

# **SPRING BRANCH ACADEMY**

## THE THEOLOGY CURRICULUM

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*The mission of Spring Branch Academy is  
to promote the worship of God  
through the exposition of Scripture,  
the explanation of history,  
and the application of faith in Christ to all of life.*

The eagle on the cover is a facsimile from *The Baptist Monitor, and Political Compiler* (July 22, 1823), published in Bloomfield, Kentucky.

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# Theology I: Creation, the Bible, and Work

## Spring Branch Academy

*The Word, Worship, and Wisdom*

### Fall – Creation by Fiat: The Case for Orthodoxy against Evolution

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	Significance of Creation to Theism	Memorize Genesis 1:1 and 1:3. Read Job chapters 1-3, 27-31, 38-42 and Psalm 104. From Job 28, 38-41, type three answers to the questions: What can man do?           What can man not do? What can man know?       What can man not know? Watch two hours of videos from Answers in Genesis.
Week 2	Presupposition: Scientific Naturalism	Memorize Job 28:28 and Ecclesiastes 1:2. Review the other verses and the class notes. Read Ecclesiastes and type out twelve vanities. Listen to Franz Joseph Haydn, <i>The Creation</i> .
Week 3	Presupposition: Progress	Memorize Hebrews 11:3, and review verses and notes. Select and read 60 pp. in <i>The New Answers Book</i> : Summarize two chapters in five typed sentences. Be prepared to present one chapter in class.
Week 4	The Doctrine of Creation & Fall	Memorize Romans 5:12, and review verses and notes. Select and read 60 pp. in <i>The New Answers Book</i> : Summarize two chapters in five typed sentences. Be prepared to present one chapter in class. Read the study guide for Larson, <i>Summer for the Gods</i> .
Week 5	The Great Flood	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Larson, <i>Summer for the Gods</i> , chs. 4-8: First read only the first sentence in each paragraph. Then read the entire text of chs. 6-8 out loud. Collect ten posies with proper citation.
<i>Fall Break</i>		
Week 6	Geology	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Larson, <i>Summer for the Gods</i> , ch. 9: First read the first sentence of every paragraph. Then read the entire text of ch. 9 out loud. Along with your parents or a mature Christian adult, watch with discernment the film <i>Inherit the Wind</i> . Write an essay comparing the film to the actual trial.
Week 7	Paleontology	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Larson, <i>Summer for the Gods</i> , Afterword. Watch the following video from Intelligent Design: <i>Darwin's Dilemma</i> Read Gould, "Impeaching a Self-Imposed Judge." Read Johnson, "Response to Gould." Write an essay on creation/evolution debates.

Week 8	Biology	<p>Review the memory verses and notes.  Read Wells, "Survival of the Fakest."  Read <i>Science, Evolution, Creationism</i>:  Identify three areas and write your thoughts on each.  Use any of the resources in this course.</p>
Week 9	Theistic Evolution	<p>Review the notes and the memory verses for a final exam.  Read Poythress, <i>Christian Interpretations of Genesis 1</i>.  Watch the following videos from Intelligent Design:  <i>Unlocking the Mystery of Life</i>  <i>The Privileged Planet</i>  Read Meyer, "Intelligent Design Is Not Creationism."  Write an essay on whether ID is creationism.</p>
Week 10	Darwinists, ID, and the Creationists	<p>Final Exam  Read Richardson, <i>Peace Child</i>.</p>

## Bibliography – Creation

Answers in Genesis. [The Foundations DVD Series](#).

This DVD series has twelve half-hour lectures by Ken Ham, the popular speaker and founder of Answers in Genesis. These lectures were filmed recently, but resemble those filmed years ago at Cedarville University. Students will choose four lectures to watch, either individually or with other classmates. The twelve-set DVD package does not need to be purchased, but can be borrowed from the church library.

Gould, Stephen Jay Gould. "[Impeaching a Self-Imposed Judge](#)." *Scientific American* (July 1992).

This article is Gould's response to Phillip Johnson's bestseller *Darwin on Trial*. While touching on a couple issues, the response is mainly *ad hominem* and based on the supposed differences between lawyers and scientists in how they approach matters of truth.

Ham, Ken, ed. [The New Answers Book: Over 25 Questions on Creation/Evolution and the Bible](#). Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2006.

This book is the first in a series from Answers in Genesis, which presents possible biblical answers for hard questions about creation and evolution. The word "possible" is used purposefully, because we do not always know how the Bible and science square up; however, it is helpful to have possible solutions. Students are not required to obtain all four books; but if parents are interested, they can purchase the entire set: [The New Answers Book Boxed Set](#).

Haydn, Franz Joseph. [The Creation](#).

This oratorio draws from Genesis, the Psalms, and Milton's *Paradise Lost* to depict the Beginning. Students may purchase this CD or view a performance online (e.g. YouTube). The entire performance typically lasts about an hour and three quarters long.

**Alternate Online Edition:** [The Creation](#). Legal and free, and in English.

Illustra Media. [The Intelligent Design Collection](#).

This set of three videos, starring John Rhys-Davies, presents the origin of the universe from the perspective of Intelligent Design: *Darwin's Dilemma*, *The Privileged Planet*, and *Unlocking the Mystery of Life*. Students should be aware that the Intelligent Design approach often starts by presenting a strong case for evolution, before seeking a refutation on scientific grounds. In using science and not the Bible to refute evolution, these videos give students a different experience than the Answers in Genesis material. This set does not need to be purchased, but can be borrowed from the academy library.

[Inherit the Wind](#). DVD

Based on a play by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, this erroneous film caricatures the Scopes Trial of 1925. As a very insidious attack on Christianity, it should be viewed along with a mature Christian and then discussed. Students will learn of its historical errors by first reading the true history of the Scopes Trial in *Summer for the Gods*. This video should not be purchased, but should be rented online or through some other video outlet.

Johnson, Phillip E. "[Response to Gould](#)."

As the title says, Johnson is here responding to Gould's response. Overall, the direct interchange allows students to hear firsthand the two sides speak for themselves.

Larson, Edward J. [Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate over Science and Religion](#). New York: Basic Books, 1997, 2006 [new afterword].

This book tells two stories—the Scopes Trial of 1925 and the twentieth-century debate over religion and science. The author is even-handed and factual, providing students with a good platform for viewing the extremely biased film *Inheriting the Wind*.

Meyer, Stephen C. "[Intelligent Design is not Creationism](#)." *The Daily Telegraph (London)*, 9 February 2006.

This short article introduces Meyer's case for intelligent design as a scientific inference from biology. Because intelligent design arguments do not invoke the authority of the Bible, they differ substantially from creationism.

National Academy of Sciences and Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. [Science, Evolution, and Creationism](#). Washington DC: The National Academies Press, 2008.

This short book is a secular guide for public school teachers. It guides them in teaching evolution and handling creationism. Reading this book will give students an insider's look at how evolutionists think and strategize. (For a refutation of an earlier guide, see Jonathan Safarti, *Refuting Evolution: A Response to the National Academy of Sciences' Teaching About Evolution and the Nature of Science*.)

Poythress, Vern S. [Christian Interpretations of Genesis 1](#). Christian Answers to Hard Questions. Philadelphia: Westminster Seminary Press; Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2013.

The author summarizes the various interpretations of Genesis chapter one that are described fully in his book *Redeeming Science: A God-Centered Approach* (2006).

Richardson, Don. [Peace Child: An Unforgettable Story of Primitive Jungle Treachery in the 20th Century](#). 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, Bethany House, 1976, 2005.

This groundbreaking missionary book shows that so-called Stone Age men are like us, in need of Christ, and can come to Christ for salvation. This documented case of effective communication also shows that there is no evolutionary gap between modern man and his so-called ancestors.

Wells, Jonathan. "[Survival of the Fakest](#)." *The American Spectator* (December 2000 / January 2001).

This short article, written by a Berkeley Ph.D. in biology, describes how many of the popular "proofs" for evolution lack scientific rigor.

