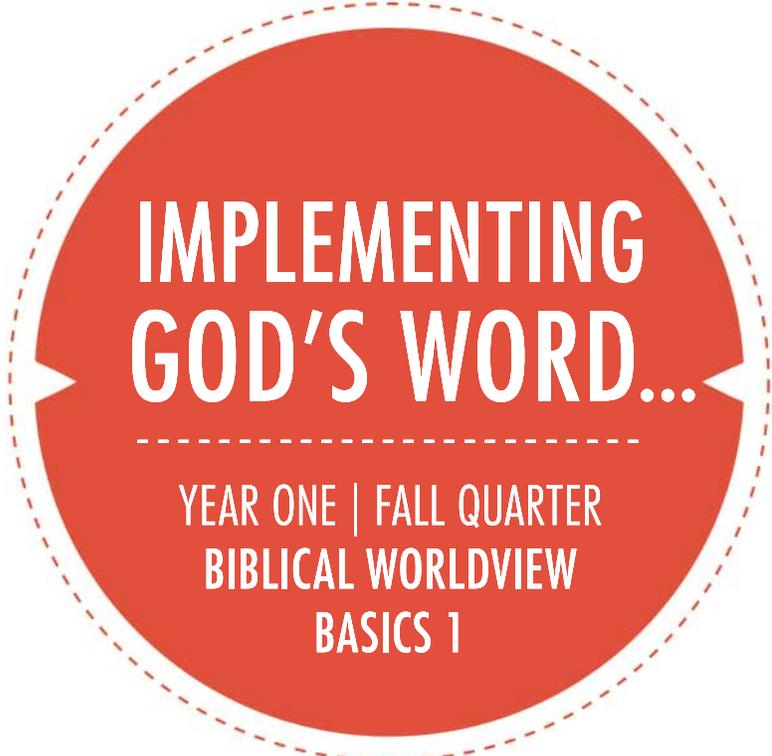


IMPLEMENTING GOD'S WORD...

YEAR ONE | FALL QUARTER
BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW
BASICS 1



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SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

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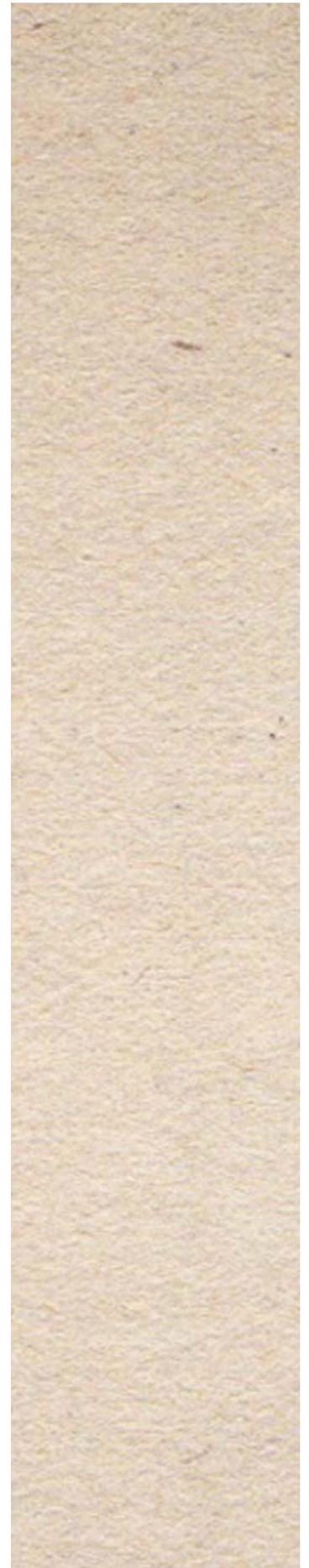
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LESSON SEQUENCE

FALL 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 Reveals Himself
LESSON TWO	Scripture is our Authority
LESSON THREE	God is the Creator
LESSON FOUR	God has Always Been
LESSON FIVE	God is Transcendent
LESSON SIX	God Knows all Things
LESSON SEVEN	God is Sovereign
LESSON EIGHT	God is All-Powerful
LESSON NINE	God is One and Three
LESSON TEN	God is Holy
LESSON ELEVEN	God is Love
LESSON TWELVE	To God Be the Glory
LESSON THIRTEEN	God Governs His World



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

LESSON ONE --- GOD REVEALS HIMSELF

OVERVIEW

In Romans 1, we read that God reveals His wrath against all the ungodly and the wicked. What can be known about God is made plain to all people. The problem is that non-Christians avoid and suppress the truth about God! Without Christ, our minds are darkened and continue to shut out God's revelation.

General Revelation is the truth that God shows Himself to all people throughout all history primarily through His mighty act of CREATION. This leaves humans without excuse—creation makes it clear that there is a Creator.

