Catholic teens by unpacking God's Word in a way they can relate to. *Venture* gives teens an overview of the Bible by showing them the big picture of salvation history as found in the Old and New Testaments.

Using *The Bible Timeline*, the *Venture* lessons are designed to capture the attention of teens and present the major people, places, and events of the Bible in new and unexpected ways.

Engaging video presentations feature Mark Hart, Chika Anyanwu, Mari Pablo, Fr. Josh Johnson, Paul J. Kim, Taylor Tripodi, Dr. Andrew Swafford, and Dr. Bob Rice. Paired with the dynamic Student Workbook, an easy-to-use Leader's Guide, and *The Bible Timeline Chart for Teens*, the program calls young people to an understanding of salvation history as found in Sacred Scripture.

## 2. What is *The Bible Timeline*?

In a revolutionary approach to Bible study, biblical scholar Jeff Cavins developed *The Bible Timeline* Learning System, which divides the Bible into twelve color-coded time periods that make the narrative thread easier to follow. Using the unique *Bible Timeline* chart, it provides a guided journey through salvation history, showing how fourteen of the Bible's narrative books tell this amazing story from beginning to end. Once students have grasped the big picture, they can appreciate the way the extraordinary people, places, and events of the Bible reveal the remarkable story of our Faith.

Originally developed for adult Bible study programs, *The Bible Timeline's* easy-to-understand approach has been adapted in *Venture* for high school students. (It has also been adapted for middle school students in Ascension's *Encounter: Experiencing God in the Everyday* and for grade school students in *God's Plan in Scripture*, or *GPS*.)

<b>Bible Timeline Period</b>	<b>Narrative Book(s)</b>	<b>Color</b>	<b>Color Meaning</b>
<b>Early World</b>	Genesis 1-11	Turquoise	The color of the earth as viewed from space
<b>Patriarchs</b>	Genesis 12-50	Burgundy	God's blood covenant with Abraham
<b>Egypt and Exodus</b>	Exodus	Red	The Red Sea
<b>Desert Wanderings</b>	Numbers	Tan	The color of the desert
<b>Conquest and Judges</b>	Joshua, Judges 1 Samuel 1-8	Green	The green hills of Canaan
<b>Royal Kingdom</b>	1 Samuel 9-31 2 Samuel 1 Kings 1-11	Purple	Royalty
<b>Divided Kingdom</b>	1 Kings 12-22 2 Kings 1-16	Black	Israel's darkest period
<b>Exile</b>	2 Kings 17-25	Baby Blue	Judah "singing the blues" in Babylon
<b>Return</b>	Ezra, Nehemiah	Yellow	Judah returning home to brighter days
<b>Maccabean Revolt</b>	1 Maccabees	Orange	Fire in the oil lamps in the purified Temple
<b>Messianic Fulfillment</b>	Luke	Gold	Gifts of the Magi
<b>The Church</b>	Acts	White	The spotless bride of Christ

### 3. Who are the author and presenters?

#### AUTHOR AND MAIN PRESENTER

**MARK HART** serves as chief information officer and executive vice president of Life Teen International. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and a twenty-six-year veteran of youth ministry, Mark is a best-selling author of over twenty books, a daily radio host on SiriusXM and an award-winning writer and producer. One of the most sought-after speakers serving in the Catholic Church today, Mark's humor and his passion for Scripture are known around the world.

His multiple video series with Ascension—*Venture*, *Encounter*, *Altaration*, and *The 99*—have helped millions of Catholics, young and old, begin to read and study the Bible and engage the Catholic Faith in exciting and relevant new ways. A master catechist, Mark also serves as a book editor, speaking coach, publishing and marketing consultant, and a research fellow at the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology.

Mark and his wife, Melanie, live in Phoenix, Arizona, with their three daughters—Hope, Trinity, and Faith—and a son, Josiah.

#### PRESENTERS

**CHIKA ANYANWU** is the director of formation and events for Vagabond Missions in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A Catholic evangelist and youth minister, she is also the author of *My Encounter: How I Met Jesus in Prayer* and a contributor to *Connected: Catholic Social Teaching for This Generation*. An alumna of National Evangelization Teams Ministries (NET USA), she served for eight years as a parish Confirmation coordinator and young adult minister in Southern California.

Although **FR. JOSH JOHNSON** was raised Catholic, he didn't like the Church very much while growing up. One day, during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, he fell in love with Jesus and received the call to become a priest. Fr. Josh is the director of vocations for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, campus minister at Louisiana State University, and chaplain at Cristo Rey Franciscan High School. He is also a presenter in several Ascension programs, including *Altaration*, *Connected*, *Rejoice!*, *Venture*, and *YOU*. He is the author of *Broken and Blessed: An Invitation to My Generation* and the *Pocket Guide to Adoration* as well as coauthor of the *Pocket Guide to the Sacrament of Reconciliation*. You can keep in touch with Fr. Josh through his weekly Ascension podcast, *Ask Fr. Josh*.

