



Expanded Learning Initiatives

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go ahead

A Christian Approach to

Study Skills

By
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Saint John, NB, Canada

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Introduction

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased. If thou be wise thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.

Proverbs 9: 10-12

All knowledge begins with God. It is only in him and through him that we can come to truly understand the world around us because it is only through him that we can discern truth and right. Many people try to learn by putting their faith in their own intelligence and their own abilities. Often, they look down on Christians and the simple truth of faith and end up following a wrong path.. The Bible says of them, "*A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth*" (Proverbs 14:6).

God made us to learn and to love learning. He created our minds as well as our bodies and gave us a desire to seek knowledge of Him and of his Son, as well as of ourselves, other people, and the world and universe that He created. We who are Christians and have the mind of Christ, the Holy Spirit guides our learning and teaches us (1 Corinthians 2: 9-16).

Learning is a gift that God has given to all of us, and to each of us there are things that He is waiting to reveal. By adopting biblical attitudes towards learning, we can become more receptive to the knowledge that God holds for us. We can develop the skills and talents that God has given us individually to become more successful and satisfied in studies at any level.

Remember, God intends for each of us to succeed in the plans that he has for our lives. In the workplace of today, it is necessary to be learning all the time and to be able to develop new skills. Mastering approaches to learning with the mind of Christ will also enable us to be better and more productive learners in the workplaces of the future.

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1: 6-7

Objective 1: Demonstrate a recognition that true knowledge begins with God, is inspired by God, and ultimately leads back to God.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- Proverbs 1: 7

For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven; To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure. When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder: Then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out. And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom and to depart from evil is understanding.

Job 28: 20-28

Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

- Proverbs 2: 3-5

Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.

- John 6: 46

Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me."

- John 7: 14-16

Teaching Strategies

In meeting this objective, students should show that they understand that everything is the study of God. The universe is his, and he made it. When we learn about science or math, we are learning about God's universe. When we learn about history and literature, we are learning about human nature and society, which we must view in relation to God's law and his plan for humanity and the influence of Satan.

Accomplishment of this objective may include some of the following activities:

- 1.1 Describe how an assigned homework topic in science or math helps one to learn more about God;
- 1.2 Discuss the ways in which viewing maths and sciences as God centered influences perceptions and values;

- 1.3 Describe an assigned homework topic in history, literature, or the social sciences in relation to God's law or plan and the influence of Satan;
- 1.4 Discuss the influence of Christ's sacrifice in an assigned homework topic in the arts, humanities, or social sciences;
- 1.5 Discuss the ways in which viewing the arts, humanities, or social sciences influences perceptions and values.



*What was it like to be a
Christian during the French
Revolution?*

Objective 2: demonstrate a recognition of the importance of education and its role in God's plan for our lives;

Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

- Proverbs 8: 10-11

Get wisdom, get understanding; forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

- Proverbs 4: 5-7

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

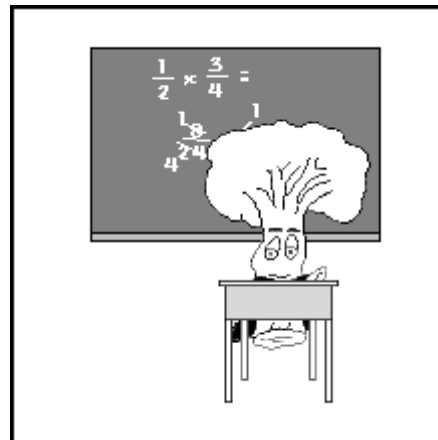
- Proverbs 3: 5-6

Teaching Strategies

In meeting this objective, students may concentrate on Christian goal setting. This may include goal setting in the larger sense--considering careers, families, and God's purpose for our lives--as well as in the more immediate sense--considering goals for particular subjects or assignments, attitudes and behaviors towards schooling.

Accomplishment of this objective may include some of the following activities.

- 2.1 Discuss what the Bible says about God's view of the importance of wisdom and learning and why?
- 2.2 Discuss the differences between wisdom and understanding on one hand knowledge and education on the other;
- 2.3 Explain how education may be important to the fulfilling of God's purpose for one's life, and how a particular subject or homework assignment may be a part of that plan;
- 2.4 Establish realistic and measurable personal goals for each subject (this may be a series of short range goals);
- 2.5 formulate a strategy to achieve personal goals in each subject and regularly assess progress towards achieving them.



