

IMPLEMENTING GOD'S WORD...

YEAR TWO | FALL QUARTER
BIBLICAL RELATIONSHIPS 1

SSY02F

SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH





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ESV Text Edition: 2007

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Printed in the United States of America



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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	Relationships from the beginning
LESSON TWO	Biblical Love I
LESSON THREE	Biblical Love II
LESSON FOUR	Forgiveness I
LESSON FIVE	Forgiveness II
LESSON SIX	Reconciliation
LESSON SEVEN	Dealing with Enemies
LESSON EIGHT	Unity and Peace
LESSON NINE	Service and Ministry
LESSON TEN	Fellowship
LESSON ELEVEN	Submission/Authority
LESSON TWELVE	Accountability/Pride
LESSON THIRTEEN	True Friendship



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

LESSON ONE --- RELATIONSHIPS FROM THE BEGINNING

OVERVIEW

In the beginning, there was Adam. But it was not good for man to be alone. Yes, Adam had a relationship with God, but he also needed human relationships. God created woman and gave her to the man. God created marriage. God created families. God designed people to be in relationships with other people.

Yet, due to Adam and Eve's sin, relationships suffered too. From the beginning, we had marital strife. In the first sibling relationship (Cain and Abel), we see anger, bitterness, and jealousy, leading to deception and cold-blooded murder. As generations passed, more and more violence occurred in God's created order. Human beings committed atrocious crimes against one another. All of this occurred because of our original sin that broke our relationship with God.

So, from the beginning, people have been created to be in relationships. But people are also sinful, prone to damage and even destroy relationships. What an awful dilemma for mankind! Thankfully, the perfect relationship (The Trinity) made a way to heal our relationship with God and with other people. Jesus Christ died on the cross to reconcile us to God. His death also made a way for us to have loving relationships with other people. This is the good news of the gospel!

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

As you teach your students all about relationships this year, remember that your classroom is also a laboratory of relationships! Right before your eyes, you will see friendships, enemies, and even sibling relationships. You will witness virtuous behavior in relationships as well as sinful behavior. So this material will not just be academic—it will be highly practical each and every week. Encourage your students to see that they are in a learning lab. Train them to apply all that they learn right away. Help them see their own sin and their own need for Christ. Don't shy away from confronting bad relational behavior. And, make sure to draw in those young people who are anti-relational too! Learning Biblical relationships will be vital for all of your children.

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Proverbs 1:5–6
2–3 mins.

DRILL TIME

The Bible
3–5 mins.

MIND-IN-TRAINING

Thinking
6–8 mins.

BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

Relationship Basics
30 mins.

MIND-IN-ACTION

Evaluate your relationships
3–5 mins.



WELCOME

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.

Greet the students. Welcome visitors. Open with prayer.

*As we begin our studies today, listen to God's Word. **Read Proverbs 1:5–6.***

⁵ Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, ⁶ to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.

Are you ready to be wise, hear God's Word, and increase in learning? Let's obtain guidance from the LORD!



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 strange to you, but we actually do have to learn how to think how God wants us to think.

*So let's start with a question today: Why are we able to THINK in the first place? **Allow brainstorming.** 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 correctly. 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!

We'll talk more about our MINDS next time. Each week, this time will be devoted to MIND TRAINING. As we have already said, your MIND needs to be renewed as you grow in Christ.

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

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



BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

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

ALL SCRIPTURE TEXT 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: *The major part of our studies each week is called "Bible Implementation." What does it mean to IMPLEMENT something? [To put it into practice.] I hope you already know that when we LEARN God's Word, we need to grow in LOVE for Him and begin to LIVE it out.*

This year's lessons all have to do with IMPLEMENTING God's Word regarding the important topic of RELATIONSHIPS. Raise your hand if you have any RELATIONSHIPS. Of course you do. Before we talk more about that, let's turn in our Bibles to Genesis 2.