**PAUL J. KIM** is a Catholic speaker and musician based in Texas, whose presentations have reached people of all ages in forty-eight states and sixteen countries. He is the author of the online course *A Catholic Millennial's Guide to Adulthood* and a contributor to *Venture: The*

*Bible Timeline for High School* and *Connected: Catholic Social Teaching for This Generation*. His background includes work as a marriage and family therapist and religious formation with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFRs).

**MARI (MAH-DEE) PABLO** speaks throughout the United States and Latin America. She grew up in a devout Hispanic Catholic family in South Florida. She holds bachelor degrees in theology and psychology from Franciscan University of Steubenville as well as a master's degree in theology from the Augustine Institute. She worked in youth ministry for over fifteen years and is currently a theology teacher and campus minister at St. Brendan Catholic High School in Miami. She has contributed to several Ascension video series, including *The 99*, and is a main presenter in *Connected: Catholic Social Teaching for This Generation*. Mari is well-known for her dynamic presentations at the annual Steubenville Youth Conferences and other national outlets.

**BOB RICE** is a presenter, author, singer, songwriter, and international speaker as well as a professor of catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville. His weekly podcasts include *They That Hope* and *Speaking with Deacons*. He has led worship at Steubenville Conferences for more than fifteen years, and his books include *Between the Savior and the Sea* and *A 40-Day Spiritual Workout for Catholics*.

**DR. ANDREW SWAFFORD** is an associate professor of theology at Benedictine College. He is a general editor and contributor to *The Great Adventure Catholic Bible* as well as the author and host of several Ascension Bible studies, including *Hebrews: The New and Eternal Covenant* and *Romans: The Gospel of Salvation*. In addition to his work with Ascension, Dr. Swafford has written several books on nature and grace, St. John Paul II, and modern spirituality. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from the University of St. Mary of the Lake and a master's degree in Old Testament and semitic languages from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and the Academy of Catholic Theology and is a featured fellow at the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. Dr. Swafford lives with his wife, Sarah, and their five children in Atchison, Kansas.

**TAYLOR TRIPODI** is a full-time musician, singer-songwriter, and worship leader based in Cleveland, Ohio, who was named one of the top thirty Catholic music artists in 2018. A graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville, she has a degree in catechetics and theology and has worked in full-time youth ministry. She contributed to *Connected: Catholic Social Teaching for This Generation* and blogs for Ascension. Her most recent EP is *Awakening*.

#### 4. What age group is *Venture* intended for?

The *Venture* program is specifically designed for high school students. The presenters and materials speak to students at that particular academic, spiritual, and emotional level, introducing issues that are relevant to their life experiences. Ascension offers other Bible study programs that are specifically designed for grade school students (*God's Plan in Scripture*, or *GPS*), middle school students (*Encounter*), and adults (*The Bible Timeline*).

#### 5. What settings can the program be used in?

The *Venture* program is a great choice for any high school group study and can be used in many different settings. It is designed to be implemented in different ways to meet the various schedules and catechetical models of individual parishes. For example, it can be taught in a single day with several breaks or in a classroom setting over several weeks. In addition to a parish or school setting, the program is perfect for home Bible study. The Leader's Guide offers tips for optimizing the effectiveness of the program in your particular setting.

#### 6. What are the components of the *Venture* program?

The **DVD SET** provides an engaging overview of salvation history, giving teens the big picture of the Bible in a way they can relate to and understand. Mark Hart provides dynamic presentations about the major people, places, and events of the Bible and shows how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our Faith. Each presentation is designed to accompany a specific *Venture* lesson. In addition to the main content video, there is a Tough Questions and Biblical Character Profile video for each lesson.

The **STUDENT PACK** provides everything students need to enter into and engage with the *Venture* program, reinforcing the video presentations. Each lesson in the workbook presents an overview of the biblical time period, a profile of a biblical character, and tough questions (and answers). It also includes a Dive In section, which complements the video presentation, as well as weekly activities, To the Heart journaling prompts, a memory verse, and prompts for *lectio divina*. Sections on Wordplay, Going Deeper, and Living It Out complete the lesson. In addition to the Student Workbook, the pack contains *The Bible Timeline Chart for Teens* and a *Bible Timeline* bookmark.

The **LEADER'S GUIDE** contains everything needed to facilitate a study group and is essential for each group leader or facilitator of a *Venture* study. It includes the contents of the *Venture* Student Workbook with detailed leader's notes, steps to follow, discussion questions, and additional activities.

