museum of the Bible

Education Department

2022 – 2023
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Introduction to Museum of the Bible

Museum of the Bible is a global, innovative, educational institution whose purpose is to invite all people to engage with the transformative power of the Bible.

Fodor’s Travel says the museum “breaks the mold of museum exhibiting,” and it’s easy to see why. Enter our 430,000-square-foot building — located just three blocks from the US Capitol in Washington, DC — and you’ll experience interactive galleries, one-of-a-kind attractions, and hundreds of biblical artifacts that convey the global impact and fascinating history of one of the most influential, discussed, and best-selling books of all time.

The Impact of the Bible Floor features the Bible in the World exhibit, which shows the Bible’s global influence on culture, and Bible in America, which explores the Bible’s profound and sometimes complicated impact on American history and culture. Don’t forget to ride Washington Revelations, a multi-sensory tour that “flies” past biblical references on our monuments and buildings.

The Stories of the Bible Floor offers the Themed Entertainment Association award-winning Hebrew Bible Experience, a 30-minute journey through the stories of the Hebrew Bible, as well as a re-creation of a first-century Galilean village and a 270-degree theater depicting the remarkable story of how the followers of Jesus became a thriving community.

The History of the Bible Floor features hundreds of artifacts documenting the Bible’s preservation, translation, and transmission across the centuries. Drive Thru History’s Dave Stotts tells the story in an engaging and entertaining way in mini theaters throughout the floor.

Visit museumoftheBible.org for more information.
A Letter from the Director of Education

Dear Guests,

Museum of the Bible is home to numerous exhibitions, collections, and attractions that provide the Education Department an endless supply of resources to develop new and exciting programs.

While the history, stories, and impact of the Bible anchor all our programs, we intertwine the “Book of books” with our educational goals, methodology, and structure to support educators and learners globally. The organized and deliberate structure of our programs, proctored by educators who are highly trained by experts in their respective fields, eases learners into the content, encourages active participation before each program, and provides resources to deepen understanding afterward.

Our global and national initiatives showcase our efforts to encourage global citizenship and critical thinking skills in our youth, while our Five Principles of Engagement highlight the criteria we put into practice in every program.

We are here, of all ages and nationalities, to learn together about the Bible and its impact on the world.

Welcome to the Museum of the Bible Education Department!

Sincerely,

Sandra Lima Argo
Director of Education
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The Education Department’s Goals

Museum education is unique.

Expansive exhibits, artifacts, and programs provide limitless opportunities for enrichment. Additionally, working with international audiences challenges us to provide edifying opportunities for all ages and nationalities.

Museum of the Bible’s Education Department has two goals:

• Interpret and apply the mission of the museum through immersive and interactive experiences.

• Collaborate with our partners to create immersive, interactive, and transformative learning experiences that foster Bible engagement.

Engagement

The foundation of the programs and initiatives of the Museum of the Bible Education Department is based on the concept of engagement. Here is our definition:

Engagement is the ability to activate and captivate learners’ mental, physical, and emotional learning centers through programs that immerse people of all ages into the history and stories of the Bible, provide historic and present-day examples of its relevance, and motivate lifelong learning.
Principles of Engagement

The Education Department achieves maximum engagement with the Bible by layering five universal principles throughout our programs, and we utilize assessments to ensure their alignment to these five principles.

**Relevance:** Programs are tailored to specific audiences, targeting their interests and shared experiences. Learners interact with material that relates to their daily lives while also understanding it within a broader context: global impact.

**Contextual Learning:** Programs support interactive discussions and hands-on activities that develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

**Transformative Understanding:** Programs expose learners to life experiences, cultural norms, and perspectives different from their own. Interaction with other worldviews ignites new concepts and understanding to support academic and social development.

**Lifelong Learning:** Programs enhance individual curiosity and motivation to learn. Participants are encouraged to continue learning and enhancing their knowledge about the subjects presented.