## Winter – The Doctrine of the Bible

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	Revelation	Memorize Deuteronomy 29:29 and Psalm 119:18. Read <i>Origin of the Bible</i> , Section One, and write an essay: What do you know about the Bible? What would you like to know about the Bible?
Week 2	Prophecy	Memorize 2 Peter 1:21 and review other verses. Read Edwards, <i>God's Outlaw</i> , chs. 1-3: Write an essay.
Week 3	Inspiration	Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and review other verses. Read Edwards, <i>God's Outlaw</i> , chs. 4-8: Retell the story of Tyndale in 400 +/- 10 words. Read the tract <i>M'Cheyne's Daily Bible Readings</i> : Prayerfully consider reading the Bible for yourself. Read Psalm 119 out loud in one sitting.
<i>Christmas Break</i>		
Week 4	Authority	Memorize Luke 16:17, and review other verses. Read Bierle, <i>Surprised by Faith</i> , chs. 1-3: Write an essay on the truthfulness of the Bible.
Week 5	Canonization: The Jewish Canon	Memorize Matthew 24:35, and review other verses. Read Bierle, <i>Surprised by Faith</i> , chs. 4-6: Write a personal reflection on your own faith.
Week 6	Canonization: The Christian Canon	Review the memory verses. Read <i>Origin of the Bible</i> , Section Two. Make a creative, colorful poster of the biblical canon: Artistically represent the OT/NT structure and order. Posters are assessed for clarity, ideas, and attraction.
Week 7	Transmission	Review the memory verses. Read <i>Origin of the Bible</i> , Section Four. Copy a chapter from the Pastoral Epistles by hand: A fellow student will check for copying mistakes. A prize is given to the copy with the least errors.
Week 8	Translation	Review the memory verses. Read Comfort, "History of the English Bible" (in <i>Origin</i> ). Read Ryken, <i>Choosing a Bible</i> . Read/compare your copied chapter in three versions. Report in class on the most significant difference.
Week 9	Interpretation	Review the notes and the memory verses for a final exam. Read <i>Origin of the Bible</i> , Section Three: Type twenty observations from your copied chapter.
Week 10	Application	Final Exam Read Harris & Harris, <i>Do Hard Things</i> .



## Bibliography – Bible

Bierle, Donald A. [Surprised by Faith: A Skeptic Discovers More to Life Than What We Can See, Touch, and Measure](#). 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Minnetonka, MN: FaithSearch International, 1992, 2003, 2012.

This apologetic work is a rational defense of the faith, including the Bible and the deity of Christ. The facts presented in this book should convince sincere students about the historical reliability of the Bible. The book also gives students the opportunity to reflect on where their faith is at this season of life.

**Note:** If a used copy is being considered (and it should be explored), please verify that it is the third edition.

Comfort, Philip Wesley, ed. [The Origin of the Bible](#). Rev ed. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 1992, 2003.

This anthology is the basic textbook for this course, with articles written by leading evangelical scholars.

**Note:** In obtaining a used copy, please verify that it is the revised edition.

Edwards, Brian H. [God's Outlaw: The Story of William Tyndale and the English Bible](#). 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. A Welwyn Biography. Darlington, Co. Durham, England: Evangelical Press, 1976, 1988.

William Tyndale was the primary translator of the Bible into English. By reading about his life and martyrdom, students should gain an appreciation for the gift of Scripture *in our language*. Edwards' biography is written in a popular style, with some imaginative details added to fill in the story.

**Note:** This book is currently out-of-print, but used copies are readily available.

Harris, Alex and Brett Harris. [Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion against Low Expectations](#). Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2008, 2013.

Written by two teenage twins, this book is an exhortation to other teens for ambitious initiative in the Lord. This book works great as an introduction to the spring term on work, and provides excellent motivation for students to keep pushing ahead through the remaining school year.

M'Cheyne, Robert Murray. [M'Cheyne's Daily Bible Readings](#). Reprint [tract], Pensacola, FL: Chapel Library, n.d.

This tract, written years ago by a godly Scottish minister, simply contains a plan for reading the Bible in a year.

**Note:** Students receive this plan right before the New Year, when a yearly systematic Bible reading would begin.

Ryken, Leland. [Choosing a Bible: Understanding Bible Translation Differences](#). Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2005.

Ryken worked on the Translation Oversight Committee of the English Standard Version (published by Crossway). He presents a very opinionated argument for the word-to-word translation; however, his forcefulness will help students to see more clearly the major differences involved in Bible translation.

## Spring – Work as Vocation

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	Vocation and a Serious Mindset	Memorize John 5:17b and John 17:4. <b>Men:</b> Read Ryle, <i>Thoughts for Young Men</i> . <b>Women:</b> Read Elliot, <i>Let Me Be a Woman</i> , chs. 1-22. Before reading, pray, “Lord, stir me and direct me!” Write an essay about taking your calling seriously.
Week 2	Work in Redemptive History	Memorize Genesis 1:28 and review other verses. Read Hummel, <i>Tyranny of the Urgent</i> : (After reading, give to an adult with an explanation.) Read Piper, <i>Risk Is Right</i> : Write an essay comparing Piper and Hummel. Include differences, similarities, and two quotes each. Read Proverbs 1-9: Type the verses on work, diligence, and the sluggard.
Week 3	A Goal of Work – Provision	Memorize 2 Thessalonians 3:10b and review other verses. Read Proverbs 10-31: Type the verses on work, diligence, and the sluggard. Make a poster against laziness using Proverbs quotes. Posters are assessed for clarity, ideas, and attraction.
Week 4	A Goal of Work – Giving	Memorize Ephesians 4:28 and review other verses. Read Elliot, <i>Shadow of the Almighty</i> , Intro, chs. 1-2: Do not forget—always read the preface of any book. Read and rearrange all the verses from Proverbs on work: Group the verses into themes. Type a final list with headings and a comment added.
Week 5	A Goal of Work – Independence for the Glory of God	Memorize Colossians 3:23 and review other verses. Read Elliot, <i>Shadow of the Almighty</i> , chs. 3-17: Write an essay.
	<i>Easter Break (varies)</i>	
Week 6	Finding God’s Will	Review the memory verses. Read Elliot, <i>Shadow of the Almighty</i> , chs. 18-21. Conduct the three interviews, according to the handout: Businessman, employee, and homemaker.
Week 7	Planning and Setbacks	Review the memory verses. Read Elliot, <i>Shadow of the Almighty</i> , chs. 22-24: From Elliot’s life, write three lessons about pursuits.
Week 8	Art in Work	Review the memory verses. Read Schaeffer, <i>Art and the Bible</i> : Write a report on work based on the interviews: Read the interviews gathered by fellow students. Summarize in an essay the data and your conclusions.

Week 9 Hospitality in Work

Review the notes and the memory verses for a final exam.  
Read Strauch, *The Hospitality Commands*:

Ask with your parents about their vocation and yours.

Write a lengthy essay about your possible vocation:

Describe artistic gifts you have within your vocation.

Explain three hospitable uses of your gifts.

Explain how they glorify God.

Week 10 Sabbath Rest

Final Exam

What are your summer plans?

## Bibliography – Work

Elliot, Elisabeth. [Let Me Be a Woman](#). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1976.

Elliot wrote these essays for her grown daughter Valerie. Issues include the meaning of femininity and marriage.

**Note:** Only the *young women* will read this book.

Elliot, Elisabeth. [Shadow of the Almighty: The Life & Testament of Jim Elliot](#). New York: Harper & Brothers, 1958.

Elliot wrote this biography from the journal and letters of her martyred, missionary husband Jim Elliot. The youthful and earnest Jim Elliot provides a model for young people, especially young men, to have faith and courage in Christ. The fact that this book was written by his young wife adds a helpful woman's perspective to this joint missionary endeavor.

Hummel, Charles E. [The Tyranny of the Urgent](#). Rev. ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1967, 1994.

This little booklet is a great call to prioritize the important tasks over the urgent tasks. Because it uses the life of Jesus as its model, the booklet also serves a role in evangelism.

**Note:** Copies of this booklet may be obtainable through the church bookstore.

Piper, John. [Risk Is Right: Better to Lose Your Life Than to Waste It](#). Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.

This little book is a strong biblical challenge for all of us to risk our current safety for the eternal good of others and the glory of God. As a book, it is a revised version of one chapter from *Don't Waste Your Life*, with added material like the following excellent quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "To delay or fail to make decisions may be more sinful than to make wrong decisions out of faith and love."

Ryle, J. C. [Thoughts for Young Men](#). Reprint, Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 2015 [1888].

