

High School Bible Summer Reading Instructions

On This Day in Christian History

(365 Amazing and Inspiring Stories about Saints, Martyrs, and Heroes)

Report and Chapel Presentation Option

2026-2027 Theme: A Champion Shines! | Matthew 5:16

Required Text and Purchase Link: On This Day in Christian History: 365 Amazing and Inspiring Stories about Saints, Martyrs, and Heroes by Robert J. Morgan

Amazon purchase link: <https://www.amazon.com/This-Day-Christian-History-Inspiring/dp/0785231897>

Purpose of the Summer Reading Assignment

This summer reading assignment is designed to help high school students connect Christian history, personal faith, biblical reflection, and practical application as we prepare for the 2026-2027 school theme **A Champion Shines!**

Students will read about men and women throughout Christian history who followed Christ with courage, sacrifice, perseverance, humility, conviction, and faithfulness. As you read, consider how God used ordinary people to shine for Christ in their generation and how He may be calling you to shine today.

Grade-Level Reading Assignments

Grade Level	Assigned Month	Bible Teacher / Lead
9th Grade / Freshmen	May	Rodriguez
10th Grade / Sophomores	June	Jean-Pierre
11th Grade / Juniors	July	Barr
12th Grade / Seniors	August	Miller

Assignment Overview

Students will read the **Entire Assigned Month** and **Select Five Christian Figures from that Month**. For each figure, students will write a report reflection using the four required sections below.

1. **Historical Understanding** - Explain what was happening in this person's life, culture, or time period. Include the setting, challenge, conflict, or historical moment connected to the story.
2. **Faith and Character** - Describe how this person demonstrated Christian faith and character, such as courage, perseverance, sacrifice, humility, justice, leadership, obedience, or faithfulness.
3. **Biblical Connection** - Choose one Bible verse or passage that connects to this person's choices, convictions, witness, or example. Explain why the Scripture fits the story.
4. **Personal Application** - Explain how this person's example challenges you to shine for Christ at school, at home, at church, with friends, or in your community.

Due Dates

Submission	Due Date	Requirement
First Submission	July 31	Submit reflections for your first three figures on TEAMS.
Final Submission	August 31	Submit reflections for your final two figures on TEAMS. By this date, all five reflections should be complete.

Suggested Length

Grade Level	Suggested Length Per Figure
Freshmen / Sophomores	300-400 words per figure
Juniors / Seniors	400-500 words per figure

Required Report Format

Use the format below for each of your five selected Christian figures. Each response should be written in paragraph form and should include specific details from the reading.

Section	Student Response Guide
Name of Christian Figure:	_____
Date / Reading Entry:	_____
Assigned Month:	_____
Historical Understanding:	What was happening in this person's life, culture, or time period?
Faith and Character:	How did this person demonstrate Christian faith and character?
Biblical Connection:	What Bible verse or passage connects to this person's choices, convictions, or witness? Explain why.
Personal Application:	How does this person's example challenge you to shine for Christ today?

Guiding Reflection Questions

- How did this person shine for Christ?
- What challenge, conflict, or sacrifice did this person face?
- What did their faith cost them?
- How did their choices reflect courage, humility, perseverance, obedience, justice, or leadership?
- What Scripture connects to their story?
- What can I learn from their example?
- Where is God calling me to shine this year?

Writing Expectations

- Assignments must be typed and use MLA formatting for heading, font, spacing, margins, etc.
- Write in complete sentences and organized paragraphs.
- Use your own words and avoid copying from the book or online sources. No AI may be used.
- Include specific details from the reading for each figure.
- Include at least one Scripture connection for each figure.
- Explain the Scripture connection clearly rather than simply listing a verse.
- Move beyond summary by including thoughtful personal reflection and application.
- Proofread for grammar, spelling, clarity, and neat formatting.
- Submit your work by the assigned due dates and follow your Bible teacher's submission instructions.

Report Rubric - 100 Points

Each student report will be evaluated using the criteria below. Teachers may adjust point values as needed for their class.