Jesus wants me to learn fractions because...?

Objective 3: value teachers; love them in the Lord for their work and respect their authority;

And we beseech you, brethren to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.
- 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-13

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.
- John 13: 16-17

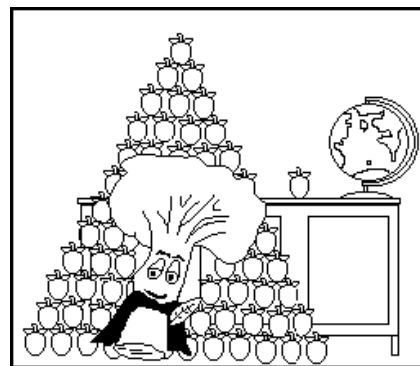
Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you..
- Hebrews 13: 17

Teaching Strategies

In meeting this objective, students will demonstrate a recognition of the authority of teachers and the importance of obedience and holding them in respect and Christian love. They will focus on the teacher as a real person who is loved by God and for whom He has a purpose.. It will also address the contribution of parents and spiritual elders in the education process.

Accomplishment of this objective may include some of the following activities:

- 3.1 Explain the what the Bible says about how we are to treat those who are in authority;
- 3.2 Explain the role of teachers in God's word;
- 3.3 Develop and implement personal strategies for interacting with teachers (i.e., sit close to front of the class, ask questions, know your teacher);
- 3.4 Discuss how to interact in obedience, respect, and Christian love with non-Christian teachers or course content;
- 3.5 Discuss the potential educational benefits of implementing strategies that treat teachers with respect and Christian love;
- 3.6 Discuss the authority of parents and others and their role in the education process.



I sure hope she like apples

Objective 4: describe the importance of testing what is learned, bearing in mind always the teachings received from loved ones and the truth of the Bible;

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them. And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- 2 Timothy 3: 14-15

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

- 1 Thessalonians 5: 21

Teaching Strategies

In meeting this objective, students will learn that information may spring from different perspectives or world views. They will recognize the importance of weighing information presented in learning experiences, of testing its veracity, and of measuring it in relation to the values they hold to be true through their parents and others and through their own experience. They will learn to recognize perspective, and to differentiate between facts, theories, and opinions. They will practice recognizing slant and bias, including their own, and demonstrate a recognition that these are not necessarily bad things.

Accomplishment of this objective may include some of the following activities:

- 4.1 Identify facts, theories, and opinions in selected passages from course texts or newspaper articles and discuss how this may influence their interpretation;
- 4.2 Identify facts, theories, and opinions and perspective in the student's own compositions or written assignments;
- 4.3 Discuss common biases or perspectives that are encountered in school (i.e., fellow students, teachers);
- 4.4 Discuss strategies for dealing with course content or instructor perspectives that are in conflict with the student's own world view;
- 4.5 Explain how new information in homework assignments relates to prior knowledge, opinions, or beliefs.



They say the world looks different depending on where you are standing.

Objective 5: demonstrate a commitment to accomplishing assigned tasks (work ethic);

Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to words of knowledge.

- Proverbs 23: 12

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.

- Colossians 3: 23

Teaching Strategies

In meeting this objective, students will learn about and apply the Bible's direction to applying oneself to tasks and will recognize their endeavors in education should be undertaken wholeheartedly as a service to God. They will demonstrate a commitment to accomplishing homework tasks in a timely fashion and a commitment to quality. They will analyze their current approaches to completing assignments and develop strategies to improve their effectiveness.

Accomplishment of this objective may include some of the following activities

- 5.1 Demonstrate an ability to work independently to complete homework assignments;
- 5.2 Identify personal weaknesses and bad habits that negatively impact effective study (i.e., forgetting books at school, not writing down all homework);
- 5.3 Develop and implement strategies to overcome personal weaknesses and bad habits that negatively impact effective study;
- 5.4 Recognize the importance of being well rested and nourished when studying;
- 5.5 Describe how they see education as a part of God's plan for their lives and how doing their best in school serves him.



If God wants me to be a fireman, why do I have to study Shakespeare?

Objective 6: demonstrate a positive attitude and willingness to learn;

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

- I Thessalonians 5: 18

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

- Proverbs 17: 22

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

- Joshua 1: 7-9

Teaching Strategies

In meeting this objective, students will undertake their school and homework assignments with a joyful heart, giving thanks even for subjects or tasks that are not favorites. They will learn that a positive attitude in Christ minimizes frustrations, and that God supports and guides them in all things.

