



Beacon Education

Supporting Christian schooling worldwide

God-centred education

What place should God have in our children's education?

There is a difference between a school that *includes* God and a school that *ignores* God

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is older he will not depart from it.

The school that honours God

- serves Christian families.
- Is a place where students can grow in Godly character.
- strengthens students in the Christian faith.
- helps students to achieve academic excellence.

How do we show students what God is like?

We can use the **Bible** to point out God's ways through His mighty acts.

We can also point them to God as seen in the world around us...

Creation

The whole of creation speaks to us about God.

We can see God at work in science, mathematics and EVERY area of study, and the whole of life.

All knowledge belongs to God.

The work of Christians

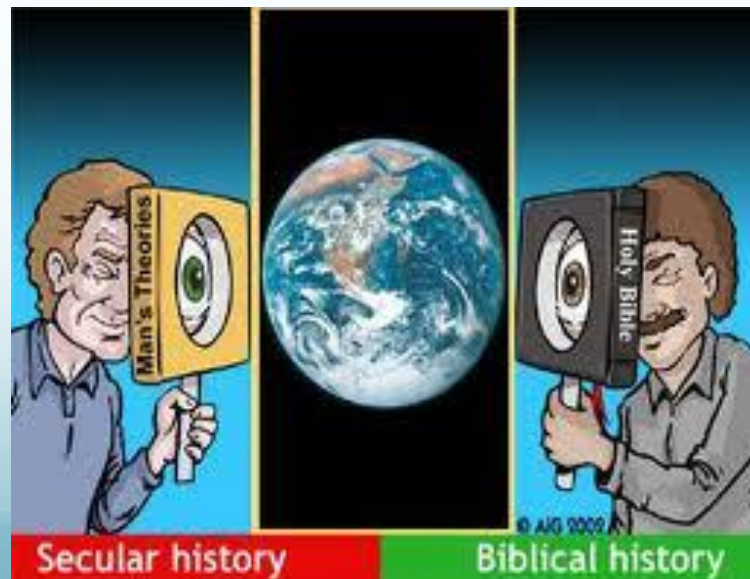
We can also see God at work in the world through His servants

- Heroes of the faith who have demonstrated God's character in the past
- Community servants, Christian scientists and missionaries of today
- The impact of bringing the Gospel to the nations.

Comparing worldly standards to Godly standards

We can help the students to measure up what they see around them against God's standards.

God has something to say on EVERYTHING!



How is the Christian classroom different?

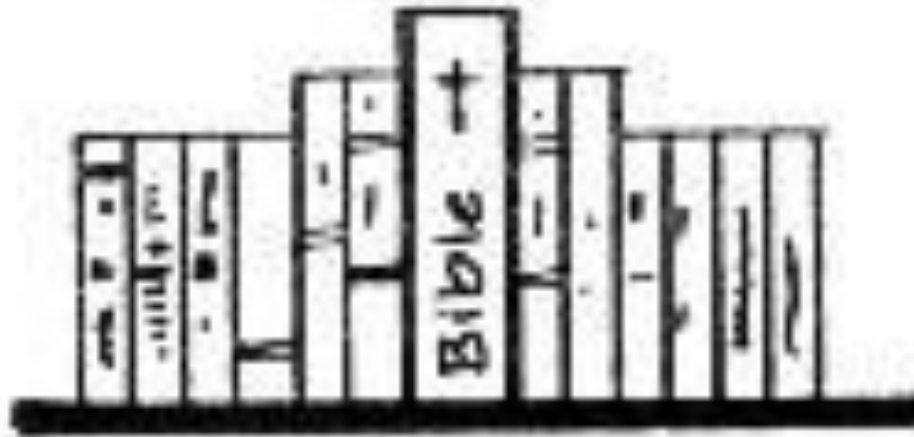
- The students benefit from being cared for by a Christian teacher.
- But there is another important reason....

