

IMPLEMENTING GOD'S WORD...

YEAR ONE | SPRING QUARTER
BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW
BASICS 3

SSY01SP

SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH





IMPLEMENTING GOD'S WORD...

YEAR ONE | SPRING QUARTER
BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW
BASICS 3

SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from
The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®)
Copyright © 2001 by Crossway,
a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.
All rights reserved.
ESV Text Edition: 2007

Copyright © 2013 by One Story Ministries
Printed in the United States of America



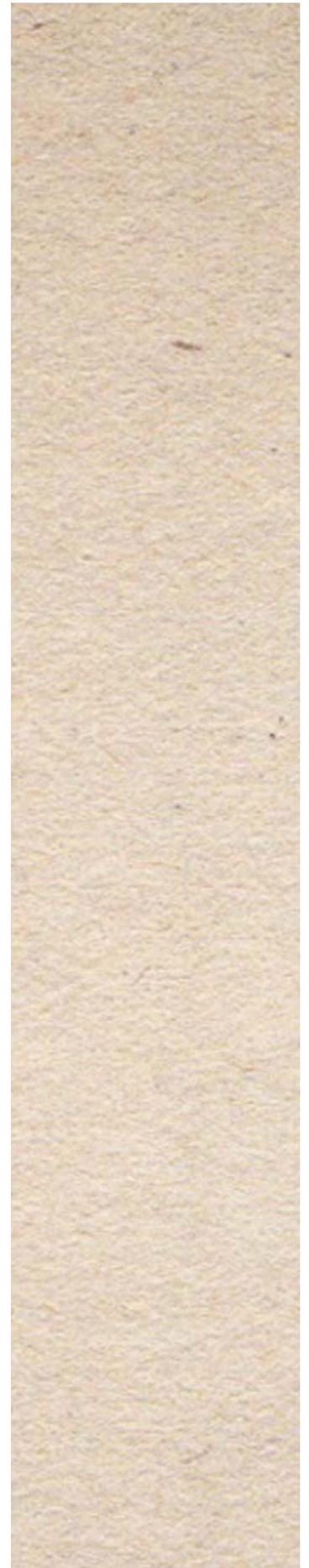
750 S. Pear Orchard Road | Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-519-8423 | www.onestoryministries.org | info@onestoryministries.org

LESSON SEQUENCE

SPRING QUARTER

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter. The central goal of the ***Implementing God's Word...*** curriculum is to equip youth to put the truths of Scripture together in their minds and to work in their hearts, by the help of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON ONE	God Chooses His People
LESSON TWO	God Calls His People
LESSON THREE	Christians are Born Again
LESSON FOUR	Christians Repent
LESSON FIVE	Right with God
LESSON SIX	Adopted by God
LESSON SEVEN	Growing in Grace
LESSON EIGHT	Freedom in Christ
LESSON NINE	Good Works from Faith
LESSON TEN	God Cleanses the Conscience
LESSON ELEVEN	The Sin of Idolatry
LESSON TWELVE	God Preserves His People
LESSON THIRTEEN	The Christian's Destiny



DEDICATED TO THE YOUTH MINISTRY OF
PEAR ORCHARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

LESSON ONE --- GOD CHOOSES HIS PEOPLE

OVERVIEW

The informal theme of the quarter's studies is "God's grace at work in the life of the believer." The necessary starting place for this aspect of a Biblical worldview is the doctrine of election. God chooses those whom He will save!

God has been choosing God from the very beginning. The whole history of mankind has displayed God's merciful work of election. God chose Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God made Israel His chosen nation. He cared for Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land, and from captivity back to Canaan. She was not chosen because of her greatness, but because of God's love for her.

Even Jesus lived out a choosing kind of life, choosing those who would be His closest followers. He knew that God actually chose ALL those who would be His disciples, through all of time.

The Apostle Paul beautifully fleshes out the doctrine of election in Romans as well as most of his other epistles. He combated the arguments of unfairness and control, putting on display the majesty and mercy of God. God does not have to choose anyone to love! What an amazing God we serve.

All those who come to Christ by faith are God's elect. He chose us from before the foundations of the world. We are called to make our calling and election sure!

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

You will probably have students who object to the doctrine of election or predestination. They won't like the idea of God choosing—especially in a world that so highly values choice and freedom! This is a great opportunity to train your children to make their arguments from Scripture rather than from their own opinions. Help them to implement God's Word instead of their thoughts. If they can see the sovereignty of God as taught in Scripture, they can certainly see how it is God who initiates, not us. Then, teach them to see election as mercy rather than some inequity. They must learn that no one actually deserves to be chosen. Only then will they give thanks for the electing love of God!

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Proverbs 12:1-2
2–3 mins.

DRILL TIME

Attributes of Jesus Christ
3–5 mins.

MIND-IN-TRAINING

The Mind's Chief
End
6–8 mins.

BIBLE

IMPLEMENTATION

Chosen by God
30 mins.

MIND-IN-ACTION

Make your election sure
3–5 mins.

THE WELCOME SERVES AS BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GREET YOUR STUDENTS AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM GET FOCUSED.