Anglican bishop J. C. Ryle was the laboring man's minister in the late 1800s, and his writings are still as engaging and blood-earnest as they were then. Written especially for young men, the book will also challenge the heart of young women to follow the Lord wholeheartedly, and to value a man according to his godly character.

**Note:** Only the *young men* will read this book.

Schaeffer, Francis A. [Art and the Bible: Two Essays](#). Foreword by Michael Card. IVP Classics. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006 [1973].

Francis Schaeffer and his wife Edith highly appreciated an artistic touch to real life. In this little book, Schaeffer defends from the Bible the value and place of art in our lives, including music.

Strauch, Alexander. [The Hospitality Commands: Building Loving Christian Community, Building Bridges to Friends and Neighbors](#). Littleton, CO: Lewis & Roth, 1993.

Pastor Strauch offers an encouraging perspective on hospitality and its role in the church and evangelism. Teens should see that their gifts are for the benefit of others, both in the context of the gospel and the church.

## Theology II: Pluralism, God, and Personal Finances

Spring Branch Academy  
*The Word, Worship, and Wisdom*

### Fall – Pluralism: The Absolute Faith in a Multicultural Age

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	E Pluribus Unum	Memorize Acts 10:34-35. Read Mencken, <i>American Language</i> , 3.1-4 and 4.1-3: Collect twenty words and describe their origin.
Week 2	The Basic Elements of a Nation	Memorize Acts 17:26-27 and review other verses. Read Mencken, <i>American Language</i> , 2.1-2, 6.2, 1.1, 8.1: Write an essay on language and American identity. Identify the god of ten ancient nations and type a list.
Week 3	The American Experiment	Memorize Galatians 3:28 and review other verses. Read McLeod, <i>Messiah</i> : Write an essay on religion in American government.
Week 4	The Need for Popular Consensus	Memorize Acts 4:12 and review other verses. Read Machen, <i>Education, Christianity, State</i> , chs. 4-6, 8: Write an essay on religion in American education.
Week 5	Racial and Cultural Disunity	Memorize John 14:6, and review other verses. Read twelve accounts from Yetman, <i>Voices from Slavery</i> : Type up a list of names, age, and one quote. Read Washington, "Atlanta Exposition Address." Read DuBois, <i>Souls of Black Folk</i> , chs. 1-5, 8, 9, 14. Read Moore, <i>The Story of George Washington Carver</i> : Write an essay comparing Washington and DuBois. State and defend your opinion on the better program. Include facts and at least two quotes from each man.
<i>Fall Break</i>		
Week 6	Any Road: Generic Faith	Review the memory verses. Read Galatians. Read in the <i>Qur'an</i> : Surah 5 – On Jesus Surah 9 – On Jihad Surah 23 – On Merit Surah 55 – On Paradise Read Schirrmacher, <i>The Islamic View</i> , chs. 1-4, 14: Collect seven posies from all the readings.
Week 7	Many Roads: Generic God	Review the memory verses. Read Schirrmacher, <i>The Islamic View</i> , chs. 5-13, 15, 16: Write an essay about Islam.
Week 8	Circular Road: Eastern Religions	Review the memory verses. Read Wilson, <i>Letter from a Christian Citizen</i> : Collect ten posies. <i>Extra Credit</i> : Watch <i>Collision</i> (DVD).

Week 9 No Road: Atheism

Review the notes and the memory verses for a final exam.

Read Harris, *Letter to a Christian Nation*:

Pray before reading this wicked work.

Review Wilson's argument in preparation.

Write a review with at least three quotes.

Week 10 One Road: Jesus Christ

Read Zacharias, *Jesus Among Other Gods*:

Collect ten posies.

Write a personal strategy for living in a pluralistic culture:

How will you talk about Jesus and other religions?

How will you have convictions without judging?

Final Exam

## Bibliography – Pluralism

DuBois, W. E. B. [The Souls of Black Folk](#). Everyman's Library. Centennial Edition. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003 [1903].

W. E. B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington were African-Americans who differed a hundred years ago about how to help the sons of former slaves advance in society. In this book, students will read DuBois's argument for cultural advancement with the goal of immediate and equal respect. It is a great debate.

**Alternative Thrift Edition:** [The Souls of Black Folk](#).

Harris, Sam. [Letter to a Christian Nation](#). New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Borzoi Book, 2006.

This book is an acidic attack on Christianity from a recent atheist. Before reading this book, students will already have read Mohler's survey and response to the new atheists. It is risky to assign such a book, but it also risky not to assign one. Overall, it is the academy's conviction that it is better to inoculate our children than to over-shelter them; someday they must face these attacks anyways. *Please pray for our students to see through this attack.* Ironically and wondrously, the Bible itself already addressed many of these attacks in the Old Testament wisdom literature, which proves (again) there is nothing new under the sun.

[The Koran](#). 5<sup>th</sup> rev. ed. Trans. N. J. Dawood. Penguin Classics. New York: Penguin, 1956, 1959, 1966, 1968, 1974, 1990.

In today's world of aggressive Islam, students should have some familiarity with its lies and distortions of the Bible. Reading firsthand from their alleged "holy" book will help.

**Note:** Any English translation will suffice, so please borrow a copy or find it online.

**Online Resource:** [Quran](#).

Machen, J. Gresham. [Education, Christianity, and the State](#). Ed. John W. Robbins. Unicoi, TN: The Trinity Foundation, 1987, 1995, 2004.

During the 1920s, public education threatened to eliminate private education. Machen was summoned as an expert witness for the debates. In this book, students will encounter a refreshingly Christian approach to education that emphasizes the development of the individual before our Creator and Judge.

McLeod, Alexander. [Messiah, Governor of the Nations of the Earth](#). Reprint, New York: Reformed Presbyterian Church, 1992 [1803].

Several years ago a brother in New York City sent me this two-hundred-year-old sermon by a Congregational Presbyterian on why the United States Constitution should have acknowledged the lordship of Jesus Christ. It is a fascinating consideration, showing that the United States was innovatively secular in not acknowledging Jesus, in contrast to the European states, who though godless, yet nonetheless acknowledged Jesus Christ. Therefore, from our perspective historically, the Founders were very Christian; but from the perspective of previous history, they were quite secular. Students should find the assertion of Christ's lordship invigorating, but they should also be wary on how it is applied politically.

**Note:** This sermon is available free online (just follow the hyperlink above), so please do not purchase an expensive used copy.

Mencken, H. L. [The American Language: An Inquiry into the Development of English in the United States](#). 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1919, 1921, 1923, 1936.

This book compares British English to its American cousin and claims that American English is now affecting British English. Written by a journalist, the book is conversational in tone, but has academic detail. Students should be fascinated by the interesting ways their mother tongue has developed from many sources. Interestingly, the author was the scoffing journalist at the Scopes trial, which is covered in the freshman year. Accordingly, this book exemplifies the principle that the wicked store up things for the righteous to use (Ecclesiastes 2:26).

**Note:** Please obtain the fourth edition.

Moore, Eva. [The Story of George Washington Carver](#). Scholastic Biography. New York: Scholastic, 1971.

Although this book is written for grade-school children, it will quickly introduce students to the benefits of Booker T. Washington's approach to elevating the African American. Carver was a professor at Washington's Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

Schirmacher, Christine. [The Islamic View of Major Christian Teachings: The Role of Jesus Christ, Sin, Faith, and Forgiveness – Essays](#). Ed. Ruth Baldwin. Vol. 2, The WEA Global Issues Series. Bonn: Verlag für Kultur und Wissenschaft, 2008.

This collection of essays examines the key differences between Islam and Christianity from a thoroughly evangelical Christian perspective. With short, to-the-point chapters, the book shows clearly that Islam and Christianity do not serve the same God. In examining the differences, students can better grasp what the gospel of Jesus Christ truly teaches. (There is no need to purchase anything, because the resource is free online.)

Washington, Booker T. "[Atlanta Exposition Address](#)." In George Grant, ed., [The American Patriot's Handbook: The Writings, History, and Spirit of a Free Nation](#). 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, Cumberland House, 2009, 2016, 375-381.

Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. DuBois were African-Americans who differed a hundred years ago about how to help the sons of former slaves advance in society. In this address, students will read about Washington's case for patient hard work earning the respect of white society. It is a great debate.

