

God-centred curriculum: the integrated study of the creation, the Bible and God himself

The Hebrew model

- Science, literacy, history, mathematics, art, music were all centred around God and the study of the Scriptures.
- Learning is unified around God and the Bible.
- God first rather than man first.

The Greek model

- Science, literacy, mathematics, art, music were all centred around man and his abilities
- Every subject in its own separate box.
- Man-centred, leading to pride.

Why use the Hebrew approach?

- We gain God's perspective on the world around us.
- God reveals to us His Divine purposes.
- It requires submission to God.
- Learning is centred on God's ideas rather than on man's ideas.

How do I place God at the centre of the curriculum?

Get to know God's character and nature.

Ask:

- 1. "What aspect of God's character or nature can apply to my topic?"**
- 2. "Which Bible verses or passages apply to my area of learning?"**

Examples: (Secondary education)

- A study of geography and people groups can remind us about sharing God's **love**, the **servanthood** required to meet the needs of people groups, and trust in God's **provision** to meet those needs.

- A study of history can help us identify with servants of God who have shown the **servanthood** and **love** of Jesus.
- A study of the human body can reveal the marvels of **creation** as well as the **personal** God who knows us intimately.
- A study of literature can give us opportunity to weigh up people and events in the light of **God's character**.

Example: (Primary education)

- Take 'God is Provider' as a starting point for learning.
- Science: make a study of plants
- Maths: measure and graph plant growth rates; measure the area of leaves
- Art: make plant designs; leaf prints
- Health: make a study of plant foods for good health
- Literacy: read Bible stories on God's provision
- Music: songs about God's provision
- Character development: appreciation of plant resource and wise use of the environment

Example: (Primary education)

- Take 'God is Protector'
- Science: heredity, genetics – the family of Noah and God's protection for them
- History: families of olden days – how they lived
- Character development: appreciation of my own family; family relationships; immediate and extended family
- Maths: heights/growth rates of members of my family
- Art: make a family shield
- Literacy" God's protection of families; Biblical families: families who worked for God.

What are some of the aspects of God's character/nature that we need to study?

God is:

Creator

Love

Wisdom

Protector

Truth

Purity/Holiness

Patience

Servanthood

Provision

Redeemer

Others: forgiving; gracious; merciful; just; the light; shepherd; humble; healer; Lord/King; Father; personal; kind/gentle; faithful; peace; joy

Why is getting to know God's character/nature so important in developing our own character?

God is creator – we are special to Him; we know we are valued

God is love – we need to show love and kindness to others

God is wise – we need to ask, "What would Jesus do?"

God is protector – trust God to take care of us.

God is truth – we must be open and honest in all we do.

God is pure – Our hearts must be pure and we must obey God's word.

God is patient – God wants us to be patient with ourselves and others.

God is a servant – We must have the attitude of a servant.

God is provider – Be grateful for all God has provided and trust in Him.

God is Redeemer – Make peace with God, repent and live as Jesus would have you live.