**Dialogue:** Programs promote interaction with learners rather than lecture-style learning. Conversations between educators and learners allow for active participation in the learning experience.
Education Department Areas

The Education Department is divided into four areas:

• School and Family Programs
• Living History Interpreters (LHIs)
• Public Programs
• Museum Tours

Throughout this brochure, you will learn more about each area.
School and Family Programs

Active learning is a globally practiced methodology shown to increase learned knowledge and understanding when compared to a standard lecture model. By focusing on student-centered engagement, learners participate in and guide their own learning. Museum of the Bible’s Education Department offers a unique approach to active learning by promoting activities that also take Gardner’s Theory of Multiple Intelligence into account (Gardner, 2011). This multifaceted approach reinforces learned knowledge, skills, and understanding within our programs.

Museum of the Bible’s Education Department also adds fun to active learning. Through our primary offerings, learners enjoy engaging in active learning, which increases their retention of the focused content.

- **Online and on-site programs take a kinesthetic approach to learning. Learners are challenged to collaborate and use critical thinking skills as they navigate museum exhibits and experiences.**

- **Synchronous digital tours provide a personalized, student-led approach to the museum’s exhibitions. Learners’ questions and areas of interest help to direct the tour guide through exhibits in one of three areas: history of the Bible, stories of the Bible, impact of the Bible.**

- **Living history interpreters are actors; a feature unique to our museum. They invite learners into immersive, face-to-face interactions with authentic characters from the world of the Bible or historical moments impacted by the Bible.**
Academic Outcomes for School Programs

The Museum of the Bible Education Department’s fun and immersive programs are developed based on national and global academic standards. We take time to understand the base knowledge of each group and challenge students by providing content that will:

Increase Learned Knowledge

Deliberate and focused efforts to support vocabulary development, understanding culture within a given context, timelines of historical events, technological advancements, and relevance to life are woven throughout our programs.

Increase Learned Skills

Witnessing and participating in role-play activities with our living history interpreters support the development and practice of empathy. Interactive dialogue and pre-program activities will teach students how to ask effective questions. Learners will be challenged to observe, analyze, infer, communicate, and problem solve to support the development of critical thinking.

Increase Key Understandings

Learners are presented with three overarching understandings to motivate them to continue to engage with the Bible beyond their museum experience: the Bible is an important book for all people, the Bible is an important book for my community, and the Bible is relevant to my life.

PRE-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

POST-PROGRAM RESOURCES

LIVE PROGRAM

We value excellence. In order to enhance the learning experience and to assure each group the most robust program, we consistently provide three “touchpoints” for learning. Aside from the program itself, pre- and post-program resources are provided.
School Program Approach

What primary skill can all learners develop that will help them to succeed academically, interpersonally, and intrapersonally while also aligning with Museum of the Bible’s Education Department methodology and Principles of Engagement (pages 8,11)?

The Ability to Ask Effective Questions!

Museum of the Bible Education Department programs are developed and refined by asking questions. Living history interpreters at the museum develop their characters through the art of questioning. Museum of the Bible’s global partnerships, which include researchers, biblical scholars, and archaeologists, have an acute understanding of question asking; their work is a result of this activity.

The museum’s K–12 program activities will prepare learners to participate in museum programs, school classrooms, and in life by helping them to build a habit of asking effective questions.

The Challenge with Questions


Questioning is an outward demonstration of curiosity. Therefore, learner insecurity and fear can serve as a barrier to developing curiosity. If a learner is afraid to ask questions, they will refrain and their curiosity will diminish over time. Alternatively, if learners build a habit of effective question asking, they will feed and grow their curiosity.

A Museum Is a Place of Curiosity!
Pre-Program Activities

To prepare participants for our programs, we encourage formulating effective questions and stimulating curiosity.

Providing pre-program activities that support effective questioning will ease learner anxiety and enhance learner engagement with unfamiliar instructors, methods, and materials during Museum of the Bible’s immersive educational programs. In addition, the activities and outcomes will contribute to greater success in the classroom and life.

Pre-program activities will be provided to educators following program registration. The resources can be accessed and downloaded for your students. The following description highlights potential focus for K–12 students.

Elementary, Middle, and High School Focus

Role-play activities will support empathy development as learners put themselves in the position of a journalist, researcher, or living history interpreter. Critical thinking skills will be exercised as learners work together to develop effective questions for one another.

Learners will be challenged to identify different parts of a question, different types of questions, and/or the relationship between questions and answers.