**THE BIBLE TIMELINE CHART FOR TEENS** arranges the books of the Bible into twelve color-coded time periods, presenting the key people, places, and events of Scripture in chronological

order. This innovative study aid shows how all the books of the Bible work together to tell the story of salvation history. The chart is the cornerstone of the *Venture* program.

**THE BIBLE TIMELINE BOOKMARK** provides a quick and attractive reminder of the twelve color-coded time periods.

## 7. **How many lessons are in the program? What topics are covered?**

The *Venture* program consists of eight lessons and covers the major people, places, and events in the Bible, from the Creation through the age of the early Church.

**Lesson 1: An Introduction to the Bible.** This lesson introduces students to the Bible and highlights its relevance to our daily lives. Topics include the division of the Bible into the Old and New Testaments, the canon of the Bible, the teaching authority of the Church, tips on how to read the Bible, and why reading the Bible is important.

**Lesson 2: The Early World.** This lesson takes a look at Genesis, the Creation, Adam and Eve, Original Sin, the meaning of covenants, the story of Cain and Abel, and the story of Noah and the Flood.

**Lesson 3: The Patriarchs and Egypt.** This lesson looks at God's covenant with Abraham and at the lives of Isaac, Jacob and Esau, and Joseph.

**Lesson 4: Exodus, Joshua, and Judges.** In this lesson, students learn about the stories of the Exodus, Moses and the Ten Commandments, the wandering of the Israelites in the desert, and Joshua and the conquest of the Promised Land.

**Lesson 5: The Kingdom of God—United and Divided.** This lesson introduces the person of Saul, the first king of Israel, King David, Solomon and the building of the Temple, the dividing of the kingdom, and the prophets.

**Lesson 6: The Exile, the Return, and the Revolt.** In this lesson, students learn about the exile of the Jews, their life in exile, King Cyrus and the return of the Jews to Jerusalem, the prophets, the conquest of Judea by the Greeks, and the revolt of the Maccabees.

**Lesson 7: Jesus and the Gospels—Messianic Fulfillment.** This lesson looks at the New Testament stories of the Annunciation, Christ, his miracles and his teachings, the twelve apostles, the giving of the keys to Peter, and Jesus' death and resurrection.

**Lesson 8: The Early Church and the Church Today.** The lesson looks at the Ascension of Christ into heaven, Pentecost and the early preaching of the apostles, the persecution of the Church, Paul's conversion, and his missionary journeys.

## 8. How long does a typical lesson last? How are the lessons structured?

Lessons usually last 60 minutes, but we include lesson plans for 45 minutes, 90 minutes, and 120 minutes in the Leader's Guide to accommodate the needs of different groups. Here is the suggested 60-minute lesson plan:

STEPS	60-Minute Lesson Plan	
STEP 1	Welcome, Memory Verse, and Opening Prayer	3 min.
	<i>Lectio Divina</i>	
STEP 2	Time Period Overview	2 min.
STEP 3	Main Content Teaching	15 min.
	Activity	
STEP 4	Tough Questions	10 min
STEP 5	To the Heart	5 min.
STEP 6	Biblical Character Profile	15 min.
STEP 7	Talk It Out	5 min.
STEP 8	Wordplay	
STEP 9	Going Deeper	
STEP 10	Conclusion	3 min.
STEP 11	Living It Out	
STEP 12	Closing Prayer	2 min.
	<i>Features in the light blue rows can be assigned as homework, depending on the needs of the group.</i>	
	<b>Total Time:</b>	<b>60 minutes</b>

**9. Who can lead the program? Does the leader need to be familiar with *The Bible Timeline*?**

The *Venture* program is designed for youth ministers, teachers, DREs, catechists, and parents who want to teach their high school students about the Bible but have little time to develop a Bible study program from scratch. An understanding of *The Bible Timeline* will enrich discussions with students and may help leaders answer questions, but it is not necessary. For more information, go to [ascensionpress.com](http://ascensionpress.com).

**10. Are digital or online versions available?**

Yes, access to digital versions of the videos, Student Workbook, quizzes, and reflection questions come automatically with the purchase of a physical Student Pack, Starter Pack, or Leader's Guide. Additionally, if you're planning for a fully remote learning environment, the *Venture* Online Course, which has online videos, a digital Student Workbook, online quizzes, and online reflection questions, can be purchased separately. Whether you're meeting in person or online—or a combination of both—the *Venture* digital versions and online course give students easy access to all the program materials.

**11. What version of the Bible is recommended?**

The *Venture* program uses the Revised Standard Version–Second Catholic Edition (RSV-2CE), but students may use any Catholic Bible. If you need Bibles for your program, *The Great Adventure Catholic Bible* is an RSV-2CE Bible that uses the same color-coded *Bible Timeline* Learning System as *Venture* and is ideal. It is published by Ascension and can be purchased separately.

Visit [ascensionpress.com/venture](http://ascensionpress.com/venture) for more details.