God is included in *all* parts of education

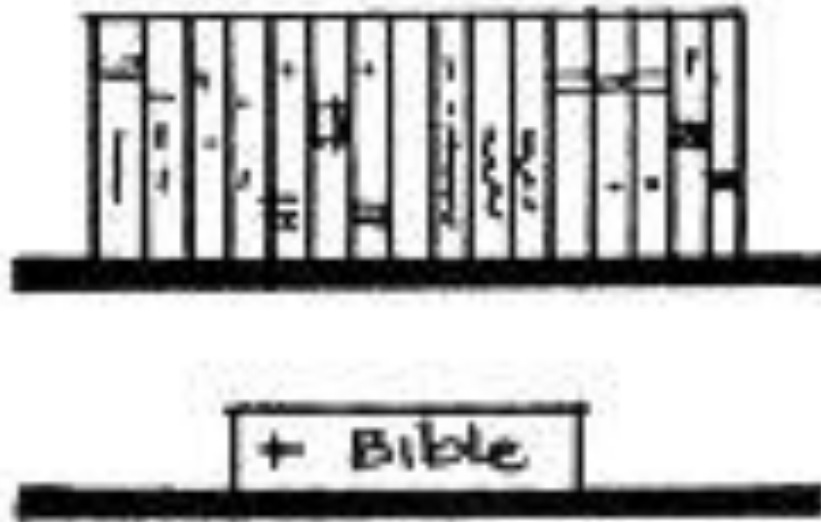
In God-centred education

- Christian teaching ***does not*** stay in a separate box called “Bible study” or “Devotions”.
- God ***is not*** left out of mathematics, science, and other subjects. Instead, God is placed at the centre of all education.

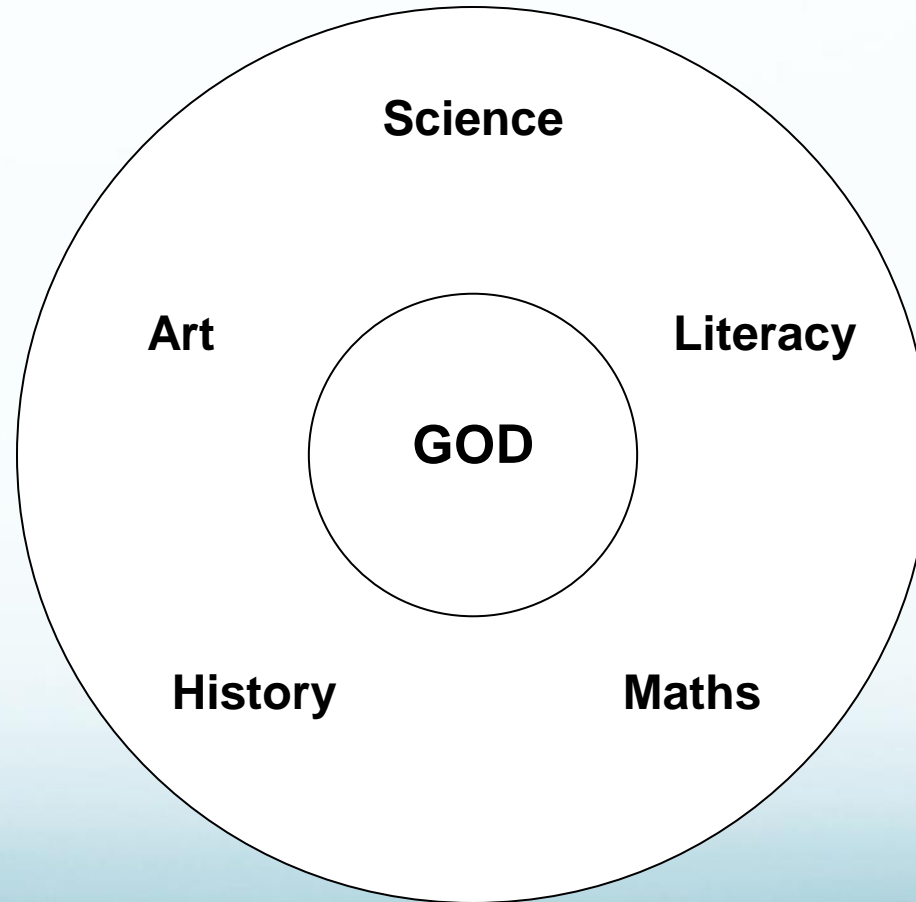
God and the Bible should be included
in classroom subjects



...not separated



Hebrew education



The foundation for Christian education

Hebrew education was...

- Based on the scriptures
- God and His word were central to life.
- God was not separate from education.
- Everyone knew that the whole of Creation, (man included), was dependent upon God the Creator.
- Right and wrong were measured by the Scriptures.

- God's commands were central to everything they did.
- Each person was seen as precious in God's sight.
- Children were taught responsibility, to be good stewards of all resources.
- Family and community were very important.