**Note:** The hyperlink to the address has not only the text online, but a genuine recording of the first three minutes of Washington's speech—one of the first speeches recorded in American history. If you already own Grant's anthology, which is an assigned text for juniors, the address is also reprinted there in full.

Wilson, Douglas. [Letter from a Christian Citizen](#). Powder Springs, GA: American Vision, 2007.

This book is a Christian response to atheist Sam Harris' *Letter to a Christian Nation*. Students read Wilson in preparation for reading Harris.

**Note:** This book is out-of-print, so please do not pay a high price for a used copy.

Yetman, Norman R., ed. [Voices from Slavery: 100 Authentic Slave Narratives](#). Reprint, Mineola, NY: Dover, 2000 [1970, 1972].

During the 1930s, as part of the WPA, several historians took down these oral histories from elderly African-Americans who could remember their days of slavery. Students are often interested in hearing firsthand what slavery was really like in the American South. Experiences were quite varied.

Zacharias, Ravi and Kevin Johnson. [Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message - Youth Edition](#). Nashville: Thomas Nelson, W Publishing, 2000.

Christian apologist Ravi Zacharias grew up in India under a highly pressurized Hindu home environment. This book tells of his own conversion and then describes how Jesus is fundamentally different than the major world religions of Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

**Note:** Students should obtain the youth edition cited above; however, parents may obtain the original version at [Jesus Among Other Gods](#).



## Winter – The Doctrine of God

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	The Knowledge of God	Memorize Jeremiah 9:23-24. Read Sproul, <i>Holiness of God</i> , chs. 1-3: Write an essay on the nature of holiness. Listen to Handel’s <i>Messiah</i> this month.
Week 2	The Trinity	Memorize Matthew 28:18b-20 and review other verses. Read Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i> , Book Four: Write an essay on the Trinity.
Week 3	The Incarnation	Memorize John 1:1 & 14 and review other verses. Read Sproul, <i>Holiness of God</i> , chs. 4-9: Write a review.
	<i>Christmas Break</i>	
Week 4	The Pursuit of God	Memorize Psalms 27:4 & 86:11 and review other verses. Read Tozer, <i>Pursuit of God</i> , chs. 1-5: Write an essay on your pursuits and God.
Week 5	Concurrence in Theology	Memorize Romans 9:16, and review other verses. Read Tozer, <i>Pursuit of God</i> , chs. 6-10: Write a review.
Week 6	Calvinism and Arminianism	Review the memory verses. Read Wesley, “Free Grace.” Read Whitefield, <i>A Letter to the Rev. Mr. John Wesley</i> : Summarize each side of the debate in a paragraph. Include at least three quotes from each author. Add a paragraph stating your own thoughts.
Week 7	The Greatness of God: Time and Space	Review the memory verses. Read Papa, <i>Look and Live</i> , Intro, chs. 1-3: Write an essay.
Week 8	The Greatness of God: Knowledge and Ability	Review the memory verses. Read Papa, <i>Look and Live</i> , chs. 4-6: Write an essay.
Week 9	The Goodness of God: Justice and Faithfulness	Review the notes and the memory verses for a final exam. Read Papa, <i>Look and Live</i> , chs. 7-9: Write a review.
Week 10	The Goodness of God: Mercy and Love	Read Müller, <i>Autobiography</i> , chs. 1-17: Summarize three stories from Müller’s life. Add to each story a lesson for your own faith. Final Exam <i>Extra Credit</i> : Read Müller, <i>Autobiography</i> , chs. 18-25. (Assign all of Müller if there is no snow week.)

## Bibliography – The Doctrine of God

Handel, G. F. [The Messiah](#). Audio recording.

This classic oratorio from the 18<sup>th</sup> century audibly portrays messianic passages from Scripture. Students should stand when the “Hallelujah” chorus is played—even the British king stood at this point.

Lewis, C. S. [Mere Christianity: A Revised and Amplified Edition, with a New Introduction, of the Three Books](#). New York: HarperCollins, 2001 [1952].

Outside of the Narnia series, this is Lewis’ most famous book—certainly his most famous apologetic book. The book consists of four parts, the last three of which were presented during WWII as radio broadcasts. Lewis was not an ordained theologian—his theology on Scripture and the cross are errant—but he is highly original, thought-provoking, and often quite weighty in his reasons. Students read the fourth part, which has a very simple and straight-forward presentation of the Trinity.

**Note:** Beware of obtaining a very new edition—it may have been edited.

Müller, George. [The Autobiography of George Mueller](#). New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 1984.

Müller knew God personally—his prayer-life and care of orphans achieved fame, even in his lifetime. He started the orphanage for God’s name, so that modern Christians would know God still answers prayer. This inexpensive paperback is a fine abridged version of Müller’s larger autobiography.

Papa, Matt. [Look and Live: Behold the Soul-Thrilling, Sin-Destroying Glory of Christ](#). Bloomington, MN: Bethany House, 2014.

This book is awesome—so full of the glory of God and so motivating for the pursuit of a greater and clearer vision of that glory! Matt is a musician, so the text breaks all sorts of grammatical rules. It reads like lyrics. A style great for young people! After reading it for a while, you will understand the initial warning by Matt’s pastor: “At some point in this book you’re probably going to try to run through a wall.”

Sproul, R. C. [The Holiness of God](#). 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1985, 1998.

This book is Sproul’s signature work, vividly portraying the Gospel from the aspect of God’s holiness. Sproul’s anecdotal way of relating theology should appeal to students. If successful, this book should engender a proper fear of God, which is the beginning of wisdom.

Tozer, A. W. [The Pursuit of God: The Human Thirst for the Divine](#). Camp Hill, PA: WingSpread Publishers, 2006 [1948].

Tozer was an evangelical mystic, having no formal Bible training but a deep thirst for God’s presence. His vision presented a stark contrast to his contemporaries’ mechanical, formulaic approach to holiness. Although he downplays the role of formal theology, Tozer presents a rigorously theological and intensely personal pursuit of God.

Wesley, John. “[Free Grace](#).” Sermon 128 in *The Works of John Wesley*, ed. Thomas Jackson (reprint, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, n. d. [1872]).

This online reprint of Wesley’s controversial sermon against divine election allows students to hear for themselves the famous debate between the two Methodist leaders of the evangelical revivals in England.

Whitefield, George. [Whitefield’s Letter to Wesley on Election](#). Reprint, Pensacola, FL: Chapel Library, n. d. [1740].

This online resource reprints the published response of George Whitefield to John Wesley’s Arminian sermon entitled “Free Grace.” In this letter, we see how the famous evangelist reconciled the truth of God’s unconditional election with his own free offer of the Gospel to all sinners.

## Spring – Personal Finances

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	The Importance of Money	Memorize Matthew 6:19-21. Read Alcorn, <i>Treasure Principle</i> : Write a review.
Week 2	Asceticism	Memorize Matthew 6:24 and review verses. Write out 1 Timothy 6:6-10 seven times. Read Alcorn, <i>Money</i> , Preface, Introduction, chs. 1-2, 16: Collect seven posies with proper citation.
Week 3	Materialism	Memorize 1 Timothy 6:6-8 and review verses. Read Alcorn, <i>Money</i> , chs. 3-4, 20-21: Write an essay on your personal pull to either pole. Include at least three quotes from the book.
Week 4	Savings	Memorize Proverbs 19:17 and 21:20 and review verses. Read Alcorn, <i>Money</i> , chs. 7, 18-19: Collect seven posies with proper citation. Do a budget sheet for one adult on a minimum wage.
Week 5	Stewardship	Memorize Proverbs 22:7; Acts 20:35b and review verses. Read Alcorn, <i>Money</i> , ch. 8-11, and Conclusion: Collect seven posies with proper citation. Read Edwards, <i>Christian Charity</i> , and write a review.
<i>Easter Break</i>		
Week 6	Giving to the Church	Review the memory verses. Read Alcorn, <i>Money</i> , chs. 6, 12-13: Collect seven posies with proper citation. Conduct the following interviews (due in two weeks): Two personal-finance interviews One church-finance interview <i>Extra Credit</i> : Read Alcorn, <i>Money</i> , ch. 5.
Week 7	Giving to the Poor	Review the memory verses. Read Alcorn, <i>Money</i> , chs. 14, 17: Write a review.
Week 8	Debt	Review the memory verses. Read Burkett, <i>Complete Financial Guide</i> , Intro, chs. 1-8. Read the interviews and type up three conclusions. Write a story of a young couple getting in and out of debt: Include details from Burkett and the interviews.
Week 9	Budgeting	Review the notes and the memory verses for a final exam. Read Burkett, <i>Complete Financial Guide</i> , chs 9-14: Compare our budget sheet with Appendix B. Revise the budget sheet with realistic figures.
Week 10	Money and the Christian Family	Final Exam

## Bibliography – Personal Finances

Alcorn, Randy. [Money, Possessions, and Eternity](#). Rev. ed. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1989, 2003.

