

God-centred Education

What does God require of Christian parents?

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is older he will not depart from it.

Education is either with God or without Him.

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.

Knowing God, (not just knowing about Him)

- It is possible to know the Bible without knowing God.
- Christian teachers therefore need to point students to a personal God who can be their Saviour, Lord, friend and role model.

How do we show students what God is like?

- We use the Bible to point out God's ways
- We teach about God's Creation
- We teach about the work of Christians, past and present
- We teach God's standards for living
- God has something to say on EVERYTHING!

How is the Christian classroom different to the secular one?

- The students are cared for by Christian teachers. They learn about God.
- **But there is another important reason...**

God can be included in all parts of education

This is called 'God-centred education'.

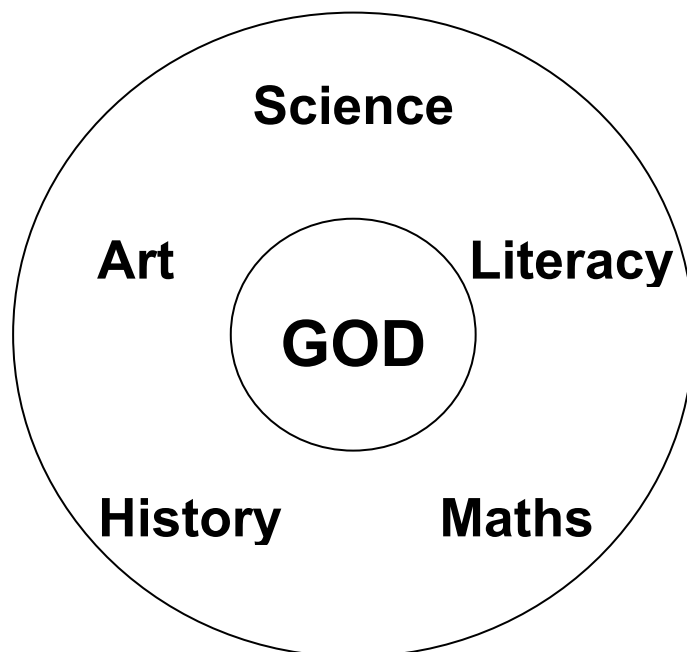
In God-centred education:

- Christian teaching **does not** stay in a separate section of the timetable 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 all education, not separated.

Hebrew Education

Hebrew education is the foundation for Christian education.



- 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 life.
- Each person was seen as precious to God.

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.

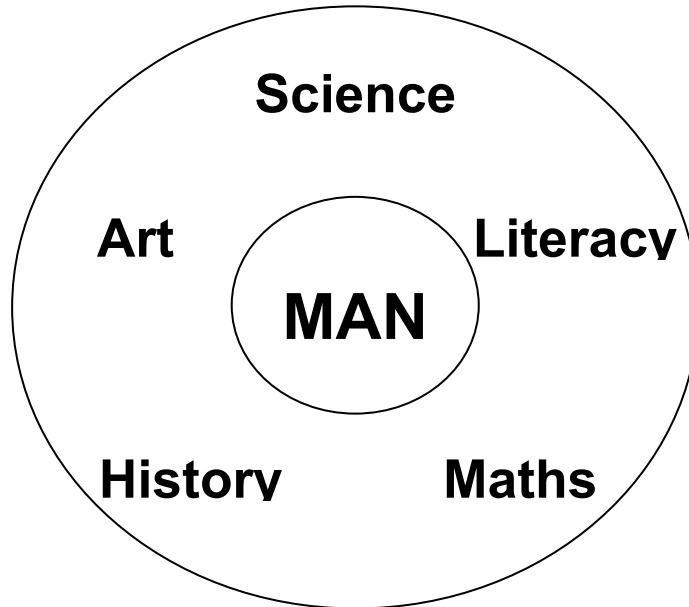
Hebrew education was not just for Old Testament times.

- Jesus was educated in the Hebrew way.
- He gave us a new commandment, to love one another and to be His disciples.

- He was the example of the greatest teacher who ever lived.
- He told us to go into the world and make disciples of all nations.

Greek education

Greek education is the foundation for the modern western education system.



- This is the system on which modern Western education is founded
- God was not part of education.
- Man's ideas were all that mattered.
- Educated people were proud.
- People made a god out of physical fitness and the human body.
- They worshiped false gods, ('self' was one of them)
- Education was for the rich.

Humanism – the foundation of modern education

- Education without God is called Humanism.
- Humanism is man-centred education.

A definition of "Humanism" from the American Society of Humanism

Motto: "Good without God"

The goal of humanism is to meet human need through human effort alone.