*Let's read together. **Read Genesis 2:15-18.***

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." ¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

Discussion: *Who was this first man? [Adam.] God was very pleased with all His creation, included Adam. It was all very good to God. Yet, there was something not good. What was it? [That man was alone.] It was not good that man was by himself. It was not good to be without relationship. So what did God do about it?*

*Let's read verses 21-23. **Read verses 21-23.***

²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Discussion: *What did God do about it? [He created a woman to be a wife to Adam.] So we have our first man and woman, and we have our first married couple. Our very first RELATIONSHIP in the Bible is a marriage. Yet today we have all sorts of other relationships. Name some for me. [Brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, friends, schoolmates, neighbors, Christian brothers and sisters, co-workers, enemies, etc.] A world full of people certainly means a lot of relationships.*

*Now turn to Genesis 3. **Read Genesis 3:6-7.***

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it



was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Discussion: *I know this story is so familiar to you—but I want you to think about it in terms of RELATIONSHIPS. Adam and Eve had a perfect marriage relationship. More importantly, that had a perfect relationship with God! What messed up that relationship with God? [They disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit.] They chose SIN over RELATIONSHIP. Their RELATIONSHIP with God was destroyed by disobedience.*

Look at verses 8-13. **Read verses 8-13.**

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Discussion: *So instead of having a trusting, loving relationship with God, what happened? [It turned into a fearful, shameful, guilty one.] Adam and Eve’s RELATIONSHIP with God was now based in fear and guilt. And, if you are paying attention, the same thing is now happening to Adam and Eve’s marriage. They are shifting the blame, angry, and bitter with each other.*

Application: *We learn two BIG principles about relationship in these opening chapters of the Bible. Can anyone tell me what they are? **Allow answers.** First, God designed us to be in relationship with Him and other PEOPLE. Second, our sin has destroyed our relationships. That’s sad, isn’t it? We were made to be in relationships, and yet our sin messes up relationships.*

Now turn to Genesis 4. **Read Genesis 4:2-5.**

² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of

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.



sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. 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: *Again, this story should be familiar to you. Cain and Abel were the first two brothers in the world. This was an entirely new RELATIONSHIP. Yet, what was happening to their brotherly RELATIONSHIP? [It was being destroyed by Cain's anger and jealousy.] Cain was jealous of his brother Abel. Why? [Because God accepted Abel's offering and not his.] So we already have competition among siblings when we should have love.*

*You remember the rest of the story. **Read verses 8-12.***

⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

Discussion: *Let's again look at this from the viewpoint of RELATIONSHIPS. One of the first brothers murdered his other brother! But before that, he deceived him. And after that, Cain ridiculed the idea that he should be protecting his brother instead of killing him. Do you see how RELATIONSHIPS have been messed up from the beginning? So what was the consequence for Cain? [He had to live as a restless fugitive and wanderer.] In other words, he would lose healthy relationships.*

*We're not done yet. **Read verses 17-24.***

¹⁷ Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. ¹⁸ To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. ¹⁹ And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. ²⁰ Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹ His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.



²² Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah. ²³ Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. ²⁴ If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."

Discussion: *Now we read about generations of relationships. Cain had children, his children had children, and we get down to a man named Lamech. What did Lamech boast about? [Killing a young man for wounding him.] Murder had just become a regular thing in the world. If someone hurts you, you hurt them, right? REVENGE is yet another destructive sin that ruins RELATIONSHIPS.*

And then we get to Genesis 6. **Read Genesis 6:5-7.**

⁵ The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

⁶ And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

Discussion: *Things went from bad to worse, didn't they? Not only were people rebelling in their RELATIONSHIP to God, but they were hurting one another. What is God's response to all of this sin? [He was sorry that He made people.] Think about that! God was sorry He made His highest creation! That's what happens when relationships are destroyed by SIN.*

But now turn to John 3. **Read John 3:16-17.**

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Discussion: *Here's the good news about RELATIONSHIPS. And it begins in the only perfect RELATIONSHIP—The Trinity! Because of God's LOVE for His sinful people, what did He do? [He sent His only Son to die for us.] The world was condemned by SIN. God sent Jesus to SAVE His people from sin and death. And, He saved us from the destruction of our RELATIONSHIPS too.*



Conclusion: *So, what are the TWO BIG principles of our RELATIONSHIPS that we learn from the very beginning? [God created us to be in relationships. Sin has destroyed relationships.] Then let's add the third one: In Christ, our RELATIONSHIPS with God and people can be restored! Christians are not left to themselves when it comes to RELATIONSHIPS. We will learn a lot more about that this quarter.*



MIND-IN-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:

Make a list of all of your closest relationships.

Your family, your friends, your brothers and sisters in Christ all make up your close relationships. God has given you all of these relationships for His glory and for your good. Have you thanked God for any of these relationships lately?

And the second part of my challenge is this:

Evaluate all of those relationships on a scale of 1-10.

In a notebook, rate where each of your relationships is currently, from 1 (it's horrible) to 10 (it's the best!). Give careful thought to each of the relationships God has given you—and be honest in your evaluation. Commit all of your relationships to God in prayer!

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!