



# Beacon Media

Supporting Christian schooling worldwide

**God is the curriculum**

# God is the curriculum

- Does this mean we only teach the Bible in a Christian school?



Just a minute!

We didn't say: "The Bible is the curriculum."

*God is.*

This doesn't mean that the Bible is less

# To know God

Isn't the aim of the Christian life to *know* God?

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.

# Results of knowing Him

- Eternal life
- Grace, peace and joy
- Love Him and others
- Worship Him
- Seek to become more like Him
- Be His witnesses

# What does it mean...to know God?

- Relationship
- Friendship
- Trust
- Obedience
- Love
- Call Him our Father
- Communicate with Him

# Curriculum should start with God

- God's character and nature should be the FIRST focus in Christian education.
- Use the Bible to show what God is like.
- Character training is taught as a *response* to understanding God's character.

*Seek **first** His kingdom and His righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added to you...  
(Matt 6:33)*

What things? Provision, protection, healing, contentment, security, trust and confidence in God's love, when we pursue His righteousness.

# The character of God as a basis for learning

**Pioneer: Margaret McIntyre** developed a curriculum that was built around the character and nature of God

That is:

- God's work seen in the world around us
- God's work throughout history
- God's work through the lives of people



- Note!
- This was not a Bible curriculum to be studied in a separate compartment of the curriculum
- This was a curriculum that introduced the students to God and the Bible through science, history, social studies, geography, mathematics, literacy, art and more.



# God's attributes can be seen through the topics we teach

**God is Creator** – we teach about the creation

*That's easy!*

BUT what about the other attributes?

*Some ideas –*

**God is Protector** – study of shelter

**God is Provider** – study of food

**God is Love** – study of people of the world

# 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...

# Compare 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!**

# Creation

The whole of creation speaks to us about God.

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

All knowledge belongs to God.

# The work of Christians throughout history

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.

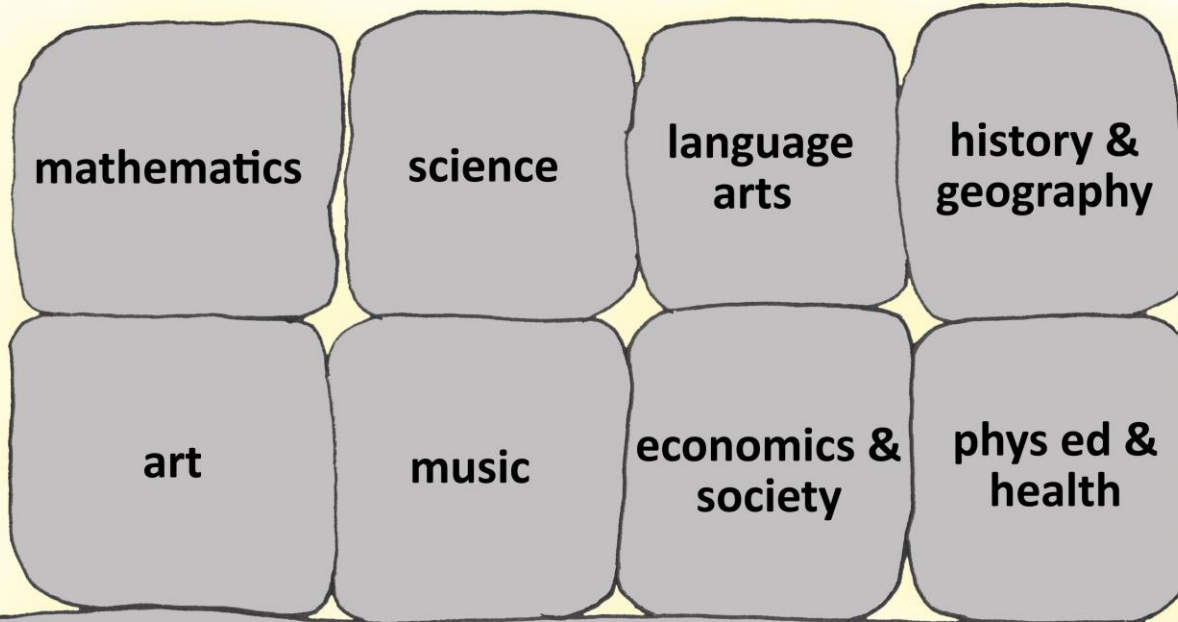
# The love of Christ through us

- We can show students what God is like through our actions, our love, our wisdom.
- We rely on the Holy Spirit to work through us.



# 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

# A God-centred lesson

How do I make my lesson to be like a well-blended milkshake and not a pizza?



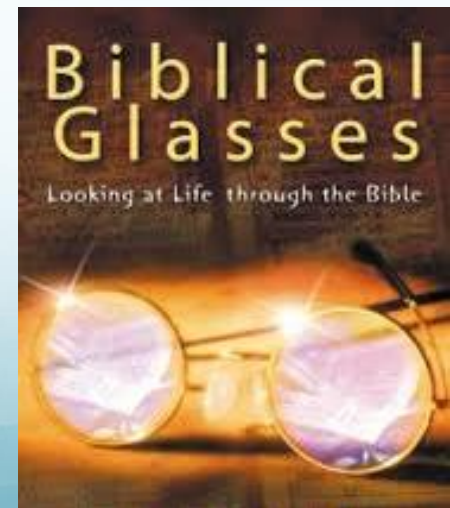
# The Bible is not just for devotions

- We can refer to the Bible in our subject lessons.
- We can use the Bible to show what God is like.



