



Biblical Studies

Biblical Studies is the study and enjoyment of God's Word which reveals His nature and His ways to us.

Study of God's Word reveals God Himself and His nature.

- 'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' **John 1:1**

Theology is the study of the Word of God that we might know Him.

God's Word is vital for true life.

- 'Man does not live on bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.' - **Luke 4:4 & Deuteronomy 8:3**
- 'These commandments that I give to you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children.' - **Deuteronomy 6:4**
- God's work is perfect, trustworthy, wise, enduring, precious and sweet. **Psalms 19:7-11**
- 'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and gaining in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.' - **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

God's Word can be enjoyed for its own sake but is also useful for training men and women in righteousness.

- 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.' - **Proverbs 9:10**

Study of God's Word, and learning to respond obediently to its truth, will increase our wisdom.

- Constant use of God's Word trains our students to discern between human and divine wisdom, good and evil - **Hebrews 5:14**.
- Biblical Studies will challenge and shape the lifestyles of our students, encouraging them to live for God above everything else - **Matthew 22:37-39**.
- We want them to take up the challenge to impact their generation and subsequent generations by passing on the knowledge of God - **Matthew 28:19-20**.
- It will be the foundation which will support us in the trials and storms of life - **Matthew 7 - Parable of Builders**.
- 'And this gospel will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.' - **Matthew 24:14**

We want to fulfil the Great Commission to make disciples of Jesus by passing on the story of God's plan for salvation and understanding of His principles.

God's Word will be relevant to every age and people group.

Aspects of Biblical Studies to be studied at appropriate ages and stages include:

- The Stories of Old and New Testament men and women of God
- The Life of Christ
- The Nature of Christ
- The Fatherhood of God
- The Holy Spirit
- Themes of Justification, Salvation, Sanctification etc
- The Gospel of Christ
- The History of God's People
- The Way God's Word came to us
- The Kingdom of God
- The Parables of Jesus
- The New Testament Church and Epistles
- The End Times – Eschatology
- Spiritual Warfare
- Psalms
- Proverbs – Words of Wisdom
- Mission in New Testament
- Mission Since the New Testament
- Applied Theology
- Biblical Ethics and Worldview
- Church History

The Study of Other Religions 'Comparative Religions'

The argument put forward for studying other religions is that our students may gain a basic awareness of other faiths and what their followers believe so that they can engage in intelligent discussion when sharing the Christian faith. It is important that we ensure that any such study is kept for upper senior groups as younger children may become confused by these issues.

'Comparative Religions' is a title which can be misleading. Jesus Christ is comparable to no other god. He is supreme and unique in His power and authority.

- 'Therefore, God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name.' - **Philippians 2:9**
- He himself said, 'I am the truth' - **John 14:6**
- Only He can set men free. 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' - **John 8:32**

Therefore, when we approach other faiths we need to ensure that we give Jesus Christ His true place and that any comparison is engaged with care; to present Jesus Christ and His Word as the only true authority.

- 'Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.' - **Acts 4:12**
- We need to expose the lies that 'all faiths lead to God' or that 'we all worship the same God'. Jesus said, 'No one comes to the Father except through me.' – **John 14:6**
- The first commandment states: 'You shall have no other gods before me.' - **Exodus 20:3**

When we teach about other faiths it is important to teach our students this commandment and warn them of the lure of other beliefs e.g. the Israelites were seduced repeatedly by Canaanite gods.

We need to be aware that other religions can be a snare, as can other philosophies.

- 'Be careful not to be ensnared by enquiring about their gods.' - **Deuteronomy 12:30**
- 'See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world, rather than on Christ.' - **Colossians 2:8**

Avoid immersing your student thoroughly in the teachings of other faiths.

One suggested approach would be to take aspects of the Christian faith in turn and show how unique they are in comparison to other beliefs.

e.g. Begin with the fact that all other faiths require you to work for approval and acceptance; only our God gives His blessings as a free gift and made the move towards us in sending His Son.

Books and Resources

Refer to “Towards a Christian Curriculum” by Barbara Lord

The Stapleford Centre (valuable resources for R.E.) Nottingham Tel: 0115 939 6270

‘Jesus Among Other Gods’ by Ravi Zacharias

‘The Lion Handbook of the World’s Religions’ by Lion Publishing

Biblical Studies - Whole School Overview

Year 7

Christian Beliefs

Character Studies

Life and Work of Jesus

Year 8

Missions

Discipleship

Spiritual Warfare

Year 9

World Religions

Biblical Viewpoint on Issues of Today

Wisdom

GCSE Religious Studies (Edexcel)

Year 10

GCSE: Mark's Gospel (Unit P)

P1 - Discipleship

P2 - Conflict and Argument

P3 - Death and Resurrection

P4 - Who is Jesus?

P5 - Christians and Persecution (coursework)

Year 11

GCSE: Religion and life based on a study of Christianity (Unit B)

B1 - Believing in God

B2 - Matters of Life and Death

B3 - Marriage and the Family

B4 - Social Harmony

B5 - Religion: Wealth and Poverty (coursework)

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 7	Christian Beliefs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Looking at Key Christian Beliefs. ▪ What is the Bible? ▪ Who is God? ▪ Who is the Holy Spirit? The Trinity, Salvation, Faith. The Church and the Future. 	Character Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is Christian Character? ▪ Godly/Ungodly Role Models ▪ Studies of: Esther, Daniel, David, Joseph, Samuel, Gideon & Ruth 	
Year 8	Missions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biblical Mandate of Missions ▪ Paul and the Early Church ▪ Missions: What, Why, Where and When? ▪ God's Preparation of His People ▪ Modern Missionaries 	Discipleship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learning as a Disciple ▪ Jesus and His Disciples ▪ Paul: Disciple of the Early Church. Ephesians, 1 Corinthians ▪ What is Discipleship? ▪ Being a Disciple of Christ Today 	Spiritual Warfare
Year 9	World Religions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key Precepts of Christianity ▪ What is Religion? ▪ Looking at How Satan alters Man-Made religions and what they are based on. 	Biblical Viewpoint on Issues of Today.	Wisdom
Year 10	Mark's Gospel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to Mark ▪ Who is Jesus? ▪ Discipleship ▪ Parables 	Parables (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Death and Resurrection ▪ Christians and Persecution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conflict and Argument Religion and Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Religion, Wealth and Poverty
Year 11	Religion and Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Religion, Wealth and Poverty ▪ Believing in God ▪ Matters of Life and Death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marriage and the Family ▪ Social Harmony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revision ▪ GCSE Exam