This textbook is an exhaustive treatment of the topic of money from a biblical perspective. The author is uniquely qualified to write on the topic of money. Having spent some time fighting abortion, he was hit with a multimillion-dollar lawsuit, for which he had to relinquish all private property! His overall aim is to foster an eternal perspective among Christians—the same goal as his book *Heaven*. Students should appreciate that the discussions are both detailed and down-to-earth.

Alcorn, Randy. [The Treasure Principle: Discovering the Secret of Joyful Giving](#). LifeChange Books. Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2001.

Written by the same author as the course textbook, this little popular book will introduce the topic of money well.

Burkett, Larry. [The Complete Financial Guide for Young Couples: A Lifetime Approach to Spending, Saving, and Investing](#). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1989, 1993.

This highly-experienced Christian financial counselor offers sound advice to young adults on finances. Students should be amazed by his real-life stories of individuals having trouble with personal finances.

Edwards, Jonathan. [Christian Charity: or, the Duty of Charity to the Poor, Explained and Enforced](#). In *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*. 2 vols. Ed. Edward Hickman. Reprint, Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1974 [1834], 2:163-173.

This 18<sup>th</sup>-century preacher is perhaps America's premiere evangelical theologian. Written from a pastoral perspective, this work presents the biblical case of Christians caring for the poor. This copy should be available online as part of his collective works.

**Alternative Online Source:** [Christian Charity](#).

## Theology III: Social Order, Redemptive History, and Marriage

Spring Branch Academy

*The Word, Worship, and Wisdom*

### Fall – Social Order: The Hierarchy of the Universe

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	Introduction	Memorize 1 Corinthians 11:3 and Matthew 10:31. Read Matthew 19:3-8 ten times. From Olasky, <i>American Leadership Tradition</i> : Read about three American leaders of your choice. Summarize each in a detailed paragraph and a moral. Consult classmates and prepare one for presentation.
Week 2	The Trinity	Memorize Matthew 19:3-6 and review verses. Read the Declaration of Independence. Read Maier, <i>American Scripture</i> , Introduction, ch. 1: Collect ten posies with proper citation. <i>Extra Credit</i> : Read Maier, <i>American Scripture</i> , ch. 2.
Week 3	Creation	Memorize Matthew 19:7-8 and review verses. Read the Declaration of Independence again. Read Maier, <i>American Scripture</i> , ch. 4, Epilogue: Write a review. <i>Extra Credit</i> : Read Maier, <i>American Scripture</i> , ch. 3.
Week 4	The Fifth Commandment	Memorize 1 Timothy 2:12-14 and review verses. Read the first paragraphs of the Declaration five times. Read Guelzo, <i>Lincoln and Douglas</i> , Introduction, ch. 1: Collect ten posies with proper citation.
Week 5	Sacerdotalism	Memorize Leviticus 19:32 and review verses. Read the Gettysburg Address five times out loud. Read Guelzo, <i>Lincoln and Douglas</i> , chs. 2-5: Collect ten posies with proper citation.
<i>Fall Break</i>		
Week 6	Monarchy	Review the memory verses. Read the first paragraphs of the Declaration five times. Read Guelzo, <i>Lincoln and Douglas</i> , ch. 6, Epilogue: Write a review.
Week 7	Slavery	Review the memory verses. Read the Gettysburg Address five times out loud. Read McMillen, <i>Seneca Falls</i> , Introduction, chs. 1-2: Collect ten posies with proper citation.
Week 8	Women	Review the memory verses. Read the first paragraphs of the Declaration five times. Read McMillen, <i>Seneca Falls</i> , ch. 3, Epilogue, App.s: Write a review.

Week 9 The Civil Rights Movement

Review the notes and memory verses for a final exam.

Read the Gettysburg Address five times:

Write a review of the Gettysburg Address.

Review all the pictures in Kasher, *Civil Rights Movement*:

Write an impressionistic essay about this movement.

Review the notes for the final exam.

Week 10 Equality and Institutions

Read Kasher, *Civil Rights Movement*.

Watch *To Kill a Mockingbird* (DVD).

Write a three-page review on American civil rights.

Final Exam

## **Bibliography – Social Order**

Guelzo, Allen C. [Lincoln and Douglas: The Debates That Defined America](#). New York: Simon & Schuster, 2008.

This top-notch Lincoln scholar retells the famous debates of 1858 between Senator Stephen Douglas and his upstart rival Abraham Lincoln. In tracing these debates, students will hear the reasonings behind both popular sovereignty and Lincoln's absolutism. As a side benefit, students will also taste the bitterness of a real political campaign.

Kasher, Steven. [The Civil Rights Movement: A Photographic History, 1954-68](#). New York: Abbeville Press, 1996.

Largely a sequence of photographs, as the subtitle says, this book accurately portrays the image America received of the civil rights movement in the South. Students will be faced with some hard realities on both sides of the issue.

Maier, Pauline. [American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence](#). New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997.

Extremely detailed, this fascinating book describes both the genesis and evolution of the Declaration of Independence. At first simply a political document—literally, a public declaration of independence—it became in time a creedal statement, an authority for political philosophy, and even an object of worship. Fascinating metamorphosis! Students will read the beginning and end of this tale.

McMillen, Sally G. [Seneca Falls and the Origins of the Women's Rights Movement](#). Pivotal Moments in American History. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

This excellent history of the women's rights movement traces the parallel careers of four leading women of the nineteenth century—Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Lucy Stone, and Susan B. Anthony. Students will focus on the cultural background of the movement and its beginnings at Seneca Falls (1848). Neither the culture nor the goals of the movement align with Scripture.

Olasky, Marvin. [The American Leadership Tradition](#). New York: Simon & Schuster, The Free Press, 1999.

The author, a leading Christian journalist and historian, presents portraits of twelve American leaders (mainly presidents) in order to show that a man's private life influences his public leadership. The two cannot be separated, so everything is fair game in assessing qualifications for leadership.

[To Kill a Mockingbird](#). DVD (1962).

Based on Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, this engaging story features a Southern lawyer defending an African-American framed for rape. The drama is intense and the acting superb. Gregory Peck received an academy award for his performance. No student should be unfamiliar with this dramatic portrayal of Southern injustice.

## Winter – The History of Redemption

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	History and Historicism	Memorize Exodus 34:6-7. Read Piper, <i>God's Passion for His Glory</i> , chs. 1-3: Collect seven posies with proper citation. <i>Extra Credit:</i> Read <i>God's Passion for His Glory</i> , ch. 4.
Week 2	The End in Light of the Beginning	Memorize Job 41:11 & Romans 11:36 and review verses. Listen to <i>The "God's Story" Project</i> . For Edwards, <i>The End for which God Created the World</i> : Type out all the headings into an outline of the book.
Week 3	Antithesis	Memorize Genesis 3:15 and Psalm 110:1, review verses. Read the outline of Edwards' book. Read Edwards, <i>The End for Which God Created</i> : Describe the argument of the book in one paragraph. Give your own response in a second paragraph.
<i>Christmas Break</i>		
Week 4	The Covenants	Memorize Matthew 5:17-18 and review verses. Write out Jeremiah 31:31-34 three times. Read Meldau, <i>Prophets Still Speak</i> : Write out in full the seven most striking prophecies. Explain how each of these prophecies is fulfilled.
Week 5	The Law of God	Memorize John 1:17 and review verses. Write out Jeremiah 31:31-34 three times. Read Scofield, <i>Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth</i> : Type up an outline of this book. Summarize his view of law and grace, then respond.
Week 6	Progressive Revelation	Review the memory verses. Write out Jeremiah 31:31-34 three times. Read Goldsworthy, <i>Gospel and Kingdom</i> , Intro, chs. 1-6: Describe three theological questions you are asking. Add a paragraph of your reflections at this point.
Week 7	The Kingdom	Review the memory verses. Finish Goldsworthy, <i>Gospel and Kingdom</i> : Write a review.
Week 8	The New Covenant	Review the memory verses. Read Cross, <i>Stranger on the Road to Emmaus</i> , chs. 1-3: Collect seven posies with proper citation.
Week 9	The Mystery of Christ	Review the notes and memory verses for a final exam. Read Cross, <i>Stranger on the Road to Emmaus</i> , chs. 4-6: Collect seven posies with proper citation. Review the notes for the final exam.
Week 10	The End Times	Finish Cross, <i>Stranger on the Road to Emmaus</i> : Write a review. Final Exam



## **Bibliography – The History of Redemption**

Cross, John R. [The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus](#). 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Olds, Alberta, Canada: GoodSeed International, 2009.

