Throughout the ages, the Bible has inspired poets, musicians, artists, and seers. From Genesis to the Apocalypse, the Book is crammed with people, places, stories, poetry, and wisdom. This collection of Hebrew and Christian Literature has served as the basis for some of the most enduring art, the most remembered melodies, the most famous literature, and the best epic films.

If, in our growing up, we missed the stories of the Bible, when we come to the classic authors of Western Literature, we can feel lost. We hear arguments about the Ten Commandments being ordered off the courtroom walls, and we wonder what it’s all about. When we attend a classical choral concert at the university and everyone stands for the “Hallelujah Chorus,” we wonder why. And when we take an art appreciation class and meet with the Pieta, we are puzzled.

The Bible as Literature is a course designed to do at least two things:

1. Introduce students to the Bible’s literary content. A book does not inspire or inform other literature without having literary content itself. The Bible contains several genre: narratives of various sorts, history, poetry, letters, visionary literature. We will be looking at each type and studying how several genre can weave in and out of the same section. We will become acquainted with the Bible’s characters and settings and even some of their modern-day counterparts.

2. Connect the Bible’s content to art, literature, music, and law throughout the millennia. Throughout the course, we will relate Biblical stories, poems, etc., to the art and music of Western Civilization. This will be part of the class content, and students will be able to explore more of those connections in their own interest areas.

Texts:

*The Bible*– New International Version is preferred, but students can generally use whatever translations they have.


To get prepared:
See: Veggie Tales *Dave and the Giant Pickle*  
*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.*