EACH WEEK, YOU WILL BEGIN WITH A PASSAGE FROM PROVERBS THAT WILL "CALL" THEM TO STUDY AND GROW IN WISDOM!

DRILL TIME GIVES YOUR YOUTH THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECALL AND REHEARSE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN THE PAST. THESE WILL BE QUESTIONS FROM A PREVIOUS LESSON OR FROM THE SCRIPTURES.



WELCOME

Greet the students. Welcome visitors. Open with prayer.

*As we begin our studies today, listen to God's Word. **Read Proverbs 12:1-2.***

¹ Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid. ² A good man obtains favor from the LORD, but a man of evil devices he condemns.

This wise saying is pretty straightforward, isn't it? Your intelligence is based on how much you love discipline and correction. So do you love knowledge or not?



DRILL TIME

Now, we will move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned from God's Word. Are you ready?

Today's question: *Just one question. Name some of the attributes of Jesus Christ we studied last quarter.*

Call on students to answer.

Answer:

Teacher
Perfect
Atoning Sacrifice
Resurrected
Ascended
In Session
Mediator
Redeemer

This quarter, we will continue to build our Biblical worldview by studying more about who God is and what He does for us. But first, we need to learn more about how we are to think...



MIND-IN-TRAINING

Say: As you know, each week in this class, we will take time to TRAIN our minds how to THINK. Learning to THINK can be one of the hardest things we ever do!

The first question of the Westminster Shorter Catechism goes like this: "What is the chief end of man?" Does anyone know the answer to that question? [Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.] So, what does "chief end" mean? **Allow answers.** A chief end is the "primary goal" or the main purpose of something. So every human being's main purpose in life is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever!

With that in mind, what do you think the CHIEF END of our MIND is? In other words, for what PURPOSE did God give you a MIND? **Allow answers.** So, that means the CHIEF END of our minds is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. He gives us the ability to think so we can think about Him and use our minds in His service.

Now this goes against what the world teaches us. The world says that our minds are our OWN. We can use it any way we wish. Our man-centered world also believes that man can achieve anything he wants with his mind. The mind doesn't have to be in service to God at all—because the world thinks that idea is actually "mindless." Those with good minds don't need any sort of religion or God.

Unfortunately, it is easy for us to fall into that thinking too. For example, how much do you think about God during a normal day (not on Sunday)? **Allow answers.** When you are in school, do you think about how what you are learning relates to God? Or, do you see your schoolwork as un-spiritual and having nothing to do with God? Hopefully, you have learned in this class that EVERYTHING has to do with God!

So give me some brief examples of how you can use your MIND to glorify God and ENJOY Him. **Allow answers.**

Christians should be the leading intellectuals and thinkers in the world. Only we know that God created our minds to serve Him. That is the mind's chief purpose. If you are only using your mind to serve yourself, your mind will never be what God has made it to be. It will be wasted!

THE MIND-IN-TRAINING SECTION IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOUR STUDENTS LEARN TO THINK.

THIS ELEMENT TEACHES A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE MIND AND USEFUL TOOLS TO ENGAGE YOUNG MINDS.



BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

THE BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION TIME IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE WEEK'S LESSON. IT TAKES ALL THE STUDENTS ALL THROUGH GOD'S WORD, SYSTEMATICALLY TYING IT TOGETHER TO BUILD A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW.

ALL SCRIPTURE TEXTS INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM IS FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV).

THE BIBLE READING IS TAKEN IN SHORT SECTIONS, SEPARATED BY TIMES OF DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND APPLICATION POINTS.

THIS FORMAT ALLOWS AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP, THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS WHAT IS BEING READ.

Introduction: *Last quarter, we learned more about who Christ is and what He has done for His people. The right understanding of Jesus is fundamental to our Biblical worldview. This quarter, we will learn more of how the grace of God works in our lives. Without His grace, we are only dead in our sins forever. We'll begin our studies in the Old Testament today.*

Turn to Deuteronomy 7. **Read Deuteronomy 7:6-8.**

⁶ "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Discussion: *How did Israel become God's loved people? [God CHOSE them.] Was there anything special about Israel that God would CHOOSE them? [No.] Actually, Israel was one of the smallest and least powerful nations on the earth. So tell me again why God CHOSE them to be His people? [He just chose to love Israel. He was following through with promises made to their forefathers.] And we know the rest of the story—Israel was delivered from Egypt because they were God's CHOSEN people.*

Now, let's go to John 10. **Read John 10:9.**

²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Discussion: *In the gospels, we read about how Jesus was sent into the world to save God's CHOSEN or ELECT ones. Here in the Gospel of John, Jesus actually repeatedly speaks about those He came to save. Who gave the ELECT to Jesus? [God did.] So just as God originally CHOSE Israel, He has CHOSEN those whom Christ came to save. Will all whom God has CHOSEN be saved? [Yes.] None will be snatched from the Father's hand!*