The Old Testament has many themes. This book traces the theme of redemption from the beginning to fulfillment in Christ. The author used to be a New Tribes missionary and this book exhibits their chronological approach to preaching Christ.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. [Gospel and Kingdom](#). Crownhill, MK: Paternoster, 1981, 2012.

The Old Testament has many themes. This book traces the theme of the kingdom from the beginning to fulfillment in Christ. This book has become a model for presenting the big picture of the Bible in an understandable way.

Meldau, Fred John. [The Prophets Still Speak: Messiah in Both Testaments](#). Rev. ed. Amy L. Julian. Bellmawr, NJ: The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, 1956, 1988.

This book is juicy, Bible doctrine. Scriptures are given without much comment, but the connections are made again and again between the Old Testament prophecies and their fulfillment in Christ Jesus. The gospel is awesome!

Piper, John, ed. [God’s Passion for His Glory: Living the Vision of Jonathan Edwards with the Complete Text of “The End for which God Created the World” by Jonathan Edwards](#). Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1998.

Among the writings of Jonathan Edwards, the posthumously-published dissertation on *The End for which God Created the World* may be his most significant contribution to theology. In it, he argues that God’s commitment to His glory and His commitment to His people are actually the same commitment. As a result, there is no conflict between God’s glory and our good. It is a revolutionary vision, supported by many texts. Because of its importance, Piper published this edited version and added a lengthy introduction. Students will be challenged by the philosophical style of the argument, but the argument is worth the intellectual effort.

Scotfield, C. I. [Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth \(2 Tim. 2:15\): Ten Outline Studies of the More Important Divisions of Scripture](#). 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Philadelphia: Philadelphia School of the Bible, 1923.

This representative text of classic dispensationalism shows the binary nature of its thinking—items of theology are treated as polar opposites, in mutually-exclusive categories. While simplifying things, this mode of thinking distorts some aspects of theology and preserves others. Students will be exercised in discerning the difference.

**Online Resource:** [Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth](#).

[The “God’s Story” Project](#). Audio Recording.

This 80-minute recording presents the entire story of the Bible evangelistically. Students should enjoy this audio presentation of the “big picture” of the Bible.

**Note:** Click on the “English” option for the audio download.

## Spring – Marriage

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	Introduction: Marriage vs. Singleness	Memorize Proverbs 18:22 and 19:14. Read Sherry Graf, <i>I Don't Get You</i> : Type out definitions of purity and the five categories. Add a quote for each and your own comments. Read Wilson, <i>Reforming Marriage</i> , Intro, chs. 1-5: Collect seven posies with proper citation.
Week 2	The Origin of Marriage	Memorize Hebrews 13:4 and Genesis 2:24, review verses. Finish Wilson, <i>Reforming Marriage</i> : Write a review.
Week 3	The Definition of Marriage	Memorize the “I do” and “I will” portions of the vows. Review the verses. Read Girgis et al., <i>What Is Marriage?</i> , Intro, chs. 1-3: Collect five posies with proper citation. Conduct three marriage interviews (see the handout): Interview three different age groups. Fill out the questionnaire on behalf of your own parents. Then ask them the questions. Were you close?
Week 4	Divorce and Remarriage	Memorize the “Repeat after me” portion of the vows. Review the question portion of the vows and the verses. Read Girgis et al., <i>What Is Marriage?</i> , chs. 4-7: Write a review.
Week 5	The Origin of Gender Roles and Strife	Review the vows and the memory verses. Read Chapman, <i>Things I Wish I'd Known</i> : Collect twelve posies with proper citation. Write a report on marriage based on the interviews: Read the interviews gathered by the other students. Summarize in an essay the data and your conclusions.
<i>Easter Break</i>		
Week 6	The Importance of Love	Review the vows and the memory verses. Read McQuilken, <i>A Promise Kept</i> : Write an essay.
Week 7	Communication within Conflict	Review the vows and the memory verses. Read the handout on words in the Proverbs: Type out three verses that are significant to you. Add a paragraph explaining why and tell an example. Read the Song of Songs three times: Write a letter of advice to a bride or groom. Offer counsel on expressing love, even in conflict. Quote Proverbs and the Song at least five times each.
Week 8	Procreation and Family Planning	Review the vows and the memory verses. Read the two letters on birth control. Read Torode & Torode, <i>Open Embrace</i> : Write a review.

Week 9 Romance

Review the notes, vows, and verses for a final exam.  
Read thirty stories from Wales & Platz, *Match Made*:  
Describe ten tips to guys on romance.  
Cite examples from the book, giving the background.

Week 10 A Christian Marriage

Final Exam

## Bibliography – Marriage

Chapman, Gary D. [Things I Wish I'd Known Before I Got Married](#). Chicago: Moody, 2010.

The author, a veteran marriage counselor, offers straight-forward and practical premarital advice. Teens should become aware of the many issues facing a young couple about to be married.

Girgis, Sherif, Ryan T. Anderson, and Robert P. George. [What Is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense](#). New York: Encounter Books, 2012.

This philosophical book offers perhaps the best secular argument for a traditional view of marriage. Surprisingly, the book argues that the cultural elevation of marriage as the ideal relationship has distorted not only marriage itself, but also friendship.

Graf, Sherry. [I Don't Get You: A Guide to Healthy Conversations](#). Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2016.

The author warns that emotional intimacy often leads to physical intimacy and that both outside of marriage are forms of impurity. Both singles and married individuals need to heed this book and create healthy boundaries in communication with the opposite sex.

**Note:** This booklet was formerly called *How to Talk to Women: Why It Gets Awkward, How to Talk to Men: Why We Emotionally Attach*.

McQuilkin, J. Robertson. [A Promise Kept](#). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 1998, 2006.

In this moving story, theologian and author J. Robertson McQuilkin describes the love and care he has for his wife Muriel, whose Alzheimer's in her mid-50s led to his voluntary retirement from public life. Very inspiring!

Torode, Sam & Bethany. [Open Embrace: A Protestant Couple Rethinks Contraception](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

Although this booklet represents a passing phase in the Torodes' development, the argument for natural family planning is worth considering, especially as an alternative to the cultural norm of less and less children. In these reprinted blogs, the authors rely too much on Roman Catholic thought, so students should be made aware of this slanted perspective. Also, parents should be aware that the discussions at times have specific biological information. If any family does not approve, students can be exempted from this assignment.

Wales, Susan, and Ann Platz. [A Match Made in Heaven: A Collection of Inspirational Love Stories](#). Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1999.

In this collection of love stories, students can reflect upon the true nature of romantic love and draw some helpful tips for the future.

Wilson, Douglas J. [Reforming Marriage](#). Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 1995.

Although quite opinionated, Wilson has given a straight-forward argument for male leadership in marriage. Whether the man wants to be or not, he is the head of the marriage; and whether he actively leads or abdicates his responsibilities, his behavior sets the tone for his marriage—for the good or for the bad. Young men should come away from this book with a renewed sense of the fear of God and the weight of being a husband.

