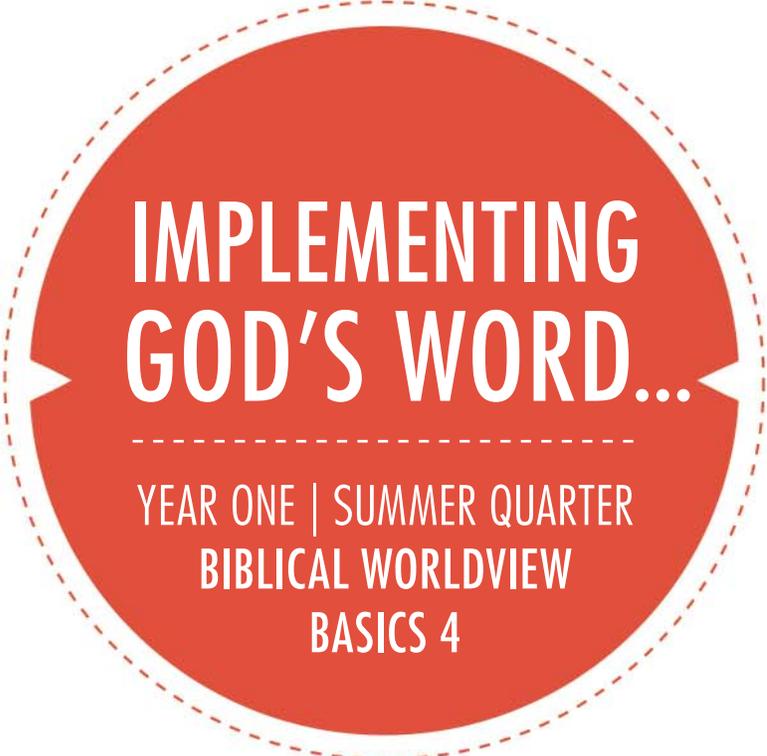


IMPLEMENTING GOD'S WORD...

YEAR ONE | SUMMER QUARTER
BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW
BASICS 4



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SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

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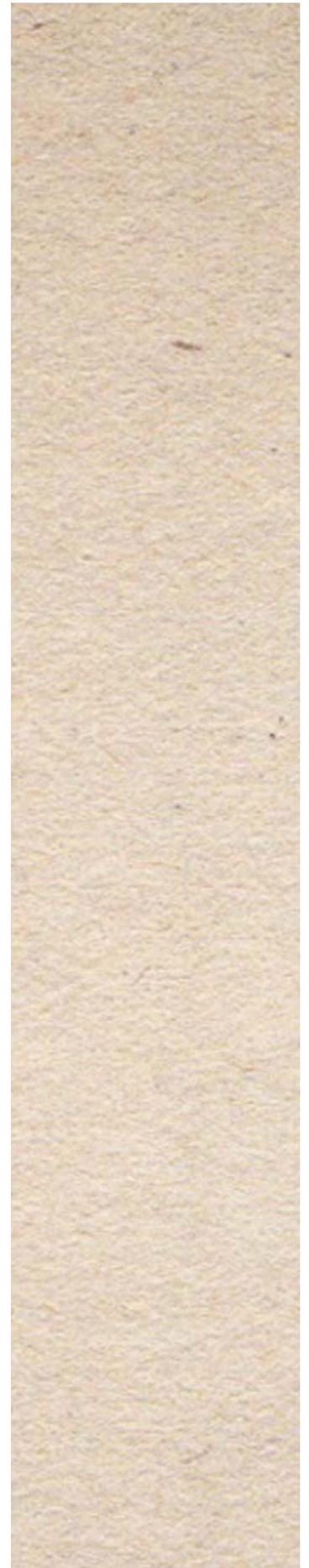
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LESSON SEQUENCE

SUMMER 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 Defines Worship
LESSON TWO	Christians Pray
LESSON THREE	Kingdom Living
LESSON FOUR	The Word of God
LESSON FIVE	The Church
LESSON SIX	The Sacraments
LESSON SEVEN	Church Discipline
LESSON EIGHT	Christians are Missionaries
LESSON NINE	The Holy Spirit Equips
LESSON TEN	The Christian Family
LESSON ELEVEN	Christians in the World
LESSON TWELVE	Civil Government
LESSON THIRTEEN	Christian Relationships



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

LESSON ONE --- GOD DEFINES WORSHIP

OVERVIEW

The informal theme of this quarter's studies is: "The Believer's life in the Kingdom of God." Or to put it another way: "Now that I'm saved, how do I live out my Christianity?" Actually, the best way to sum up the Christian life is that it is a life of WORSHIP. Everything a Christian is and does is to be for the glory of God. We are to ascribe greatness and honor to God in every situation.

The most important thing about the WORSHIP of God is that it is God who defines how He is to be worshiped. From the beginning, God commands that His people worship Him. He gave us a holy Sabbath day that is set apart as a unique day of worship. He gave the Israelites a sacrificial system and commanded particular feasts and festivals for His worship. It was not people who came up with how to worship God—it was God who revealed to His people how He is to be worshiped. God determines acceptable worship, not us!