Engaging with Museum of the Bible Education Department pre-program materials will familiarize learners with the content and give young learners opportunities to practice asking questions, thereby increasing learner confidence, engagement, and understanding during the live program.
Living History Interpreters

Living history interpreters (LHIs) invite guests into immersive, face-to-face interactions with authentic characters from the world of the Bible or historical moments impacted by the Bible.

The LHIs educate guests by bringing to life the settings, stories, and history of the Bible through immersive experiences that inspire fresh interest in biblical engagement.

Living History Interpreters in the Museum

The World of Jesus of Nazareth

The World of Jesus of Nazareth is a self-guided exhibit where guests walk the streets of Nazareth, talk with villagers, and learn how daily life relates to scripture and Jesus’s teachings. Our LHIs bring to life the cultural and social dynamics of this Galilean village through live conversation that captures the opinions, trials, and successes of first-century Nazarenes.

The Gutenberg Press

The Gutenberg Press on Floor 2 is a life-size exhibit with a replica of what historians believe Gutenberg’s original fifteenth-century printing press looked like. LHIs offer live demonstrations of the fully functional press; provide insight into Gutenberg’s history; explain in detail the mechanisms and materials Gutenberg utilized to operate his press; and explore the impact of his work. Guests may even get to participate in “das Werk der Bücher” (“the work of the books” — Gutenberg’s description of his work) and walk away with a piece of history.

Other Activities

LHIs host regular workshops, presentations, storytelling, and interactive talks throughout the year. These programs bring history to life by allowing guests not just to hear or read about people in the past, but to identify with historical people through dialogue and participation in their work or activities. Programs include:

- Scribe vs. Printer
- Illumination Workshops
- First-Century Food
- Scribing through the Ages Interactive Tour
- And more!
Seasonal

LHIs offer special presentations during Jewish and Christian holidays, as well as for historical moments impacted by the Bible. Join us to learn more about each of these special times of the year!

March — Purim
April — Passover
April — Easter
April — DC Emancipation Day
June — Shavu’ot
June — Pentecost
July — Scribe Week
September — Rosh Hashanah/Feast of Trumpets
October — Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement
October — Sukkot
December — Hanukkah
December — Christmas
Museum Tours

Guided tours at Museum of the Bible are educational, engaging, interactive, and immersive experiences in which guests explore the history, stories, and impact of the Bible. Our tours take visitors on a journey through our galleries and artifacts, the World of Jesus of Nazareth, and other museum spaces.

Museum of the Bible Highlights

This tour will introduce you to the permanent galleries and their rich collection of artifacts, attractions, and highlights to better guide your experience at Museum of the Bible. This tour is offered daily.

Explores Most Floors

Virtual Docent Engagement

Talk to a docent virtually. Our docents are here to help guests engage with a specific artifact or exhibit in the museum, answering questions that go beyond the information presented.

Floor 4 by the Dead Sea Scrolls

The World of Jesus of Nazareth

Step into the village of Nazareth during the first century AD. Meet the villagers and learn about their economy, culture, daily life, and religious practices.

Explores Floor 3

Visit museumoftheBible.org/museum-tours to book your tour.
Public Programs

Public programs are designed for adults to awaken or extend their interest in the Bible and for communities to develop synergistic dialogue and initiatives around the significance of the Bible. Our programs offer a variety of opportunities for the public to engage with the Bible.

Current Programs:

• **Speaker Series** — Throughout the year, we host large events featuring prominent speakers and scholars. The topics relate to our permanent and special exhibits, and include programs such as book launches, film screenings, and lectures.

• **Lunch and Learn** — This program, held on the last Wednesday of every month, offers our guests an opportunity to dialogue with expert scholars, curators, and museum educators about unique experiences and topics within or related to the museum.

• **Museum Podcast** — Curious about new archaeological discoveries? Fascinated about the Bible’s impact on different cultures? Tune in using your favorite platform and listen to museum staff, guest speakers, and scholars as they discuss a variety of topics relating to the history and impact of the Bible.

• **Did You Know?** — Join our curators, registrars, and educators every Friday as they host a discussion in the Demo Lab on the History Floor where they highlight artifacts in our collections and different facets of museum life.

