



TERM 1
Spirituality & Scripture
September - December 2026

Instructor: Dr. Richard Hovey
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Retreat Dates/Location:
October 22-25, 2026 on Deer Island, NB

Note: For our Retreat Weekend arrival is on Thursday evening (October 22) for a time of welcome, settling in and an opening devotion time together. We will end our retreat time with lunch on Sunday (October 25).

Course Description: Scripture is not simply a history book to be studied, nor for that matter a book simply about theology. It is a book about people sought by God and their response; it is a book about spirituality. In this first course, participants are encouraged to approach scripture through this lens, while maintaining the importance of proper interpretation. Core outcomes include learning to apprehend God in scripture and to read scripture for formation (not just information).

Objectives:

- To enable the participant to read scripture with both an eye to detail for proper interpretation as well as an eye to the transformative account which scripture gives of the God who desires a people for Himself.
- To encourage participants in their reading of Scripture to identify and understand the grand story (metanarrative) within the text.
- To enrich the participants' own personal ability to approach the Scriptures in a way that will draw them closer to the God of Scripture.

Course Texts (in reading order):

Life with God: reading the Bible for spiritual transformation by Richard Foster

Eat this Book: a conversation in the art of spiritual reading by Eugene Peterson

Living Jesus: learning the heart of the gospel by Luke Timothy Johnson

The Fire of the Word: meeting God on holy ground by Chris Webb

Assignments:

- In a short paper, outline your personal engagement with Scripture reading. How do you read Scripture and why? (750 words). Due: October 22 2026.
- Using the course readings, write a reflective essay on the reading of Scripture for spiritual benefit. How has your practice of reading Scripture been challenged and/or confirmed? (1500 words). Due: January 9 2027.
- Pick a passage of Scripture on which to write a reflective paper using the thoughts you've gleaned from this course. (750 words). Due: January 9 2027.

Devotional Reading/Small Group Involvement:

Another element of 'Consumed' is having an active devotional life which finds expression in community. Throughout the program participants will be encouraged to work through the Renovaré Spiritual Formation Guides as well as *Spiritual Classics* and *Devotional Classics*. There are four books in the Spiritual Formation Guides: *Learning from Jesus*, *Connecting with God*, *Prayer and Worship*, and *Living the Mission*. Over the duration of year one in Consumed, students will work through the first two of these books, meeting weekly with a small group via Zoom to discuss and encourage one another in the devotional material as well as the course texts.

Devotional Reading Year 1:

- *Learning from Jesus* - Fall 2026
- *Connecting with God* - Winter 2027

