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## Program Goals for Elementary Bible Truths

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The goal of a Bible class in any Christian school is to lay the foundation for a biblical worldview. In order to lay an effective foundation, students must have and understand all the parts of a biblical worldview and have the skills they need to apply it, and teachers should have support in teaching a biblical worldview.

### Parts of a Biblical Worldview

#### *The Authority of Scripture: The Bible Is the Word of God*

Knowing that the Bible is the authoritative standard governing every aspect of life is key to a proper understanding of the beginning, purpose, and methodology of life. In order to be able to interpret and fulfill life's purpose, students must be regenerated, knowing Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Beyond salvation, students must grow in understanding the Bible's particulars for living for God's glory—the who, what, why, when, where, and how.

*“The Bible tells a single, unified story that can be summed up in three words: Creation, Fall, and Redemption.”*

#### *The Big Story of Scripture: The Bible as a Single Narrative*

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible tells a single, unified story that can be summed up in three words: Creation, Fall, and Redemption. Each year in our Elementary Bible program, students cover the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Though they do not cover every story every year, after completing Grades 1–6 they will have touched almost all of the significant narratives in the Bible's story.

#### *Beliefs and Values: Thinking Theologically*

The Bible tells its story in many different ways, and students of the Bible need to be able to systematize different teachings in Scripture, find and use key passages, and understand the implications and applications of various truths.

Elementary Bible begins the process of developing in students a desire to become life-long learners of the Bible by giving them the tools they need to begin understanding the Bible. Our program covers many Bible accounts to give students a firm grasp of the Bible at a young age.

#### *Personal Behavior: Applying the Theology*

A worldview is simply the application to personal behavior of a set of values—beliefs and assumptions—that grow out of the big story of Scripture. The other academic disciplines should

be applying the biblical worldview specifically, but students cannot apply what they don't have foundationally—Bible knowledge.

Elementary Bible begins to establish that foundation of biblical knowledge that allows students to make a complete application of their biblical worldview to all areas of their lives, both academically and personally.

## **Skills for Applying a Biblical Worldview**

### *Head (Beliefs)*

In order for a Bible class to become truly effective, classes must equip students with skills for studying the Bible for themselves. Students need to understand how to navigate the Bible; to be able to use study helps, cross-referencing tools, and concordances and dictionaries; to use hermeneutics, the science of interpretation.

Our Elementary Bible program focuses on giving necessary information in an age-appropriate way. Hands-on exercises in the lower grades help students relate to and understand the lessons they are learning. Our Teacher's Editions include thoughtfully worded elements that help students reach the goal of godly understanding and application. We also provide teachers with a hymn option to further reinforce students' understanding and application of truth.

### *Heart (Values)*

*“Beliefs should lead to values; values must be derived from beliefs.”*

Bible class can't become truly effective unless it goes from head knowledge to heart knowledge. Observation and interpretation should lead to application. Beliefs should lead to values; values must be derived from beliefs.

Elementary Bible offers numerous application stories that help students visualize Bible application in their lives. Application stories, used in conjunction with Bible memory, hymn learning, Bible Truths, Bible stories, and the teacher's teaching skills, help to move head knowledge to the heart.

## **Teaching Biblical Worldview**

### *Abundant Material*

Teaching a biblical worldview is one of the most important elements of a Christian education. When it comes to selecting the material that each class needs, it's up to the teacher to choose the best lessons or the best material to share with the class.