Criteria	Excellent	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	Points
Historical Understanding	Accurately explains the person's life, setting, and historical context with clear details from the reading.	Explains the basic setting and includes some relevant details from the reading.	Provides little context, includes vague details, or shows limited understanding.	20
Faith and Character	Clearly explains how the figure demonstrated Christian faith, courage, sacrifice, perseverance, humility, justice, leadership, or obedience.	Identifies at least one faith or character quality and gives some explanation.	Mentions faith or character in a general way with little explanation.	20
Biblical Connection	Selects a fitting Scripture and clearly explains how it connects to the figure's choices, convictions, or witness.	Includes a Scripture and gives a basic connection to the figure's story.	Scripture is missing, unclear, or weakly connected to the figure.	20
Personal Application	Thoughtfully explains how the figure's example challenges the student to shine for Christ in practical ways today.	Includes a personal application that is understandable but could be more specific.	Application is vague, missing, or not connected to the figure's example.	20
Writing Quality and Completion	All five reflections are complete, organized, proofread, and meet the suggested length.	Most requirements are complete with generally clear writing and minor errors.	Reflections are incomplete, too short, disorganized, or contain frequent errors.	20

Chapel Presentation Additional Optional Assignment

During the month of October, selected high school students may have the opportunity to present during chapel on one historical Christian figure from their summer reading. This option is intended to help the student body see how Christians throughout history have lived out the theme **A Champion Shines!**

Each presentation should be approximately 10 minutes and should teach, inspire, and challenge TCS students to consider how they can shine for Christ today.

Presentation Expectations

1. Introduce the historical Christian figure and explain why this person was selected.
2. Explain the challenge, conflict, sacrifice, or important moment this person faced.
3. Describe how the person demonstrated faith, courage, justice, perseverance, sacrifice, humility, obedience, or leadership.
4. Connect the person's story to a Bible verse or passage.
5. Explain how this person's life reflects the theme Champions, Shine!
6. Challenge TCS students to consider how they can shine for Christ today.

Creative Elements May Include

- Historical attire or simple costume pieces
- Visual slides or images
- A short dramatic monologue
- Artifacts, symbols, maps, or timeline visuals connected to the figure
- A Scripture connection displayed or read aloud
- A modern-day application for TCS students

Possible Incentives

- Dress-down day
- Approved Bible extra credit
- Approved History extra credit
- Chapel leadership recognition
- House points

Chapel Presentation Rubric - 100 Points

Criteria	Excellent	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	Points
Content Accuracy and Understanding	Clearly explains the figure's life, historical moment, and significance with accurate details.	Explains the basic story with mostly accurate details.	Provides limited, confusing, or inaccurate information.	20
Faith and Theme Connection	Strongly connects the figure's life to Christian faith and the theme Champions, Shine!	Makes a clear but general connection to faith and theme.	Connection to faith or theme is weak, unclear, or missing.	20
Scripture Connection	Uses a fitting Scripture and explains how it connects to the figure's life and message.	Includes Scripture with a basic explanation.	Scripture is missing, unclear, or not well connected.	15
Modern-Day Application	Gives a thoughtful and practical challenge for TCS students today.	Gives a basic application that students can understand.	Application is vague, missing, or not relevant to students.	15
Presentation Skills	Speaks clearly, maintains appropriate pace, shows confidence, and engages the audience.	Generally clear and prepared with some audience engagement.	Difficult to hear, rushed, unprepared, or limited engagement.	15
Creative Elements and Visual Support	Uses creative elements or visuals effectively to strengthen the message.	Uses at least one visual or creative element that supports the presentation.	Creative element is missing, distracting, or not connected to the message.	10
Time and Organization	Presentation is well organized and stays close to the 10-minute expectation.	Presentation is organized but may be slightly short or long.	Presentation is disorganized or far outside the time expectation.	5

Final Encouragement

Christian history is filled with ordinary people who trusted an extraordinary God. Some were pastors, missionaries, writers, reformers, martyrs, servants, leaders, and faithful believers whose names may not be well known today. Yet their lives remind us that faith is not meant to be hidden.

As you read this summer, ask God to show you how He is calling you to shine in the present. May we enter the 2026-2027 school year ready to reflect Christ in our attitudes, choices, relationships, service, and leadership.

A Champion Shines!