In the New Testament, Jesus declared that true worship was not so much about a particular place or time but that which is done in "spirit and truth." God must have our hearts and minds in worship. We are to fear Him first before we can worship Him alone. True worship places God at the center of all our affections!

The Book of Revelation gives us a glimpse into the worship of God that goes on every day before His throne. Our worship of God has everything to do with bending the knee to King Jesus!

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

There are many adults who equate the worship of God with the sort of songs they want to sing or the style of service they desire. Our youth can also succumb to our entertainment culture, looking at the worship service as something that should center on themselves instead of God. Today, you have the opportunity to give them a brief Biblical view of worship and how it is God-centered by definition! Help them to think about themselves as worshipers of God; subjects not kings, sheep not shepherds. Train them to see all that they do as worship—not just what is done on Sunday morning. Also encourage them in their own preparation for Lord's Day worship. Show them how important their worship of God really is!

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Proverbs 15:20-22
2–3 mins.

DRILL TIME

Heaven
3–5 mins.

MIND-IN-TRAINING

Secular vs. Sacred
6–8 mins.

BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

God defines worship
30 mins.

MIND-IN-ACTION

Are you actively worshipping God?
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 15:20-22.***

²⁰ A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish man despises his mother. ²¹ Folly is a joy to him who lacks sense, but a man of understanding walks straight ahead. ²² Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

Let's seek the counsel of the LORD today!



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: *What are some other names the Bible uses for HEAVEN? Who is fit for HEAVEN? What are some things that won't be in HEAVEN? Why won't there be a light or lamp or sun in HEAVEN?*

Call on students to answer.

Answers:

1. Mt. Zion; the City of God; Heavenly Jerusalem.
2. Only those who put their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.
3. No sickness, disease, or death. No tears. No evil or wars. No sadness.
4. Because God is perfect and complete light!

Heaven is the destiny of ALL believers. Of course, the best part of heaven is what? [That we will be with Jesus forever!] Jesus is the reason for HEAVEN!



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!

Who can give me a definition of SECULAR? **Allow answers.** How about the word SACRED? **Allow answers.** Most often, we use the word SECULAR in reference to all things NOT Christian. SECULAR music is non-Christian music, SECULAR movies are non-Christian movies. That which is SACRED is set apart as CHRISTIAN. Going to church is a SACRED activity. Praying is a SACRED activity. Do you get the idea?

Well, there's a BIG problem with this thinking. Can anyone think of what it is? **Allow discussion.** When you think this way, you compartmentalize your Christian life as just part of your day to day life. In other words, we live in the SECULAR world, work in the SECULAR world, go to school in the SECULAR world (unless you go to a Christian school); then, you go to church in the SACRED world. But do we live in two worlds?

Let me help your thinking here. Is math SECULAR or SACRED? What about science, or history, or the arts? Is being a plumber a SECULAR or a SACRED job? What about a teacher? Or a pastor? You see, when we try to separate SECULAR things from SACRED things, we make Christianity just a subset of everything else we do. And then our Christianity becomes just a small part of our lives.

The truth is that Christians are called to live CHRISTIANLY in all areas of life. We are to engage our Christian minds at school, work, church, and play. Then, everything a Christian does is SACRED. Everything we are involved in is set apart to God!

Can you tell me any non-sinful activities that cannot be considered SACRED by a Christian? **Allow brainstorming.** Everything we do should be for the glory of God!

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: *This quarter, we will continue building our Biblical worldviews by looking at what God's Word says about the Christian life. As Christians, how are we to worship? How are we to live as a community? How are we to relate to the world? We will implement what God's Word says on these and other issues in our times together.*

Let's begin today in Psalm 29. **Read Psalm 29:2.**

² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

Discussion: *We're going to talk about WORSHIP this morning. In a parallel structure, the Psalmist actually gives us a definition of WORSHIP. What is it? [Ascribing glory to God.] To WORSHIP is to believe that someone or something has high WORTH or value. There are lots of people and things that people WORSHIP today, and it has always been that way. But only a perfectly HOLY God is worthy of our WORSHIP! Worship is commanded by God.*

Look at Psalm 95. **Read Psalm 95:6-7a.**

⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! ⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Discussion: *What are some activities involved in WORSHIP, according to the Psalmist? [Bowing down; kneeling.] It makes sense to WORSHIP God since He created us and rules over us. He is our Lord and King! God directs us to WORSHIP Him alone.*

Now, go to Genesis 4. **Read Genesis 4:3-5.**

³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

Discussion: *Here we have the first brothers ever created. We have a snapshot of their WORSHIP of God. Whose WORSHIP was received by God? [Abel's.] Whose was rejected? [Cain's.] What was the difference? **Allow discussion.** Only God knows our hearts, so clearly Abel had a heart of WORSHIP and Cain didn't. It is God who dictates and directs HOW He is to be worshiped. It is our job to WORSHIP Him with our hearts and minds.*



Now, go to Exodus 20. **Read Exodus 20:8-11.**

⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Discussion: *We know this part of the Ten Commandments, right? If you think about it, this command dictates WHEN we are to WORSHIP God. Certainly, we give God glory and worship each and every day. But He created one day as a HOLY day for WORSHIP. For Jews, it was Saturday. For Christians, it is Sunday—also known as the Lord’s Day. God determined from the beginning that ONE day of each week was set aside for special WORSHIP to be given to Him.*

Now go to Exodus 23. **Read Exodus 23:14-17.**

¹⁴ “Three times in the year you shall keep a feast to me. ¹⁵ You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. As I commanded you, you shall eat unleavened bread for seven days at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. None shall appear before me empty-handed. ¹⁶ You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall keep the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor. ¹⁷ Three times in the year shall all your males appear before the Lord GOD.