## Theology IV: Hermeneutics, Salvation, and Parenting

### Spring Branch Academy

*The Word, Worship, and Wisdom*

#### Fall – The Gift of Language: Postmodernism, Epistemology, and Hermeneutics

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	Form Matters	Memorize Proverbs 9:10 and Ecclesiastes 12:10. Read Honeysett, <i>Meltdown</i> , chs. 1-5: Summarize each author in three sentences.
Week 2	Turning Points in Philosophy	Memorize 1 Corinthians 1:21 and 2:14 and review verses. Read Honeysett, <i>Meltdown</i> , chs. 6-8. Listen to the following symphonies: Franz Joseph Haydn, <i>The Farewell Symphony</i> . Igor Stravinsky, <i>The Rite of Spring</i> . Write a paragraph on each and one paragraph comparing.
Week 3	Postmodernism	Memorize John 7:17 and 18:37 and review verses. Read Honeysett, <i>Meltdown</i> , chs. 9-11: Write a review.
Week 4	The Challenge of Prophecy	Memorize John 8:31-32 and review verses. Read Gilson, <i>Reason and Revelation in the Middle Ages</i> : Define the four positions of reason and revelation. Describe your own position and your reasons for it.
Week 5	Continuity across Cultures	Memorize John 5:24 and review verses. Read Caputo, <i>What Would Jesus Deconstruct?</i> Write a review of Caputo using Honeysett.
<i>Fall Break</i>		
Week 6	The Character of the Reader	Review the memory verses. Read Psalm 119 out loud. Read Luther, <i>Preface to...Luther's German Writings</i> . Read Powlison, "Suffering and Psalm 119." Read Psalm 119 out loud again: Write an essay based on a theme from Psalm 119. Include at least five quotes from the psalm. Include comments about how your thoughts changed.
Week 7	Text and Context	Review the memory verses. Read (or recite) Psalm 23 twelve times out loud. Read Brown, <i>Understanding and Enjoying</i> , Parts I and II: Collect seven posies with proper citation.
Week 8	Exegesis	Review the memory verses. Read Brown, <i>Understanding and Enjoying</i> , Part III: Pick a psalm of ten or more verses. Read the psalm twelve times out loud. Write a review of this psalm, quoting Brown twice.

Week 9 Media

Review the notes and memory verses for a final exam.  
Read Pearcey, *Saving Leonardo*, Intro and Part 1:  
Collect seven posies with proper citation.

Week 10 Culture

Read Pearcey, *Saving Leonardo*, Part 2 and Epilogue:  
Collect seven posies with proper citation.  
Write a detailed review of a movie of your choice.  
Quote at least three principles from Pearcey's book.  
Final Exam

## Bibliography – The Gift of Language

Brown, Paul E. [Understanding and Enjoying the Bible](#). Leominster, UK: Day One, 2005.

This straightforward book on interpreting the Bible came with strong recommendations from a friend and uses Psalm 23 for demonstration.

Caputo, John D. [What Would Jesus Deconstruct? The Good News of Postmodernism for the Church](#). The Church and Postmodern Culture. Grand Rapids: Baker Academics, 2007.

This supposedly-Christian book illustrates well the postmodern perspective infiltrating the church. By reading this in the context of truth, students will gain a firsthand interaction with a postmodern advocate.

Gilson, Etienne. [Reason and Revelation in the Middle Ages](#). Reprint, Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 1998.

This little book is a model of concision. In three lectures, Gilson captures the flow of philosophy from early Christianity to Thomas Aquinas, who allegedly strikes the right balance between nature and grace. (In philosophy, the academy favors Augustine over Aquinas.)

**Note:** This book is out-of-print. Please find a used copy, but *do not* buy an expensive one.

Haydn, Franz Joseph. [Symphony No. 45 in F-sharp minor \(“Farewell Symphony”\)](#). [1772]

This symphony is a fascinating study in how form communicates. The prince has kept Haydn and the musicians away from their families, so the composer communicates through this symphony that it is time to go home—and the prince understood the message!

**Alternate Edition:** Celenza, Anna Harwell. [The Farewell Symphony](#). Once Upon a Masterpiece. Watertown, MA: Talewinds, Charlesbridge, 2000. This children’s book tells the story and provides a CD of this symphony.

Honeysett, Marcus. [Meltdown: Making Sense of a Culture in Crisis](#). Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2002.

D. A. Carson recommended this book for his own children—with one in college and the other in high school. Very readable, this book provides a basis for understanding several strains and traits of postmodernism.

Luther, Martin. *Preface to the Wittenberg Edition of Luther’s German Writings*. In Timothy F. Lull, ed., [Martin Luther’s Basic Theological Writings](#) (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1989): 63-68.

Luther uses three elements from Psalm 119 to define a theologian: prayer, meditation, and trial.

Pearcey, Nancy. [Saving Leonardo: A Call to Resist the Secular Assault on Mind, Morals, & Meaning](#). Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2010.

This book is a rare find—an excellent Christian textbook for art appreciation. Based on a worldview that unifies faith and knowledge, the book critiques modern thought through its art. Students should enjoy the discussion, the examples, and the high-quality photographs in this text.

Powlison, David. [“Suffering and Psalm 119.”](#) *The Journal of Biblical Counseling* (Fall 2004): 2-16.

Contrary to popular opinion, Psalm 119 (the longest chapter in the Bible) is not a dull, one-dimensional poem about the word of God. It models a close relationship with God through His word and prayer in the context of intense persecution. Excellent devotional article!

Stravinsky, Igor. [The Rite of Spring](#). [1913]

This pagan ballet ushered in the modern era of “classical” music—a composition with no melody that nearly started a riot when it was first performed in Paris!

**Note:** This site downloads the music for free and it appears to be legitimate (not pirating), but proceed at your own risk.

## Winter – The Doctrine of Salvation

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	Introduction: Salvation from Wrath	Memorize Matthew 1:21 and Romans 10:9-10. Read Hodge, <i>Way of Life</i> , Preface, chs. 1-4: Write an essay.
Week 2	Moralism and Merit	Memorize Ephesians 2:8-10 and review verses. Read Hodge, <i>Way of Life</i> , chs. 5-7, 9: Write a review.
Week 3	Sacramentalism	Memorize the Romans Road: Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; & 10:9-10 (review). Read the letter to the Romans. Read the following and write an essay on sacramentalism: Hodge, <i>Way of Life</i> , ch. 8. Calvin & Sadoleto, <i>Reformation Debate</i> , Appendix Spurgeon, “Baptismal Regeneration”
<i>Christmas Break</i>		
Week 4	Covenant Theology and Baptism	Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21 and review verses. Read the following and write a position paper on baptism: Strawbridge, <i>Baptism in the Bible and Infant Baptism</i> Malone, <i>A String of Pearls Unstrung</i> Strawbridge, <i>A Critical Response</i>
Week 5	Faith: Evangelical and Experimental	Memorize Hebrews 11:6 and review verses. Read Spurgeon, <i>All of Grace</i> : Collect ten posies with proper citation.
Week 6	Union with Adam: Original Sin	Memorize 2 Peter 1:10a and review verses. Read Stott, <i>Basic Christianity</i> , Preface, chs. 1-6: Write an essay.
Week 7	Union with Christ: Atonement	Review the memory verses. Read Stott, <i>Basic Christianity</i> , chs. 7-11: Write a review.
Week 8	Analogies of Salvation	Review the memory verses. Read Lewis, “The Weight of Glory.” Read Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i> , Part II: Write a summary of this gospel with three quotes. Add a paragraph of assessment.
Week 9	C. S. Lewis on Salvation	Review the notes and memory verses for a final exam. Read Ryle, <i>Holiness</i> , Intro, chs. 1-2: Collect seven posies with proper citation. Write a gospel tract based on what you have learned.
Week 10	Assurance of Salvation	Read Ryle, <i>Holiness</i> , chs. 3-7: Write a review. Revise your gospel tract and hand out to three people. Final Exam



## Bibliography – Salvation

Calvin, John and Jacopo Sadoletto. [A Reformation Debate: Sadoletto's Letter to the Genevans and Calvin's Reply](#). Ed. John C. Olin. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1976 [1966].

The appendix to this volume contains opposing Catholic and Protestant views on justification. The Catholic view comes from the Council of Trent, and the Protestant view comes from John Calvin. The sacramental character of the Catholic view of salvation comes out strongly in this primary source.

Hodge, Charles. [The Way of Life](#). Reprint, Minneapolis: Curiosmith, 2016 [1841].