Deuteronomy 6:5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength.

Deuteronomy 11:13-24

If you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today - to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul - then I will send rain on your land in its season...

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the Lord swore to give your forefathers.

What did the Hebrews teach?

- History and the laws of the nation, the Ten Commandments
- Festivals and days of remembrance
- Health rules and dietary laws
- Literacy using the Scriptures
- Mathematics
- Listening

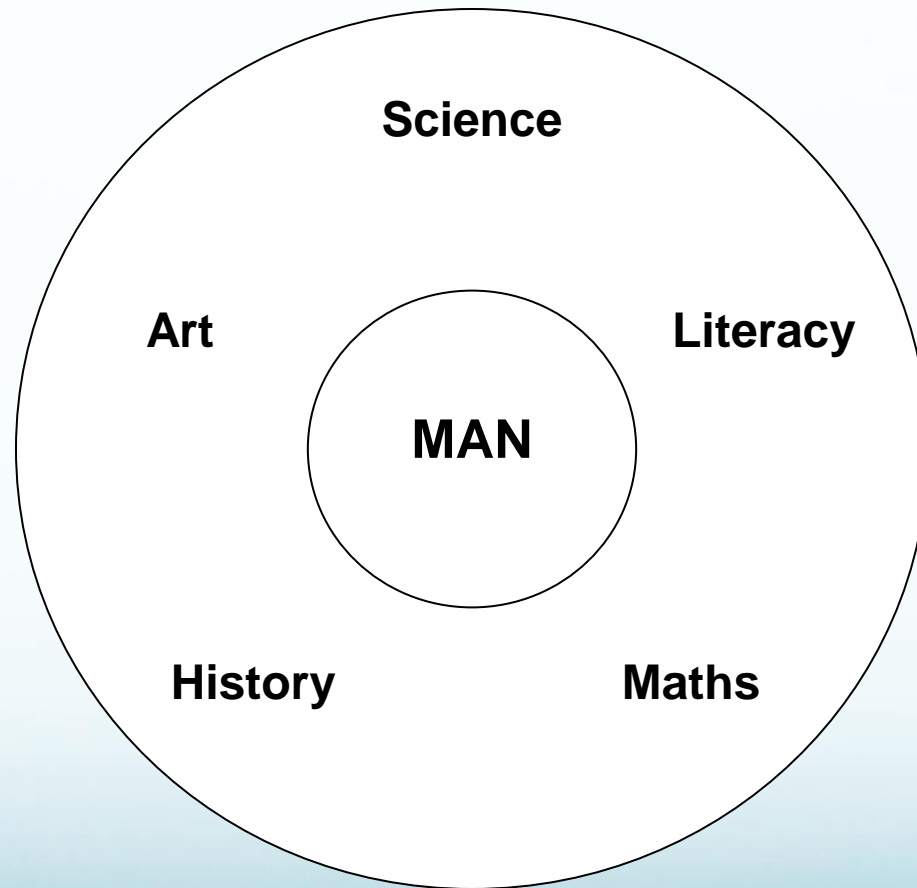
- Prayer
- Music
- Crafts
- Discernment of good and evil
- The law of love

- Wisdom and the fear of the Lord
- The ways of God
- Discipline
- To do God's will
- To learn from the Creation
- To look for a Saviour

Hebrew education in New Testament times

- Jesus was educated in the Hebrew way.
- Jesus added to the Hebrew foundation.
- He gave us the example of the greatest teacher.
- He told us to go into the world and make disciples of all nations.

Greek education



The foundation for the modern western education system

Greek education was (and still is)...

- The system on which modern Western education is founded
- Education separated into boxes.
- God not included in education.
- Man's ideas (ignoring God and the Bible)
- People were proud of having knowledge.

- Greeks had pride in the perfect human body
- Worship of false gods, ('self' was one of them)
- Education was for the rich.



“All for the glory of man.”

Man was the measure of all things

2 Corinthians 10:12 (*Good News Bible*)

We would not dare to classify ourselves or compare ourselves with those who rate themselves so highly. How stupid they are! They make up their own standards to measure themselves by, and they judge themselves by their own standards.

Humanism

- Education without God is called *Humanism*
- Humanism is man-centred education
- Jesus came to pay the penalty for ignoring the Creator of the universe and worshipping ourselves instead.

