

“The Unique Characteristics of Student Of the Word (SOW): A Bible Centered K-12th Curriculum”

Francis Schaffer, a well known theologian, said this, “What we believe is how we shall live.”

Therefore, we will start this presentation by declaring what we believe to be truth...

1. Every person’s purpose in life is to know God through Jesus Christ and to make Him known.
2. Parents are ordained by God to disciple “teach and train” their children“ in the way that they should go”.
3. Discipleship is the Biblical method used to educate “teach and train” each student to be complete in Christ...Spiritually, mentally, emotionally, academically, physically, & socially.
4. The Bible is “inspired by God and good for training & teaching” in every subject.
5. The teacher, pastor, mentor, or coach’s job is to support and help the parents in their task to disciple (Biblically educate) their children.
6. Demonstrating God’s love to others is the disciple of Christ’s highest goal in all relationships.

Since we believe these statements to be true, as disciples (students) of Christ, we are “eager, obligated, and not ashamed”, to seek and implement a Biblical plan to disciple (reach and train) our God given students (children).

The following are the SOW Curriculum’s many unique characteristics...

1. **Biblical vision**...The goal is to know God; the method is discipleship, and the main text is the Bible.
2. **Accredited Resources** ... The recommended resources meet national standards for grades K-12th using texts such as Bob Jones, ABeka, Rod & Staff, IEW, AIG, & more.
3. **Integrated subjects** ...Every subject is centered on the Bible (not history, literature, principle, or doctrine) creating a special bond between all the subjects, spelling to reading, etc..
4. **Discipleship approach**... Each student is taught how to pray, study the Bible inductively from Genesis to Revelations, obey the Scriptures, be a good steward, defend the faith, walk in the Spirit not the flesh, share the gospel, serve others, make wise decisions, and more.
5. **Individually paced learning**... This is achieved through personal schedules, step by step lessons, one on one instruction, check outs, & various skill level worksheets and charts.
6. **Nondenominational** ...Utilizing parental guidance, inductive skills, critical thinking, various sources, the Bible (any version) as the main text, assures a nonbiased Biblical education.
7. **Multi-level instruction** ...Whole concepts & various skills transcend grades, abilities, or ages. For example, the first week all of the students will read and outline Genesis 1, study the character of God, a topical study on creation, science is Theology (study of God), writing “Proving the Existence of God”, Elective- A Banner of God’s names, and penmanship, Hebrew/ Greek, English and spelling skills are learned using the key Scripture verse, Genesis 1:1.
8. **Mastery of whole concepts & various skills**... The language arts (Bible) section includes outlining, word study, topical study, setting, character study, & application. There are 12 kinds of writing... biography, poetry, letter, comparison, journal, etc.. History, science, & geography are unit studies that alternate and require the student to complete timelines, projects, diagrams, observations, experiments, reports, biographies, maps, surveys, culture, resource, governments, arts, religions.
9. **All students inclusive**... K-12th, special needs, and/or English second language students learn by skill & concept repetition, step by step lessons, & utilizing oral, drawing, & writing to communicate.
10. **Family oriented**...Devotions, co-ops, home management, multi-level learning, and special elective activities such as camping, holiday traditions, etc. create family unity with purpose.
11. **Life skill training** ... Teaching and training our young adults for Ministry with the elderly, sick, challenged, poor, etc.; Vocation (volunteer work with a veterinarian, electrician, nurse, lawyer, etc.); Self management such as cooking, house maintenance, budgeting, other; Single or married life.

12. **Biblical view**...Wisdom achieved not just knowledge acquired because the Bible is the main text & inductive skills are used in order to draw out the truth in every subject.
13. **Testing & evaluating**...Diagnostic and/or achievement tests, student progress reports, & subject evaluations of completed lessons keep the parent & officials informed of the student's progress.
14. **Personal & home management** ... Schedules, student progress report, Spiritual/Carnal traits, time management, & other charts train the student for excellence in all areas of Christian living.
15. **Comprehensive education**...There are step by step lessons in all the major subjects such as Bible, Prayer, Penmanship/Memory, Creative Writing, Literature, English, Spelling, Speech, plus various Electives, such as music, art, etc.. Science is taught by topic, geography by each continent, & history in chronological order; exception... Math is not included.
16. **Inductive method**... Analytical questions (who, what, when, where, how, why), research (finding answers using various sources), critical thinking (recall, sequencing, comprehension, etc.), communication (speaking, drawing, writing), and application (observation, interpretation, application) are used to draw out the truth in every subject.
17. **2, 4, 6, or 12 year plan (scope & sequence)** to fit your student, family, church, school, co-op. individual needs.
18. **Support system**...Access to experienced and degreed educator to train & teach, answer questions, give advice, etc. via FREE blog, email, phone consultations, & mentorship program. Workshops on "Biblical view for Every Subject", "How to SOW Multi-levels", ..."Special Needs", "Home Management", "SOWing in High school", etc. at your home, church, school, or other.
19. **Easy Implementation**...The SOW is written so that 6th-12th graders can independently use the SOW in every subject by following a specific schedule, scope & sequence, & lessons with skill level worksheets in every subject. These unique aspects of the SOW, also, make it easy for teachers to teach the instructional grade levels, K-5th.
20. **Reproducible Skill/Grade Level Worksheets** make teaching simple & learning easy but fun, interesting, thorough.
21. **Friendly Budget**... There is no need to purchase multiple texts for each grade level per subject and student (12 years x 7 subjects = at least 84 texts to purchase). The SOW resources recommended for each lesson in most subjects are used by all the students regardless of age or grade and for multiple years ... dictionary for spelling, English handbook, encyclopedia for geography, etc..

In conclusion, Jesus' last words to His disciples were, "Go and make disciples teaching them all that I commanded..." When we became "Students Of the Word" by depending on God's Spirit and abiding in His Word our way of thinking and living were changed. I remember teaching Matt 7, "Love your enemies, pray for those who despitefully use you, and bless those who curse you." the traditional way... not literally but figuratively. My son who was 7 at the time corrected me by pointing out that the Scriptures explained clearly what Jesus meant... :to turn the other cheek when slapped and to give your coat when asked." We were and have been tested many times with this command. Example, neighbor's drums and a neighborhood bike gang. It is not always easy to be a follower of Jesus but it promises great rewards, if we walk by faith in His Word and Spirit... "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, and self control." Regardless of the choices others make, including those closest to us, are we prepared to say, "As for me and my house, we choose the Lord."?

The SOW Curriculum consists of...

- SOW TE/RE & SE Editions: Volume I
- SOW TE & SE Editions: Volumes II-VI
- SOW Skill Level Worksheets...K-5th, 6th-12th, and Advanced.

- SOW Workshops ...”Why Christians should Homeschool”, “How to SOW K-5th, 6th-12th, & Advanced”, “SOWing with Special Needs”, “Home Management”, ...
- FREE SOW Mentorship...prayer, suggestions, student progress report, etc.

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Visit the SOW website... <http://www.sowcurriculum.com/>.

Check out the SOW blog... <http://sowcurriculum.com/blog/?p=771>