What does a humanist think?

- "If God doesn't exist, then there are no rules."
- "Man is in control, not God."

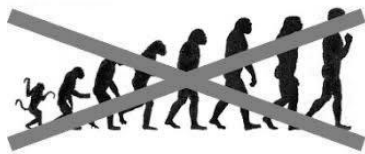
What does God say about serving ourselves?

Philippians 2:3-7 Be humble... think about others ... Have the attitude of Christ Jesus...He took on the nature of a servant.

What makes a school “Christian”?

Some answers:

- The teaching of good morals?
- Having Christian teachers?
- Evolution exposed?
- A Bible study period each day or each week?

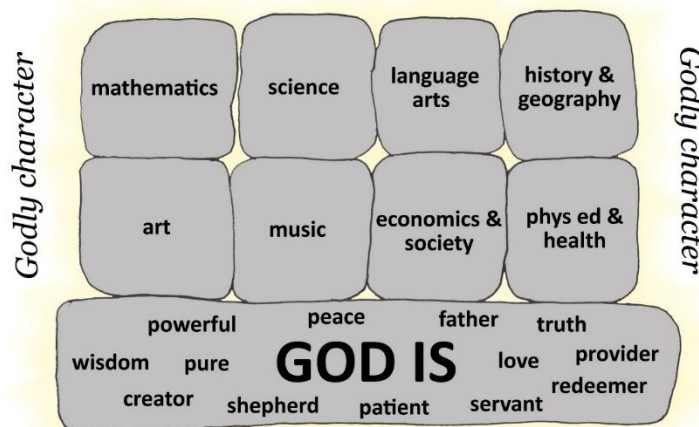


These are important but...

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.

Build your curriculum on the rock



The rock is God – His character, His nature, His word.

His character – loving, kind, humble, a provider, a protector, truth, wise (We can reflect His character.)

His nature – a creator, eternal, all knowing, present everywhere (Things we can never be)

Our curriculum is based on God's character and nature

As we get to know God's character and nature we can make these responses:

God is Love

We love others as Jesus loves us. We forgive others, show kindness, gentleness and compassion.

Jesus the loving shepherd - John 10

God is a Provider

We have trust and confidence that God cares for us and will provide for us. We let God take care of all our worries.

I have provided all kinds of grains and all kinds of fruits for you to eat. Gen 1:29

God is our Saviour

God sent His Son so that the whole world may be saved.

John 3:16

God is Pure and Holy

We ask for God's forgiveness; we live according to God's standard; we are careful in the words we speak and in what we think.

Wash me and I will be whiter than snow. Psalm 51:7

God is Creator

We are amazed at God's power; we believe God's plan for the world, beginning with creation.

The sun knows the time to set. Psalm 104:19

God is Wise

We seek God's opinion, not our own; we know that wisdom comes from obeying God.

Learn from the wisdom of the ant - Prov.6:6

God is a Servant (the life of Jesus)

God is our helper; He wants us to help one another.

Learn from the insect communities where the members help one another.

Let love cause you to serve one another. Gal 5:13

God is Protector

When we understand that God is our protector, we have trust and confidence in a great and powerful God, a loving father.

The name of the Lord is a strong tower. Proverbs 18:10

God is Truth

We weigh up information against God's standards; we tell the truth and live the truth.

Live a life that measures up to the standard God set. Eph 4:1

God is Lord and King

He is in control of the world.

He is to be worshiped.

Our classroom topics are linked with 10 themes of God's character and nature:

Love – God loves ME – my name; my body

Provider – Food

Saviour – Easter

Pure and Holy – light and colour; feelings and emotions

Creator – animals, insects, plants

Wise – healthy habits; safety rules; germ safety

Servant – people who serve – doctors, nurses, dentists

Protector – people who protect – police; animal camouflage

Truth – life in Bible times – the Bible is true

Lord and King – Christmas – Jesus came as a baby but He is king of the whole world.

Can you think of Bible stories for each of these themes?

Each of the 10 themes represent other aspects of God's character.

LOVE – kind, patient, gentle, caring, faithful, a friend

PROVIDER – faithful, generous, a father

SAVIOUR – love, eternal, forgiving, life

PURE & HOLY – righteous, good, the light

CREATOR – designer, powerful, ordered

WISE – just, all-knowing, a guide

A SERVANT – Jesus - humble, faithful, healer

PROTECTOR – a refuge, a father, a defender

TRUTH – perfect (Ps 19:7), just, the only way

LORD & KING – powerful, eternal, in charge

When students get to know God's character and nature, at the foundation of their education, they will grow in faith and show His character in their lives.

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.