

A God-centred lesson – a three-pronged fork

The Christian school teacher



How are my lessons different from those in a secular school?
How do I apply a Biblical worldview to my teaching?
What does Biblical worldview really mean?
How do I nurture character growth patterned on the life of Jesus?
How do I integrate God with my subject area?
How do I make my lessons look like a well-blended chocolate milk shake and not a pizza where the ingredients are separate?

All Christian teachers aim to put God first, but there is often a mystery as to how this is done.

The following simple steps can have a dynamic effect on the way we teach:

The way we present a lesson can be thought of as a three-pronged fork:

1. Who is God? ...relate an aspect of God's character / nature to your lesson. e.g. a science lesson on light and reflection can be related to God is Light.
2. Select Bible passages, verses or stories *relevant* to that particular attribute of God.
3. Ask, "How does an understanding on God in this way impact the way we should live?"

So here we have the three prongs:

- an understanding of God Himself (*Attribute of God*)
- an explanation of this from the Bible (*Bible*)
- a personal challenge to reflect His character (*Character development*)



So an easy way to remember this is **A B C**.

Example of **ABC** :

Topic: Australia, my home

Attribute of God: God is my shelter (**A**)

Bible verse: He hides me in the shadow of His wings (**B**)

Christian response: I will trust and not be afraid because God is my protector.
(**C**)

But this alone is not enough! We need to make the connections plain to the students.

We need to assist the students in making the connections between **A-B-C**. Besides the three prongs, there is another element in the three pronged fork. Without it the three prongs will not stay together. What is it?

The handle!

Who is the handle?

The teacher is the one that links the three elements and helps the student understand the connections between them.

Examples of making connections:

EXAMPLE 1

(Supplied by secondary teacher, Debbie Alam)

Science topic: reflection, light, heat

- 1. Aspect of God: God is Light**
- 2. Bible verse: Psalm 119:105 (NIV) - 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.'**
- 3. Character development: I will choose righteousness; to walk in the light.**

The handle:

The teacher sets the following task for the students:

Write down what your understanding of this phrase is and how it can be applied in your lives. Make reference to scientific phrases e.g. radiation, reflection, energy etc.

Student responses:

Student 1:

The Bible is God's lamp to my feet - God's lamp (the Bible) also uses reflection because his lamp also reflects into our lives. The lamp is also a light for our paths we to take in life; hopefully it is a big light (one with a concave mirror) so that we can ALWAYS see our way in the dark or whenever we are lost or gone astray - that light will always be there to stay.

Student 2:

God's word is radiated at us leading us to a life full of righteousness and blessing that is fully devoted to Him. It is our choice if we choose to absorb it or follow the world's ways, and once we have accepted him we should reflect it to others.

EXAMPLE 2

Topic: Plants

- 1. Who is God: God is life**
- 2. Bible passages: John 4:7-29 – The woman at the well.**
- 3. Character development: The Holy Spirit can help me to live as Jesus wants me to live.**

The handle:

Teacher explains:

Plants need water to stay alive. Just as plants need water to stay alive, we need the Holy Spirit to have spiritual life. Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit, the Living Water. He helps us do what Jesus would do.