Discussion: *How many major feasts were the Israelites to have as WORSHIP to God? [Three.] Who decided on three feasts? [God.] Who dictated what these feasts would be like? [God.] We don’t celebrate these feasts as Christians, yet this demonstrates that God has ALWAYS determined how He is to be WORSHIPED!*

Turn to Numbers 28. **Read Numbers 28:1-10.**

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Command the people of Israel and say to them, ‘My offering, my food for my food offerings, my pleasing aroma, you shall be careful to offer to me at its appointed time.’ ³ And you shall say to them, This is the food offering that you shall offer to the LORD: two male lambs a year old without blemish, day by day, as a

THIS GREY 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.



regular offering. ⁴ The one lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; ⁵ also a tenth of an ephah of fine flour for a grain offering, mixed with a quarter of a hin of beaten oil. ⁶ It is a regular burnt offering, which was ordained at Mount Sinai for a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD. ⁷ Its drink offering shall be a quarter of a hin for each lamb. In the Holy Place you shall pour out a drink offering of strong drink to the LORD. ⁸ The other lamb you shall offer at twilight. Like the grain offering of the morning, and like its drink offering, you shall offer it as a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the LORD. ⁹ "On the Sabbath day, two male lambs a year old without blemish, and two tenths of an ephah of fine flour for a grain offering, mixed with oil, and its drink offering: ¹⁰ this is the burnt offering of every Sabbath, besides the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.

Discussion: *Who came up with the sacrificial system in Israel? [God did.] Could the Israelites have just sacrificed to God any way or anything they wanted? [No.] Why not? **Allow answers.** Yet again, we see that God is the one who determines how His people will WORSHIP Him. We are not the ones who choose how we think God wants to be WORSHIPED!*

Now to the New Testament Gospel of John. **Read John 4:20-24.**

²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Application: *This is Jesus speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well. To get the attention off herself, she started questioning Jesus about WORSHIP. Jesus gets right to the core of what real WORSHIP is. It doesn't just happen in certain places or certain times. How does God command us to WORSHIP Him? [In spirit and in truth.] This means that our WORSHIP must be led by the Holy Spirit, and must be done according to God's Word. It also must be done with honesty of heart!*

Now go to Hebrews 12. **Read Hebrews 12:28-29.**

²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be



shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

Discussion: Here we learn more about WORSHIP that is acceptable to God. What characterizes acceptable WORSHIP? **Allow answers.** God is to be revered and feared. He is to be obeyed. He is to be honored and given all glory. WORSHIP that is not done from the fear of God is not WORSHIP at all!

Application: Again, it is easy to think of what we do on Sunday mornings as a time for us to RECEIVE from the LORD. Certainly, we learn more about God and renew our strength in the LORD. But WORSHIP is about GIVING to God what He deserves. It is the giving of praise, honor, and obedience!

Let's go to Revelation 4. **Read Revelation 4:8.**

⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

Discussion: Remember that the Book of Revelation is a vision given to the Apostle John. Here, he gets some insight into the perfect WORSHIP that goes on before the throne. Think about it: The WORSHIP of God never ceases!

Let's read more. **Read verses 9-11.**

⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

Discussion: What a picture of WORSHIP! What were the elements of WORSHIP that John saw in this vision? [Falling down, bowing, casting crowns, giving praise and honor.] Do you see how WORSHIP is the act of bowing before the LORD? It is the submission of our hearts and minds to our Creator and King. It is putting God first in all things!





Which leads us to Colossians 3. **Read Colossians 3:17.**

¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Conclusion: *In the end, all of life is WORSHIP. God dictates that we WORSHIP Him by doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. He is the One we WORSHIP. And we show our WORSHIP by the words we say and the things we do!*



MIND-IN-ACTION

As you know, we 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:

Are you prepared to WORSHIP on Sunday mornings?

Or, are you half asleep during the WORSHIP service? Or, is your mind on other things? If you are coming church on Sunday to truly WORSHIP God, then you must be prepared to do so. What do you think this preparation would look like? Think about it...

Then, the second part of the challenge is:

Are you an active giver of WORSHIP when you WORSHIP?

Many Christians think of how THEY want to worship—what songs that want to sing, what order of service they like, what Scriptures they want to read, etc. But how about actually thinking about how God wants to be WORSHIPED? Think about GIVING worship instead of just being a passive spectator!

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!