Now, turn to Romans 8. **Romans 8:28-29.**

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those



whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Discussion: *These words by the Apostle Paul are just amazing. They tell us of God's sovereignty and His love for His people. I want us to focus on the word "predestined." What does that mean? **Allow answers.** Paul uses the word here to describe how God CHOOSES His people. God CHOOSES those who will have a relationship with Jesus Christ.*

Look at the next verses. **Read verses 30-31.**

³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Discussion: *In the coming weeks, we will discuss the words "call" and "justified." What I want you to see here is that God first CHOOSES or PREDESTINES His people. Then, He brings them to Himself through Jesus Christ.*

Now let's go to Romans 9. **Read Romans 9:14-16.**

¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

Discussion: *The Apostle Paul continues his teaching on God's CHOOSING or what we call ELECTION. Some people say that it is unfair for God to CHOOSE some, but not others. Paul answers this accusation by saying, "No way!" God has ALWAYS said that He is the one who CHOOSES--Even way back in Moses' day. God's ELECTION shows that He has MERCY. He didn't have to CHOOSE any of us. So those who are CHOSEN by God enjoy His wonderful mercy.*

Let's read more of Paul's thinking. **Read verses 17-24.**

¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸ So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. ¹⁹ You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" ²⁰ But who are

THIS SIDEBAR FOUND ON ALL PAGES IS FOR THE TEACHER TO WRITE NOTES AS HE OR SHE PREPARES THE LESSON.

OTHER TEACHING TIPS OR IMPORTANT EXEGETICAL INFORMATION WILL ALSO APPEAR ON THE SIDEBAR FROM TIME TO TIME.



you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” ²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? ²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— ²⁴ even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

Discussion: *Do you get what Paul is saying? He uses the example of Pharaoh. Did God CHOOSE to save Pharaoh, or did He CHOOSE to save His people? [His people.] So God actually CHOSE to destroy Pharaoh to show others His own glory. Then Paul uses the example of clay in a potter’s hands. Some clay is made into beautiful works of art, others are not. Who CHOOSES: the clay or the potter? [The potter.] In the same way, God is the one who CHOOSES His people; it’s not the other way around.*

Let’s go to Ephesians 1 now. **Read Ephesians 1:3-6.**

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Discussion: *So when did God CHOOSE those whom He would save in Christ? [Before the foundation of the world.] Were you alive then? Was any person alive then? No! ALL who are saved were CHOSEN before the world began. Think about that!*

Look at the next few verses. **Read verses 7-12.**

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things



according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

Discussion: *We'll read these verses again in the weeks to come. I want you again to focus on HOW God CHOOSES. How does God choose whom He will save? [According to the counsel of His will.] In other words, God CHOOSES according to His good pleasure. He doesn't ask anyone's advice. He doesn't look to the future to see if you will one day believe in Him! God CHOOSES those whom He alone CHOOSES to CHOOSE! Wow!*

Now turn to II Timothy 1. **Read II Timothy 1:8-10.**

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

Discussion: *Writing from prison, the Apostle Paul again describes God's CHOOSING of His people. What does he say about it? **Allow answers.** This is the gospel—that God would CHOOSE to save sinners!*

Let's go to I Thessalonians 1. **Read I Thessalonians 1:2-5.**

² We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

Discussion: *Now, here's something very important. How did Paul KNOW that God had CHOSEN the Christians at Thessalonica? [Because they received the gospel, and the Holy Spirit came in power.] All who put their faith in Christ do it because God has CHOSEN them! We will talk more about that in the future.*

Let's end in II Peter 1. **Read II Peter 1:10.**

¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.





Conclusion: We end with Peter's words here. How do you think we can CONFIRM (or make sure) our ELECTION? **Allow answers.** The answer to that question will be developed over the next several lessons. The bottom line is that we can truly know that we have been CHOSEN by God when we see the fruit of our faith in Jesus Christ. More to come...



MIND-IN-ACTION

We will always end our time together with a MIND-IN-ACTION section. Often times, our minds are "Missing in Action!" It is vital you and I put what we learn from God's Word into action, so we are DOERS of the Word, and not hearers only.

So, here's my challenge to you as we close today:

Think about how MERCIFUL God is to CHOOSE to love people who don't deserve His love.

People who don't believe in the Biblical view of ELECTION often believe that people are somehow worthy of life with God. The way to understand God's CHOOSING love is to begin with the fact that NO ONE deserves to be CHOSEN. It is only by God's mercy and grace that He CHOOSES to save anyone!

Then, the second part of the challenge is:

Continue to make your ELECTION certain this week.

How do you know you are CHOSEN by God? We just answered that question. Grow in your faith in Jesus Christ, and thereby make your election sure. The more your mind is on Jesus, the more it's confirmed to your heart that God has CHOSEN you too!

Close in prayer.

THE MIND-IN-ACTION SECTION IS DESIGNED TO MOVE YOUR STUDENTS TO ACTION. AS THEIR MINDS GROW IN KNOWLEDGE, THEY ARE CHALLENGED TO GROW IN WISDOM. THEY WILL NEVER TRULY LEARN IF THEY DON'T PUT WHAT THEY HAVE STUDIED INTO PASSIONATE ACTION!