



Biblia Sacra: A Self-Study Latin Course Based on the Bible

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Increasing numbers of families nationwide recognize the numerous benefits of studying Latin. Homeschooled children in particular have the luxury of taking on the language as a self-paced non-competitive endeavor. While there are a few home-study Latin programs available to us homeschoolers, none, (that I know of) is based entirely on the Bible. This program is particularly suited to homeschoolers who appreciate Christ-centered materials and who would like to study Latin within the context of the Bible.

Biblia Sacra is based on the 4th century Latin version made by the great scholar Jerome, which is known as the Vulgate Bible. From the beginning, students learn Latin from original passages. In the early stages the emphasis is not on structure or grammar, but on vocabulary and immediate understanding of phrases and short sentences. Latin grammar is introduced slowly and gradually as the lessons progress.

There will be several parts to the total *Biblia Sacra*. The first part, which is now

complete, includes four cassettes and a Student Workbook. The lessons are drawn from the New Testament Gospels. The tapes provide vocabulary drill and discuss various aspects of the language. In addition, they include in Latin, the Bible passage under study. The tapes are teacher-student interactive, and are designed to be personable as well as educational. Moreover, they are enhanced by beautiful classical music flowing in the background. Unlike most serious language tapes, which tend to be dry and repetitive, these are actually a pleasure to listen to and work with.

The accompanying Student Workbook is clearly coordinated with the tapes. Each lesson provides practice in writing and translating and in vocabulary drill (a variety of ways), and also gives the Latin text of each Bible verse under consideration, so that students can follow along with the tape. The Student Workbook also includes enrichment activities, English derivations, interim practice and review pages, a Latin dictionary, and an answer key to the exercises and more.