• **Conferences** — We host a series of annual conferences, including higher education conferences, through partnerships with the Religious Freedom Institute and Scholarship and Christianity in Oxford, designed to enrich every guest’s understanding of a particular area of biblical scholarship while emphasizing the development of young professionals in higher education.

• **Cultural Celebrations** — We regularly welcome diverse communities from the area to celebrate their culture and the Bible’s impact on their communities. Each cultural celebration consists of special presentations by scholars, delicious cultural cuisine, artistic presentations, and work from local artisans.

Check our website to see our latest programs.
Education Programs

Life in First-Century Nazareth
Experience the village of Nazareth during the time of Jesus. Meet the villagers and learn about their economy, culture, daily life, and religious practices. This program includes a tour of the World of Jesus of Nazareth exhibit with our LHIs. Students are invited to participate in real time with Q&A as they interact with the villagers.

Revolutionary Words: The Gutenberg Press
During this interactive presentation about the Gutenberg press, learners will experience an unusual interruption by a special guest. This is a contextual learning opportunity to compare the reproduction of reading materials in the fifteenth century to today.

Ancient Art of the Torah Scribe
Learners will interact with a rabbi and explore the ancient art of writing a Hebrew Torah scroll with a master scribe. There will be an opportunity to examine artifacts and materials related to scribal traditions. The learner will be able to practice Hebrew calligraphy.
Archaeology and the Bible

Explore the work of archaeologists who have uncovered remnants of ancient Israel. Discover what archaeology reveals about Jewish culture and neighboring cities during biblical times and its contribution to understanding that period. This program ends with a review of the artifacts in the exhibit, *The People of the Land: History and Archaeology of Ancient Israel*, our long-term gallery from the Israel Antiquities Authority.

If I Had a Hammer

A hammer is not the only tool Martin Luther used to spark the Protestant Reformation! Learners will choose three to four “tools” out of six to assess their influence on the Protestant Reformation. Following this assessment, they will consider how the absence of any of Luther’s “tools” could have redirected the outcome.

Material Culture and the Hebrew Bible

Learners are given tools to engage with material culture from the biblical period to better understand the biblical text. By juxtaposing artifacts from the exhibit *The People of the Land: History and Archaeology of Ancient Israel* and challenging biblical verses, we are able to show students how archaeological remains allow us to better understand the text. This program is for Jewish schools.

Religious Freedom and the Founding of America

Examine the story of religious freedom in America, from colonial settlement through the passing of the US Constitution. Explore topics related to religious tolerance and pluralism to understand the origins of religious freedom in the United States. Small group activities encourage contextual understanding of the events at the founding of the nation.
Latin Vulgate

This is an opportunity to dust off your Latin skills. Join our curator in this interactive program that starts off completely in Latin. Then, explore the use of Latin from the late fourth century until it becomes the standard language of the Bible in Europe in the thirteenth century.

Magna Carta

Tyranny, justice, and freedom looked very different in the early thirteenth century. Join us as we look at the role the Bible and the English church played in the struggle to bring King John’s injustices to light and to recognize the limits of power and the rights of individuals. This interactive program also takes us to the Americas in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries during the struggle against British rule.

Mystery & Faith: The Shroud of Turin

This interactive, curator-led program explores the complex history behind the enduring mystery of the Shroud of Turin. Students will have the opportunity to examine an artifact that has significance to people and cultures around the world. Regardless of whether it is a historical artifact or a medieval act of devotion, learners will see how the cloth is a mirror of the Gospels.

History of the Jewish People Tour

This tour explores the history of the Jewish people through the lens of the Bible and artifacts in The People of the Land exhibit and the museum’s History of the Bible Floor. It begins with the early history of the Jewish people, their settlement in the land of Israel, and their growth and development. Then it explores the history of the Jewish people through their relationship to and interpretation of the Bible. The Jewish diaspora is also surveyed, in which both the vibrant life Jews have made the world over, as well as the struggles and persecution they have faced, are discussed. The tour concludes by looking at modern Jewish life and communities.
Ongoing Activities

**Education Station**
The Education Station, found in the atrium on Floor 4, provides an opportunity for tactile-kinesthetic learning. A variety of activities reinforce what learners have experienced or will experience throughout the museum. Activities include, but are not limited to, creating stained glass windows, illuminations, and bookmarks with their name in Hebrew.