"There are only two religions: either God is God, or man is god." (Frank Peretti)

Humanist philosophy:

- "If God didn't make me, I don't owe Him anything."
- "My duty is to man instead of to God."
- "If God doesn't exist, then there are no rules."
- "Man is in control, not God."

Some definitions from the American Society of Humanism

- Motto: “Good without God”
- Humanism's focus is on using human efforts to meet human needs and wants in this world.

What does God say about serving self?

Philippians 2:3-7 (*Good News Bible*)

Don't do anything from selfish ambition, but be humble towards one another, always considering others better than yourselves. Look out for one another's interests, not just your own. Have the attitude of Christ Jesus...He took on the nature of a servant.

God sets the standard, not man

For Christians, our lives are not dedicated to looking after ourselves, but others.

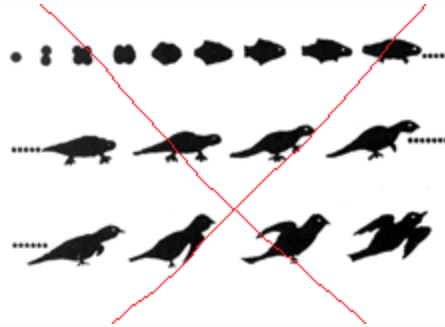


What is God-centred education?

- the teaching of good morals?
- providing a good Christian environment?



- Getting rid of evolutionary thinking?



- a Bible study period each day or each week?

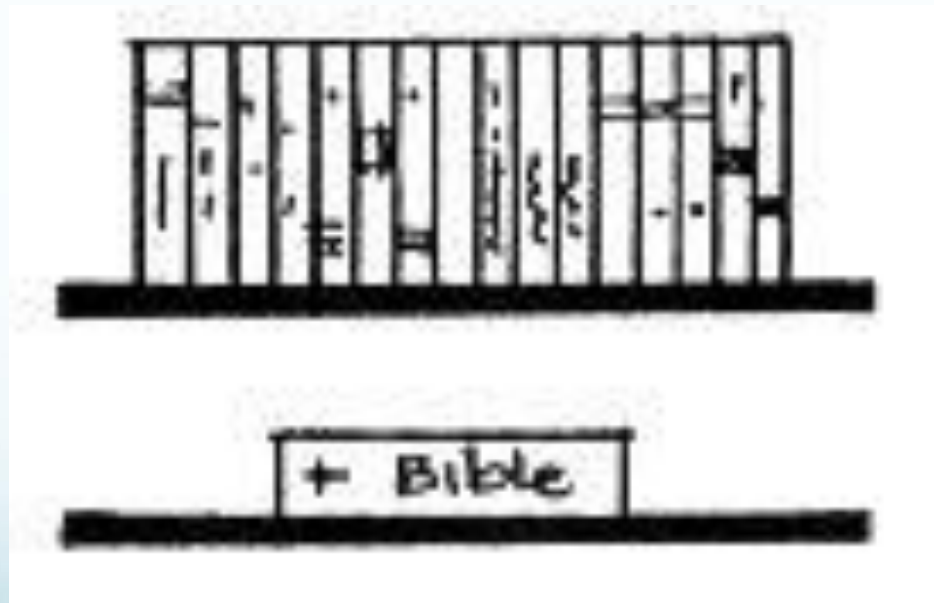
These are important but...

We can do more than this!

- A school that honours God can lead students to know God personally through an understanding of
 - His character
 - His nature
 - His word

God-centred curriculum is NOT

- treating the Bible separately to other learning.



God-centred education *does* mean

- Placing God and His word at the centre of **all** education.
- Allowing God to speak into every subject in the curriculum.