The other necessary form of revelation is called Special Revelation. God reveals Himself in a unique and special way to a particular people through His Word and in Jesus Christ. Scripture itself is God's Special Revelation to us, as it teaches us who God is, who we are, our need for salvation, and how salvation is in Christ alone. Without the revelation of Scripture and of Christ, we could not ultimately be reconciled to our Creator.

A right understanding of God begins with the fact that He must reveal Himself in order for us to understand and know Him. Praise God for His revelation in creation, Holy Scripture, and in Jesus Christ our Lord!

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

Our young people need to have their minds challenged. They need to be encouraged to use the brains God has given them. They need to learn how to think. As their teacher, do you recognize that this is quite a large mountain to climb? Too many of our youth spend much of their time trying to disengage their minds. Many of them are swallowed up by their own amusements and recreations. We live in a culture that is regularly "dumbing down" all of our educational endeavors. In the face of all that, you are called to teach youth how to implement God's Word into their lives. And I would suggest that, deep down, they are dying to be challenged to think. They want to be pushed rather than just entertained. They want to put their minds to use. Lead them in this glorious effort!

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Proverbs 1:7
2–3 mins.

DRILL TIME

The Bible
3–5 mins.

MIND-IN-TRAINING

Learning to Think
6–8 mins.

BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

God Reveals Himself
30 mins.

MIND-IN-ACTION

Gaze into the Word
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 1:7.***

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Where is the starting point for all knowledge and wisdom? [The fear of the LORD.] Only a love for God will give you a love for truth and for applying that truth!



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 questions: *How many books are there in the Bible? How many in the Old Testament? How many in the New Testament? Who wrote the Bible? How do we know the Bible is God's Word?*

Call on students to answer.

Answers:

1. 66 books.
2. 39.
3. 27.
4. Holy men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.
5. Because the Bible says it is!

That last question is a tough one! There are actually many reasons to believe the fact that the Bible is truly God's Word. Yet the truth is that you will only believe it is God's Word when God opens your heart and mind to that fact. We need God to give us new minds so that we can know the truth. And one of the first truths you need to believe is that God's Word is TRUTH!

That leads us to our next section...



MIND-IN-TRAINING

Say: *Each week in this class, we will take time to TRAIN our minds how to THINK.*

That may sound funny, but we actually do have to learn how to think how God wants us to think.

*So let me ask you a question: Why can we THINK in the first place? **Allow answers.** We can think because God has given us MINDS. And, we can think because we are made in the image of God—and God THINKS!*

*Imagine for a moment that you could not THINK. What else could you NOT do if you couldn't THINK? **Allow answers.** Without the ability to THINK we would not be able to make choices, or act wisely, or do much of anything else! Our minds are necessary to be able to understand and then actually DO something.*

*Now, why do you think we have to LEARN how to think correctly? **Brainstorm answers.** When sin entered the world, all human beings inherited sinful minds, not just sinful hearts. Our minds are prone to think wrong thoughts all the time. We don't naturally understand what we see around us rightly. Our minds want to please self rather than to please God.*

*So what happens to us if we do not learn to THINK? What are some of the consequences of NOT thinking? **Allow answers.***

In order to think the way God wants us to think, we must have our MINDS renewed and transformed. We must be changed. That only happens when the Holy Spirit works in us!

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: *Each week, we will focus on a particular Biblical truth that will help us develop a Biblical worldview. Who can tell me what a "worldview" is? **Allow answers.** A worldview is a way to understand the world around us. It is like a pair of glasses that helps us to see clearly. Everyone has a worldview, but not everyone has a Biblical worldview. A Biblical worldview is developed by learning and living God's Word!*

So let's begin by opening our Bibles to Romans 1:18.

Read Romans 1:18.

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Discussion: *What is REVEALED from heaven? [The wrath of God.] What does the word REVEALED mean? [To make known, to show, to display.] So, God makes known His righteous anger to all who are unrighteous. What do unrighteous people do? [They suppress the truth.] Suppressing the truth means avoiding it, denying it, or refusing to look at it! Ungodly people believe lies instead of the truth!*

*Look at the next verse. **Read verse 19.***

¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

Discussion: *Did you catch that? What we can know about God is clear and plain. Why is that? [Because God has shown it to us.] This is another way to say that God REVEALS Himself to us. He REVEALS what we can know about Him.*

*Now, verse 20. **Read verse 20.***

²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Discussion: *What has God REVEALED to all people since the very beginning? [His invisible attributes; his eternal power and divine nature.] Attributes are character qualities. God has shown us that He is ETERNAL, ALL-POWERFUL and DIVINE.*

Application: *This is what we call GENERAL REVELATION. God REVEALING Himself to all people of all time in nature and in the world around us. How does NATURE show us that there is a God who is all-powerful,*



eternal, and divine? **Allow brainstorming.** *It is truly impossible to look around you and not know there is a God, unless you are SUPPRESSING the truth!*

One more verse in Romans 1. **Read verse 21.**

²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Discussion: *Do you hear the connection to our MINDS? Since God REVEALS Himself to us, all people are to honor Him as God. If we do not, our sinful MINDS only become more useless and our sinful HEARTS become more darkened. God uses GENERAL REVELATION to show that He alone is to be worshipped!*

Now, turn in your Bible to Psalm 19. Listen to how the Psalmist describes GENERAL REVELATION.

