

Short Assignment 4—Help a Pet-Owner Using a Bible Dictionary & Reputable Website

Due: Mon Nov 13 at 11 pm CST

Word Limit: 300 words

1. Use the following Bible dictionary. It's available online through our library.

Sakenfeld, Katherine Doob, editor. *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*.
Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2006.

In your email, be sure to refer to the author of the entry you use, even if it's just to mention the author's name (e.g., "Based on a dictionary entry I read by Oded Borowski...").

2. Use a reputable website. That can be hard to find when it comes to biblical studies! Nothing is free from bias. But here are three that can be helpful (at times). Each has a search window where you can look for a topic like "dog."
 - a. <https://bibleodyssey.com/>
 - b. <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/> Note: some of this material is blocked behind a paywall. I don't expect students to pay any money to use this source.
 - c. <https://www.sots.ac.uk/wiki/>

Note: These websites can be hit-or-miss. So, don't expect each of these websites to help with every project. You may need to do some digging. An article with a title or subtitle like "Dogs in the Bible" will lead you to a good source. In your email, you don't need a full citation, but you should say something like, "I found a helpful website (www.NameOfWebsite.org). It says..."

3. Reply to this email:

Dear Pastor (or Chaplain/Minister/Friend—however you like to be addressed),

As you know, I've always loved dogs. My shih-tzu (whom I affectionately call "Fluffikan Baby") is one of the greatest joys in my life. But today, as part of my devotions, I was reading Psalm 22. In 22:16, dogs seem to be likened to evildoers. And then in 22:20, dogs are associated with a sword—which I know was used to kill people in the Bible. This puzzles me. Why is the Bible talking about dogs in such awful terms? Didn't they have dogs as pets back then?

Thanks,
Brenda

4. Submit your email response of less than **300 words** by Mon Nov 13 at 11 pm CST.

Here is the grading rubric that will be used to grade these assignments:

Rubric	POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS SCORED
Does the answer do justice to the complexities of the issues involved?	0-20	
Is the answer clear in all of its parts? Is it free of typos that distract from the content?	0-20	
Does the answer draw on one of the assigned commentaries, fairly summarizing and acknowledging the author?	0-20	
Is the answer pastorally sensitive, respecting the person asking the question? Does the answer avoid doing harm? Is it 300 words or less?	0-20	
Does the answer make sense, especially when read alongside the Bible?	0-20	