**Scavenger Hunts**
Guests can explore the museum in a fun and interactive way. They will find answers to questions as they navigate the museum. Stop at the Museum Shop with your completed hunt for a small gift!

**Museum of the Bible Torah Scribe**
Guests may interact with a rabbi and learn more about the sacred work of a Torah scribe. Observe a master scribe as he practices the ancient art of making a copy of a Hebrew Torah scroll.
Archaeology Station

Become an archaeologist at our Archaeology Station! Guests will have the opportunity to interact with an LHI and learn the processes used by archaeologists to connect the Bible to history and modern times.

Creative Workshops

Throughout the year, we host creative workshops in which our guests have the opportunity to create their own masterpieces. Our workshops highlight things such as illuminated manuscripts, Nativity scene contests, making first-century oil lamps out of molding clay, crafting Christmas ornaments, and many more activities.

Storytime

Join us for an interactive and participatory story time during which stories from the Bible, or books about the Bible, come to life! Guests of all ages will experience readings from books such as the Jesus Storybook Bible, One Small Donkey, A Prayer for Our Country, The Wordless Weaver, and more. Most are available for purchase in the Museum Shop afterward! LHIs, educators, and special guest authors host these programs throughout the year in various locations in the museum.
Special Programs

Sleepovers at Museum of the Bible
Spend a private evening in the museum with your school or church group. Programming is personally designed for each group and may include interactions with LHIs, private tours, hands-on activities, and more. Special moments are created during this overnight stay.

Homeschool Day
A special day at the museum just for homeschool families. Activities are tailored to homeschool groups and their unique interests. Past activities have included interacting with LHIs in a variety of roles, participation in role-play activities, hands-on crafts, special hands-on workshops, curator talks and tours, and special tours of the museum.

Scribe Week
Join Museum of the Bible for a week of activities, crafts, demonstrations, dramatic presentations, and immersive tours that all revolve around the scribal art, past and present. Learn how the Bible has been preserved and transmitted through time by taking part in hands-on activities and interacting with scribes from ancient Mesopotamia to Renaissance Germany, portrayed by LHIs. Scribe Week features programs related to our working replica of Gutenberg’s printing press.
Teacher Professional Development

Learn with Our Curators and Specialists

Educators will be introduced to programs at the museum that can be incorporated into their curricula. They will have the opportunity to experience how to intertwine curriculum with the museum experience. Using our framework for program development, educators will be encouraged to create museum activities.
Museum of the Bible Curriculum

Student Textbook (4 Volumes) and Accompanying Teacher’s Guide

Museum of the Bible Curriculum provides an innovative way to engage students with the Bible. The descriptive approach in the four-volume set encompasses major narratives from Genesis to Revelation. Lessons on the history of the Bible help students comprehend its fascinating past. Impact lessons introduce the Bible’s considerable influence over the centuries. Using unique interactive technology, engaged students move beyond the page for a more meaningful learning experience.

Visit museumoftheBible.org/curriculum to learn more.
Join Our Team!

We offer internships and volunteer opportunities for anyone who is interested in museum education.

For volunteer opportunities, learn more at https://www.museumoftheBible.org/volunteer-service-areas.

For careers, learn more at https://www.museumoftheBible.org/careers.
Thank You
Letter from the Chief Curatorial Officer

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about what Museum of the Bible has to offer. We are excited about our growing number of opportunities and resources for teachers and students that focus on the Bible. Our programs are accessible to those who visit our museum in Washington, DC, and virtually to classrooms around the world. We are grateful for the wonderful response and hope we can be a resource for you.

We invite you to further your engagement with Museum of the Bible through our on-site school programs, tours, and virtual classrooms. Additionally, we offer numerous free digital resources on our website.

The energy found within the exhibitions and attractions at Museum of the Bible is unmatched. Please visit us to deepen your understanding and knowledge about the history, stories, and impact of the Bible.

Our innovative, global, and educational institution is eager to serve you and your students.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Kloha, PhD
Chief Curatorial Officer
Museum of the Bible
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