Accomplishment of this objective may include some of the following activities

- 6.1 Discuss different subjects in school and feelings towards them;
- 6.2 Give thanks to God for all subjects, and discuss after a period of time, how feelings have changed or not;
- 6.3 Discuss and give examples of the effects of attitude on performance;
- 6.4 Discuss additional effects of attitude (i.e. effect on other subjects, attitude towards school, relationships);
- 6.5 Differentiate between not liking something and not being thankful.



Thank you, Lord, that I'm learning to dissect worms, but I think I'll skip lunch.

Objective 7: begin every school day, test, and homework session with prayer;

Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

- Psalms 55: 17

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

- Luke 18: 1

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.

- Colossians 4: 2

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 4: 6-7

Teaching Strategies

In meeting this objective, students will learn about the absolute importance of regular prayer. They will discover that it is as important to prepare prayerfully for school, tests, and homework assignments as it is to prepare academically.

Accomplishment of this objective may include some of the following activities

- 7.1 Discuss the nature of prayer and how to do it;
- 7.2 Model prayers for the beginning of homework sessions;
- 7.3 Students suggest what one could say in a prayer at the beginning of a school day, before a test, or before homework;
- 7.4 Students pray before beginning homework;
- 7.5 Students form and implement a plan to pray at the beginning of each school day and before tests.



...and please help me with my homework...

Objective 8: take direction well--accept correction;

Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.
- Proverbs 12: 1

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

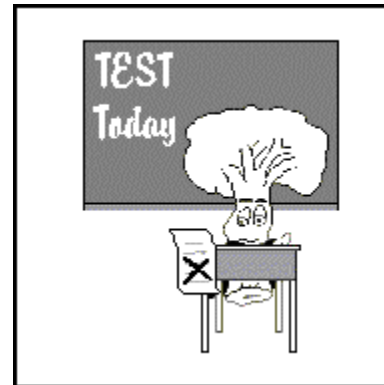
- Proverbs 12: 15

Teaching Strategies

In meeting this objective, students will work to accept the guidance of teachers and others and to recognize correction as a positive experience. They will discuss ways to avoid becoming defensive and will learn to consider the criticism and suggestions of others in evaluating and improving their own work.

Accomplishment of this objective may include some of the following activities:

- 8.1 Discuss examples of correction in the bible (i.e. Corinthians). What was the purpose of correction? How would the recipients benefit from it?
- 8.2 Discuss the roles of teacher and student in the classroom, and the teacher's motivation and responsibility to correct;
- 8.3 Discuss how praise and correction go together;
- 8.4 Develop and implement strategies for correcting others;
- 8.5 Practice reading and following instructions;
- 8.6 Develop and implement strategies for correcting your own work.



I don't mind when you tell me I'm wrong, but do you have to do it so often?

Objective 9: apply skills and knowledge from study to practical, real world situations;

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

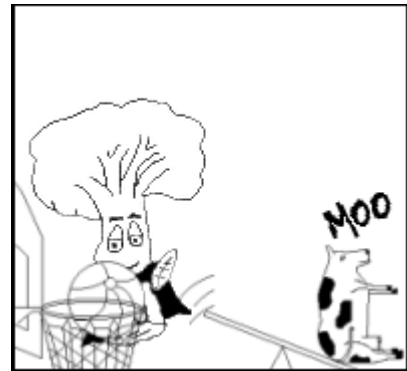
- Philippians 4: 9

Teaching Strategies

In meeting this objective, students will discover that what is learned in the classroom is not isolated from the world beyond the walls and that learning is about more than paper and books. They will recognize that knowledge is to be applied. Just as faith is meaningless unless it is given action, so learning is to be applied in real world situations.

Accomplishment of this objective may include some of the following activities

- 9.1 Discuss career applications of specific subjects or topics;
- 9.2 Create strategies to reinforce specific school topics at home(i.e. help with grocery shopping to reinforce adding skills, work out a personal budget to reinforce percent, cook to reinforce measurement and following directions, etc.);
- 9.3 Apply reading and analysis strategies to newspaper and magazine articles;
- 9.4 Identify slant and bias and discuss the role of fact, theory, and opinion in television or print news;
- 9.5 Look for examples of science topics in the world around (i.e. erosion at the beach, pulley's and tackle used by window washers, etc.)



I always knew physics was good for something.