



Name \_\_\_\_\_

HighWay = integrated Faith Studies and Life Skills for Middle Schoolers

## 2011 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester

Father Jacob [fatherjacob@me.com](mailto:fatherjacob@me.com)

704-358-8101 (Office) • 704-281-2223 (mobile) • 704-573-0829 (home)

Before the word "Christian" was invented, disciples of Jesus were known as followers of "the Way" (see, for example, Acts 9:1-2). Adopting a playful variation of this rich biblical metaphor as our class title and theme, TES 6<sup>th</sup> graders on the "HighWay 101" will drive deeply into the Hebrew scriptures (aka "The Old Testament") asking how what we find there might apply to our daily living. The goal is to equip our students to take the "high" road in life, combining social intelligence, scholarship and devotion to become faithful servant leaders.

Some specifics:

- ✓ Your syllabus is a map of where we are headed — refer to it and keep it updated!
- ✓ If you are absent the responsibility is YOURS to find out assignments, get notes and handouts, turn in assignments upon your return, etc. Check out <http://www.quia.com/pages/highway101.html> if you need to check in about where we are or what you may have missed. No promises, but most assignments should be there. If in doubt, call or email Father Jacob.
- ✓ At some point during the trimester, each student is expected to memorize and recite in order the books of the Old Testament.
- ✓ Unlike other exploratory classes this one is graded with a letter grade that goes to the overall grade average of the student.
- ✓ Grades will be based on the following:
  - Participation\* - 50%
  - Homework - 25%
  - Tests and Quizzes - 25%
- ✓ Homework is due on the assigned day at the beginning of class in hard copy form (no emailed or faxed assignments, no "it's on my computer or thumb drive, because my printer wouldn't work"!).
- ✓ Any assignment turned in late will be given a "0" or an "F." No exceptions unless your parent calls me with a legit excuse. No make-up or way to change the grade later. **BUT** each student will have 3 "Days of Grace" that can be used to turn in an assignment without penalty one day late (not the next class day, but the next day). Only one "Day of Grace" may be used per assignment.
- ✓ If a student is absent on a due date then the assignment is due the next day the student is in school, not the next class day.
- ✓ You will need a loose-leaf binder of some sort to keep handouts and notes in.

\*As you can see, the grade is heavily weighted to participation. This is for two reasons:

- 1) We hope to accomplish lots in our class time and limit the amount of homework given.
- 2) At least 25% of our class will be devoted to a service-learning project as a means of truly grasping the material; **participation in this project is critical!**

In class you are expected to respect others' time, be prepared with all necessary materials — pencils sharpened before class begins — engage in all whole-class or small-group activities (be attentive, take notes, contribute to group projects), speak only when it's appropriate to do so, and, in general, act like a scholar!