Read Psalm 19:1.

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Discussion: *What do the heavens DECLARE? [The glory of God.] In other words, people can look up into the sky and clearly see that God created the world. The sun, moon, stars, and clouds are so amazing that there had to be an amazing CREATOR behind them. There is no way the world happened by chance.*

Summary. *So, we've established that God has REVEALED Himself to all people through all that He has created. And, we have learned why all people don't believe in a God who has created all things. Why is that? [They suppress the truth.] But there is one other sort of REVELATION we need to learn about today. Does anyone know what that is?*

Let's turn to Exodus 32. **Read Exodus 32:15-16.**

¹⁵ Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written. ¹⁶ The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

Discussion: *Who can tell me what was going on here? Allow answers. That's right, Moses was receiving the Law of God on Mt. Sinai. Who*

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.



wrote the Law on those tablets? [God did!] This is what we call **SPECIAL REVELATION**. God **REVEALS** Himself to a particular people with a unique message. In this case, God gave His people Israel the Law. The Law taught them all that God required of them.

Summary: So what is our **SPECIAL REVELATION** from God? Do we have tablets engraved by the Hand of God? No! We have something better; we have the Holy Scriptures, the Word of God. The word **SCRIPTURES** means “writings,” so the Scriptures are the writings of God.

Let’s read more about this **SPECIAL REVELATION** in II Peter 1.

Read II Peter 1:21.

²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Discussion: Remember all the prophets we read about in the Old Testament? This verse reminds us that those prophets did not speak for themselves—they spoke for God! So the prophets were involved in the **SPECIAL REVELATION** of God. God spoke through His prophets to His people. The Holy Spirit directed the prophets to speak God’s words only!

Now go to II Timothy 3. **Read II Timothy 3:14-15.**

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Discussion: Paul is writing to His spiritual son Timothy here. Timothy had been taught the “sacred writings” from childhood. What are the “sacred writings?” [The Bible.] So Paul is telling Timothy that the Word of God teaches us about salvation that is only found in Jesus Christ. That’s another reason we call the Bible **SPECIAL REVELATION**. It **REVEALS** the **SPECIAL** message of the gospel—salvation in Jesus Christ.

Let’s read the next two verses. **Read verses 16-17.**

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Discussion: Isn’t that a fascinating way to describe **SPECIAL REVELATION**? Scripture is “breathed out” by God. Another way to say this is that all



Scripture is *INSPIRED* by God. God is the One who made sure that every word written by men were His words. That's why we call the Bible *GOD'S WORD!*

Application: *And, this SPECIAL REVELATION is totally useful to train you and me how to live like God wants us to live. What words are used to describe what God's Word does for us? [It teaches us, reproves us, corrects us, and trains us.] The WORD OF GOD equips us to live like Christians!*

Now, turn to *I Corinthians 2*. **Read I Corinthians 2:12-13.**

¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

Discussion: *Here we read part of another of Paul's letters. He says that we need the Holy Spirit. Why? [So that we can understand what is given to us by God.] In order to understand the SPECIAL REVELATION of God, we need the special help of the Spirit. Did you hear again that the words of the Bible were NOT words written by men? They were taught by the Spirit! The Holy Spirit interprets God's Word to us.*

Now, one more thing about REVELATION. Turn to *I Peter 1*.

Read I Peter 1:13.

¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Discussion: *There's the word REVELATION again! Who is God's greatest REVELATION? [Jesus Christ.] And what does Jesus Christ bring to God's people? [The grace of God.] And, yet again, we see a reference to our MINDS. We need to prepare our MINDS to set our hope on the grace of God in Jesus. He is God's most SPECIAL REVELATION of Himself.*

Conclusion: *So we have learned that in order for us to know God, He must REVEAL Himself to us. Unfortunately, many people are blind to the GENERAL REVELATION of God. And, because of our sinful hearts, we all need the SPECIAL REVELATION of God, found in His Word and in Jesus Christ. Plus, we need the Holy Spirit to interpret the REVELATION of God to our hearts and minds. Think about that, and we will study more of the foundations of a Biblical worldview next time.*





MIND-IN-ACTION

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!

Each week, we will 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 is my challenge to you as we close today:

Go outside on a clear night and do some stargazing!

And when you look at the stars, consider that they are God's GENERAL REVELATION to you. They tell you that there is a Creator and a Master Designer.

Then, at least one day this week:

Gaze into the Word of God!

Flip through the pages of your Bible and thank the LORD that He has given it to you. By the work of the Holy Spirit, it REVEALS to you salvation in Jesus Christ!

Close in prayer.