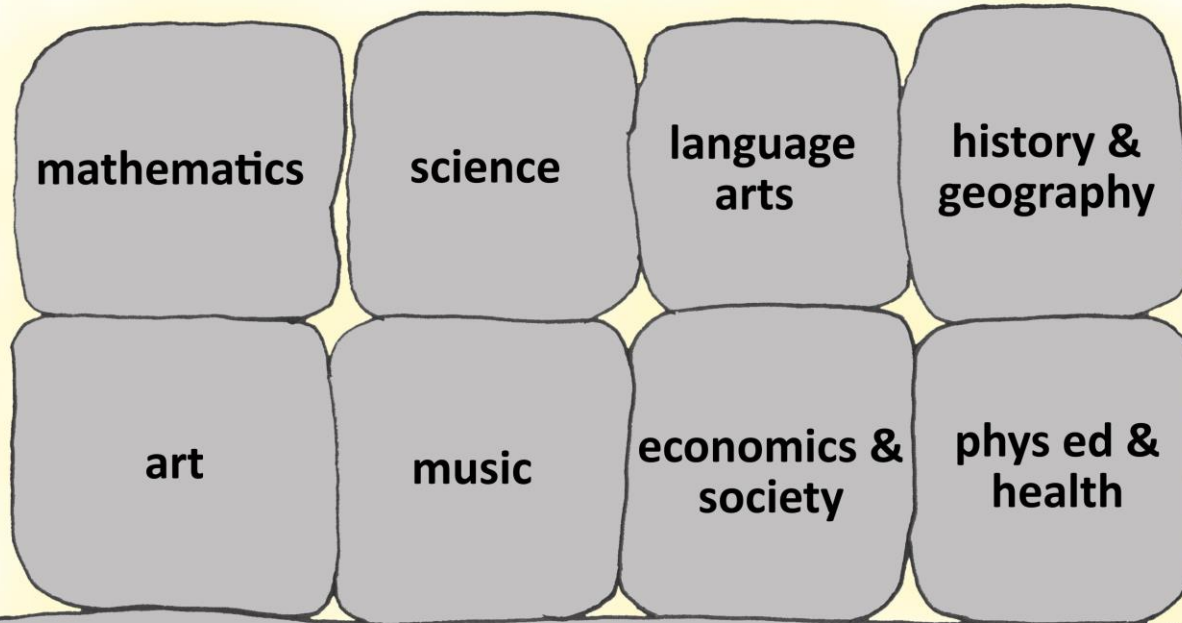
This approach is like a lime and coconut fish sauce that soaks in and flavours the fish, making it good to eat.



- Education must be thoroughly rooted and grounded in God, not separated from Him.
- Education should be built upon the Rock!

Build your curriculum on the rock

Godly character



Godly character

powerful peace father truth
wisdom pure **GOD IS** love provider
creator shepherd patient servant redeemer

Beacon Education Vision Statement

Our vision is to support parents in raising children who:

- love God and others
- stand for truth
- grow in Godly character
- develop to reach their full potential



is
creative

is
affordable

is
academically
excellent

**Beacon Education
Vision**
Quality education that...

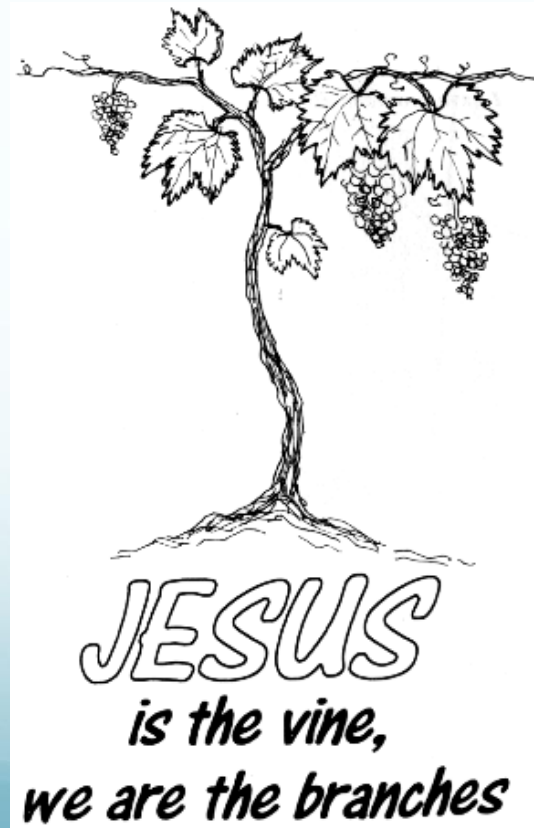
provides
unity

provides an
atmosphere
of love

uses God-
centred
curriculum

Stay connected to Jesus in all you teach

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in Him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.



Discussion

- Is the Hebrew approach to education different from your experience of school? In what way?
- What are the blessings that come from including God in as many subjects as possible?
- What is a ‘nominal Christian’?
- Why do you think schools that separate God into the box called ‘Scripture class’ are in danger of producing nominal Christians?