# God-centred thematic teaching

- Biblical themes are the foundation.
- Topic from the world around us are seen through the lens of the Biblical theme
- e.g. “Medical Profession” seen through the lens of “God is a Servant”



## Example 2

- **Topic:** Food ...linked to... God is Provider
- **Bible teaching:** Provisions miracles in the Bible
- **Character development:** generosity; trust

# **Using Themes in the Christian Classroom**

# A God-centred research topic in your classroom

## What does it look like?

- A colourful “God is” sign created by the children
- The teacher explains the connection between God and the research topic.
- Student work on God-centred materials
- The room display - relevant Scripture verses; student work

- The teacher will look for ways of making learning connections across various subjects.
- Songs, Bible study and values education will be represent the “God is” theme.
- There will be opportunities for prayer, testimony and listening to God.





# Examples of thematic topics

## God is Creator (classroom work)

- Living things, human biology
- Rocks and landforms
- Creation and the Great Flood

# God is Creator (Biblical)

- Genesis 1 The Creation
- Genesis 26 Man made in God's image
- Genesis 2 The Fall
- Genesis 6-8 The Great Flood
- Psalm 8 God has placed us ruler over creation
- Psalm 139 God knew us before we were born.

# God is Protector (classroom work)

- Shelter / houses / buildings
- Health and hygiene, medical profession
- Family

# God is Protector (Biblical)

- David and Goliath
- The armour of God
- The Israelites escape from Egypt
- Daniel in the lion's den
- Three men in the fiery furnace

# God is Love (Classroom work)

- Nations of the world
- The family
- World evangelism /reaching the lost
- Serving the poor, the elderly

# God is Love (Biblical)

- The Good Shepherd
- The Good Samaritan
- Zacchaeus
- Jesus said “Let the children come”.
- The prodigal son
- Jesus died for us

# God is Provider (Classroom work)

- Food
- Clothing
- Plants, forests
- The sea
- Farming



# God is Provider (Biblical)

- Feeding of the 5000
- Elijah and the widow
- Elisha
- Manna and quails in the desert
- Water from a rock

# God is Truth (Classroom work)

- Creation/evolution
- Finding out the truth about the past
- Unchanging scientific laws
- Law and order

# God is Truth (Biblical)

- Elijah - God of Israel or god of Baal?
- Ananias and Sapphira
- The Good shepherd /wolves in sheep's clothing
- The broad and narrow way
- The house on the rock
- The sower

# God is Wise (Classroom work)

- Safety
- health and hygiene
- wise use of money
- Choices and decisions

# God is Wise (Biblical)

- Wise and foolish builders
- King Solomon
- God gives wisdom to Daniel
- The ten girls and their lamps

# God is a Servant (Classroom work)

- Community servants
- Missionaries
- Technology
- Occupations

# God is a Servant (Biblical)

- The Healing miracles of Jesus
- The wedding at Cana
- Jesus washed the disciples feet
- Faithful friendship between David and Jonathan
- The rich man and the tax collector (humility)
- Spreading the Good News

# God is Powerful / Lord & King

## (classroom work)

- Forces of nature – weather, electricity
- Power seen in creation – oceans, solar system
- Government



# God is Powerful / Lord & King (Biblical)

- Healing miracles of Jesus
- Raising of Lazarus from the dead
- The day the sun stood still
- The walls of Jericho
- The Kingship of Jesus / triumphal entry
- The birth, death and resurrection of Jesus

# God is Pure and Holy (Classroom work)

- Pure living: food choices, drugs, alcohol
- God's perfect Creation corrupted; Pollution
- Cleaning up the planet / environmental conservation
- The Tower of Babel and the origin of language groups

# God is Pure and Holy (Biblical)

- Christians as salt and light
- The Perfect Creation; the Fall
- The Great Flood
- Heaven
- Salvation as the way back to God
- The Fruit of the Spirit

# God is Life / Saviour (Classroom work)

- Missionaries
- Heroes of the faith
- History of Israel / World history

# God is Life/Saviour (Biblical)

- Jesus died for us
- Salvation
- Jesus the Living Water
- Jesus the bread of Life

# Planning

- The greatest blessings come when a WHOLE SCHOOL runs with the same attributes of God AT THE SAME TIME.

# Plan together

- Unless there is co-ordination, a school can soon become “Greek”.
- Scripture teachers and classroom teachers need to communicate and coordinate
- Teachers of the same year level can plan together
- Assembly and devotion talks can link with classroom themes

# Unity among staff

Staff members need to:

- Be unified in hearing God's voice.
- Work together.
- Be Spirit-led in their teaching.



# Recap:

## God-centred topic studies

- Can have a place in your daily timetable
- Can be a visible part of your room displays
- Provide you with a daily opportunities to teach about attributes of God, outside of the Scripture class

# Keep reviewing your school's commitment to 'God at the centre'

- For a school to maintain a God-centred focus, each new teacher coming into the school must be trained in the God-centred model.
- Staff must work together and keep evaluating their commitment to God-centred topic studies.

# God-centred curriculum

## A lost treasure



Many schools have taken on God-centred a curriculum, but down the track, lost their focus.

# Be a torch bearer for God-centred curriculum

- Jesus said “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel.”
- We can do this through God-centred education.



**Keep the fire alive!**



**It can easily go out!**

# Problem solving

- How can we overcome the restrictions of government curriculum requirements?
- How can the classroom teacher and the Scripture teacher work together?
- How could you run God-centred topics in your school?