

# 7. The History of Education

## Main idea

The history of Western education will be followed, from the Creation to present time, emphasizing the battle between secular and Biblical influence through the years. This is a brief history and comparison of the Biblical and Western education systems, (Greek and Hebrew). It should be acknowledged that other cultures throughout the world had their own education systems, which are not covered in this presentation.

## Outcomes

- The development of the Western education system.
- That God is the author of education and there has been a battle throughout history to keep God at the centre of education.
- That the church and Christian schools can easily lose their way. This happens gradually, and is often unnoticed.
- That we can do our part in helping to maintain the purity of Christian education in our schools.

## Materials required:

**Posters:** The History of education; Creation-Evolution belief tree; Curriculum on the rock

**Map:** Find a map of the world and use it to point out places where the events happened.

**Stories:** Have ready some missionary stories that reflect the spread of Christianity to your country.

**To make timeline:** photocopies of small pictures for the timeline; scissors, sticky tape

## Content

### Activity:

Make a timeline using the following information.

**Education is HIS STORY.**

**4000 B.C. (approx.)**

### In the beginning

In the Garden of Eden education was directly between humans and God.

**4000 B.C. (approx.)**

### Then came the Fall

At the Fall sin came into the world. This meant that God and man could no longer communicate.

**2348 B.C.**

## **The Global Flood**

The worst sin imaginable meant that God had to start again. Only one righteous family could be found. Noah's family were responsible for passing on the knowledge they had to future generations.

## **2242 B.C.**

### **The Tower of Babel**

- After languages were confused, tribes went in different directions.
- Education developed within different cultural groups... some included God's truth, some didn't.
- Elders passed on knowledge, including historical truths from the foundation of the world.
- e.g. Stories of the Creation and great Flood appear in the history of many cultures
- But many cultures began to worship other gods.
- Truth was lost to many cultures.

## **1491 B.C.**

### **Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt**

- While other cultures moved away from Truth, the Hebrews faithfully educated their children in the ways of the Lord.
- The Hebrews believed that every part of life should be God-centred.
- Clothes, place names, monuments, calendar dates, the law and every day practices were God-focused.
- The laws of the land were based on the Bible.

## **776 B.C.**

### **The first Olympic Games and the rise to fame of the Greeks**

- The Greeks worshiped many false gods.
- The educational system they established formed the basis for Western education and is still evident today.
- Man's wisdom became the god of education.

## **1 – 30 A.D.**

### **The Promised-One came into the world.**

- The birth, example and crucifixion of the Jesus the Teacher, changed education forever.
- The parables Jesus told, and His example, gave us a foundation for education.
- Jesus showed us God's Love and Truth, essential to the teaching and learning process.
- Relationship with the true God was restored.

### **33 – 313 A.D.**

#### **The Gospel goes forth**

- The world now had the opportunity to be reunited with God through the cross.
- The Gospel was now a key to education.
- Beginning with the apostles, the Gospel spread from Jerusalem into Africa and Europe and beyond.

### **500 – 1500 A.D.**

#### **Dark Times in Europe**

- This was a period of war and struggle, kingdom against kingdom.
- As time went by, churches became religious organizations, that did not bring people to know Jesus.
- The Catholic church became very powerful and also corrupt.
- It was believed that the Priest was the only one who could communicate directly with God.
- The Bible was only available in a language that the people could not understand, (Latin).

### **1517**

#### **The Reformation**

- After a dark period in the history of Europe, a thread of Christianity still remained.
- In Europe, Martin Luther stood against the Church of the day and battled to get the Bible printed in the languages of the people.
- He showed people that everyone could communicate directly with God.

### **1500s onward**

#### **Church schools and universities established with Godly Foundations**

- In Europe, schools and universities like Oxford were established with the study of God as a foundation.
- Godly character and worship of God were encouraged.
- The church took responsibility for education.
- Schools were linked to the local church community.
- A Biblical worldview was taught.

### **1800s**

#### **The Gospel goes forth again**

Missionaries from England and European countries were called to take the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the Earth.... Africa, Pacific Islands, New Guinea.

What did the Missionaries bring?

- Hope and the love of Jesus to people bound to spirit and ancestor worship and witchcraft
- Peace, as warring tribes stopped their fighting
- Interpretation of language, and later the translation of the Bible

- New vegetables and foreign trading
- Churches and SCHOOLS.

## 1882

### The theory of Evolution and the loss of faith

- In 1859 Darwin published his theory.
- There was now a conflict.
- Was God's word really true, or was man's idea better?
- False teaching throughout science, history and social science meant that generations grew without any reference to the Gospel.
- Parents and teachers taught new values and took on lifestyles that were opposed to the Bible.

## 1882 to present day

### Education in the Western world became secular

- Faith was removed from schools.
- The State (government) took control of education.
- Church schools became expensive fee-paying schools for the rich.
- God was no longer included.
- State education in Western nations was "free, secular and compulsory".
- Church schools followed State curriculum.

## 1970s onward

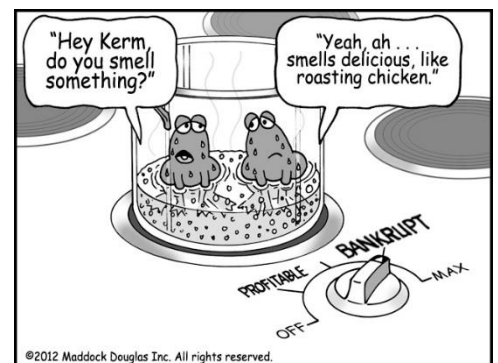
### Christians had to establish their own schools.

- Christian schooling must be built on the rock of Jesus Christ. The alternative is on the sand.
- Christian schools today must work hard to maintain their original focus...
- following in the footsteps of Jesus, the Teacher.
- Schools that stay God-centred can have a powerful impact on world evangelism.
- Students will leave the gates of these Christian schools ready to change the world.
- Christian schools that build their curriculum upon the Rock will send forth students as lights to the nations, bringing many to know and love God.

Will your school be one of these?

### What is your history?

- The church established your schools
- Do not allow your schools to become secular!
- This can happen slowly but surely
- And the church won't even notice.



Psalm 11: 3 If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Psalm 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

### **What is the future if the Christian roots are ignored?**

#### **The two trees: (poster)**

1. Evolution at the roots.
  - “I am a product of evolution.”
  - “Man is an accident.”
  - “There is no creator so no one sets the rules.”
2. Biblical creation at the roots
  - “I am God’s special creation.”
  - “God loves me.”
  - “God is in charge of me.”
  - “I am a caretaker of His creation.”



#### **Education without God is Humanism**

- “Good without God”
- People decide what is right and wrong
- Without consulting God
- God’s ideas are rejected.

#### **Education with God is His plan.**

- Our children feel loved and valued
- Our children are guided into TRUTH
- Our children have purpose and direction
- Our children feel secure, in His hands

#### **What is our role?**

- To impart God’s love to children.
- To help them realize that they are important, special, because they are created by God and have a part to play in serving Him.

#### **Discussion**

What opportunity do you see in your country for getting education back to God-centred roots? How could this be done?