Originally written for the American Sunday School Union, this book summarizes doctrine for laypeople. Hodge gives a clear and powerful presentation on faith and the Bible's evidence of inspiration.

Lewis, C. S. [Mere Christianity: A Revised and Amplified Edition, with a New Introduction, of the Three Books](#). New York: HarperCollins, 2001 [1952].

Maybe someday we will assign all of this classic, but for now, we can only sample it here and there. Students will read and critique Part II on "What Christians Believe." Lewis is not orthodox in doctrine.

Lewis, C. S. "The Weight of Glory." In idem, *The Weight of Glory: And Other Addresses* (New York: HarperCollins, 1949): 25-46.

This remarkable sermon presents concepts that have proven critical in the modern reassessment of worship and reward by Reformed evangelical John Piper.

Malone, Fred A. [A String of Pearls Unstrung: A Theological Journey into Believers' Baptism](#). Cape Coral, FL: Founders Press, 1998.

Written by a former Presbyterian, this booklet dismantles the covenant argument for infant baptism. Coupled with Strawbridge, students are able to hear both sides of the baptism debate. The complete text of this booklet used to be found online for free, but now is unavailable.

**Note:** This out-of-print book may be impossible to find. Please *do not* buy an expensive copy. The author expanded his argument into a full-length book [The Baptism of Disciples Alone](#).

Ryle, J. C. [Holiness: Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties, and Roots](#). Rev. ed. Reprint, Moscow, ID: Charles Nolan, 2001 [1877, 1879].

Ryle is engaging—a writer who makes plain, bold statements, and who applies the truth with force. Students will appreciate his bold, energetic style, and the relevance of his topic—personal holiness. Although written over a century ago, the issues he discusses still resonate today, in today's debates.

Spurgeon, C. H. [All of Grace](#). Moody Classics. Chicago: Moody, 2010 [1894].

In this little book, the British "prince of preachers" calls sinners to repent and believe in Christ. If you love the gospel, or are longing to be saved, this earnest little book should delight your soul.

**Alternative Edition:** Spurgeon, C. H. [All of Grace: An Earnest Word with Those Who Are Seeking Salvation by the Lord Jesus Christ](#). Reprint, Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim Publications, 1978 [1894].

Spurgeon, C. H. "[Baptismal Regeneration](#)." Sermon. Reprint, Pensacola, FL: Chapel Library [1864].

In this sermon, Spurgeon calls on evangelical Anglicans (like Ryle) to be consistent in the area of baptism. Controversial, the sermon will give students a feel for the gravity of the sacramentalism debate.

Stott, John R. W. [Basic Christianity](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1958.

Stott gives a straight-forward presentation of the gospel in this book written for college students. Although the style is dry, the content is full, leading some students to appreciate the wealth of data. One chief merit of this book is its focus on the person of Christ, not merely on our salvation.

Strawbridge, Gregg. [Baptism in the Bible and Infant Baptism](#). Brownstown, PA: WordMp3.com, 2006, 2015.

This Pennsylvania Presbyterian pastor gives a reasoned defense of infant baptism. This book gives a good basis for Malone's response to the covenantal paedobaptist position.

Strawbridge, Gregg. [A Critical Review of A String of Pearls Unstrung](#). Online document.  
This is a direct response to Malone's credobaptist booklet.

## Spring – Parenting

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	The Duties of Children and Fathers	Memorize Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:21. Read Ray, <i>Withhold Not Correction</i> , chs. 1-7: Collect ten posies with proper citation.
Week 2	The Fear of the Lord	Memorize Proverbs 1:7 and 8:13 and review verses. Read Murray, <i>The Fear of the Lord</i> . Read Ray, <i>Withhold Not Correction</i> , chs. 8-13: Write a review, using insights from Murray.
Week 3	The Steps to Independence	Memorize Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and review verses. Read the Proverbs handout on parenting. Read Tripp, <i>Shepherding a Child's Heart</i> , Part I: Write a cautionary tale about a fool in childhood. Interweave quotes and end with a poetic moral.
Week 4	Childhood Development	Memorize Deuteronomy 6:6-9 and review verses. Read again the Proverbs handout on parenting. Finish Tripp, <i>Shepherding a Child's Heart</i> : Write a review, using verses from Proverbs.
Week 5	The Dangers of Adolescence	Memorize Proverbs 22:15 and 29:15 and review verses. Read J. Harris, <i>I Kissed Dating Goodbye</i> and the articles: Write a review, using the articles on the book.
<i>Easter Break</i>		
Week 6	Preparation for Effective Parenting	Memorize Proverbs 13:24 and review verses. Read Naselli and Crowley, <i>Conscience</i> , Preface, chs. 1-4: Collect seven posies with proper citation. Interview two couples about parenting (see the handout): Grandparents and a couple still raising their children. Fill out the questionnaire on behalf of your own parents. Then ask them the questions. Were you close?
Week 7	Informal and Formal Instruction	Review the memory verses. Read Marcellino, <i>Rediscovering Family Worship</i> . Finish Naselli and Crowley, <i>Conscience</i> : Write a review, using an application from Marcellino.
Week 8	Training: Development	Review the memory verses. Read G. Harris, <i>The Christian Home School</i> , chs. 7, 11: Collect ten posies with proper citation. Write a report on parenting based on the interviews: Read the interviews gathered by the other students. Summarize in an essay the data and your conclusions.

Week 9	Training: Correction	<p>Review the notes and memory verses for the final exam.  Read three tales from Leithart, <i>Wise Words</i> to children:  Report date, setting, name of child, and title of story.  Write a paragraph about three things learned.  Write an appreciation of the parenting in your home.</p>
Week 10	Guarantees, Grace, and Generations	Final Exam

## Bibliography – Parenting

Harris, Gregg. [The Christian Home School](#). 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Gresham, OR: Noble Publishing, 1988, 1995.

Harris was an early leader in the homeschool movement. His philosophy of home education is comprehensive and stimulating. He is the father of seven children, including authors Joshua Harris, who wrote *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, and Alex and Brett Harris, who wrote *Do Hard Things*.

**Note:** Gregg Harris blogs at [Home Educators of Washington](#).

Harris, Joshua. [I Kissed Dating Goodbye](#). 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1997, 2003.

This popular book caused many teens to rethink their perspective and expectations regarding dating. Because it was written by a teen for teens, it will provoke thought and a response in the students. We are reading it in parenting class because setting dating expectations is a big part of raising teens. Students will also read recent reevaluations by the author and by others affected by the book. As in all counsel, simplistic solutions have both benefits and dangers.

Leithart, Peter. [Wise Words: Family Stories That Bring the Proverbs to Life](#). Elkton, MD: Holly Hall, 1995.

This book of Christian fairy tales is simply a delight and has been a favorite of the Snyder household. Loosely based on a proverb, the fairy tales incorporate many themes of biblical theology. This book fits well with Gregg Harris' encouragement to take time for storytelling.

Marcellino, Jerry. [Rediscovering Family Worship](#). Wapwallopen, PA: Shepherds Press, n. d. [1996, 2002].

In this booklet, Pastor Marcellino describes the three elements of family devotions—song, Scripture, and supplication.

Murray, John. [The Fear of God: The Soul of Godliness](#). Reprint, Birmingham: Solid Ground Christian Books, n. d. [1957].

This booklet is the first chapter of Professor Murray's book on ethics, *The Principles of Conduct*. Spiritually-sensitive readers should come away from this book more awed at God's majesty.

Naselli, Andrew David and J. D. Crowley. *Conscience: What It Is, How to Train It, and Loving Those Who Differ*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016.

This superb book starts out simple—cataloging every place in the New Testament where conscience is mentioned—but ends with surprising strength and insights. Students should learn how to differentiate their conscience from both others and the word of God. Training a conscience with sensitivity is very important in parenting, especially during the teen years.

Ray, Bruce A. [Withhold Not Correction](#). Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing, 1978.

Pastor Ray gives exposition and application regarding the biblical verses on training children.

Tripp, Tedd. [Shepherding a Child's Heart](#). 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Wapwallopen, PA: Shepherd Press, 1995, 2005.

This book has become the standard book on parenting for many churches with Reformed theology. Tedd Tripp is the brother to popular counselor and author Paul Tripp.