

# **SPRING BRANCH ACADEMY**

THE THEOLOGY CURRICULUM

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JONESVILLE, MICHIGAN

**SPRING BRANCH BOOK HOUSE**  
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Countryside Bible Church  
1651 E. Litchfield Rd.  
Jonesville, MI 49250

*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.*

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# Theology I: Creation, the Bible, and Work

## Spring Branch Academy

*Instilling Wisdom, Inspiring Worship*

### 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 and 38-41, type answers to the questions: What animals are mentioned? What are five things mankind can know or do? What are five things mankind cannot know or do? 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: Type out twelve vanities with the biblical reference. 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 pages 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 pages in <i>The New Answers Book</i> : Summarize two chapters in five typed sentences. Be prepared to present one chapter in class. Listen to Sermon Audio on the Scopes Trial.
Week 5	The Great Flood	Review the memory verses and notes. For Larson, <i>Summer for the Gods</i> : Read the Introduction out loud. Read the cast list of lawyers and other characters. Read the first sentence of each paragraph in chs. 4-8. Then read the entire text of chs. 4-8. 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. Watch <i>Inherit the Wind</i> with a discerning adult. Write an essay that compares the film to the actual trial.
Week 7	Paleontology	Review the memory verses and notes. Watch the ID video <i>Darwin's Dilemma</i> . Read Johnson, <i>Darwin on Trial</i> , chs. 1, 4, 7, and 8: Collect ten posies with proper citation.

Week 8	Biology	Review the memory verses and notes. Watch the ID video <i>Unlocking the Mystery of Life</i> . Read Wells, "Survival of the Fakest." Read Gould, "Impeaching a Self-Imposed Judge." Read Johnson, "Response to Gould." Read Johnson, <i>Darwin on Trial</i> , Epilogue: Write an essay on the Gould-Johnson debate.
Week 9	Theistic Evolution	Review the memory verses and notes for a final exam. Read Poythress, <i>Christian Interpretations of Genesis 1</i> . Read <i>Science, Evolution, Creationism</i> : Write an essay on three critical areas of debate. Use any of the resources in this course. <i>Extra Credit</i> : Watch the ID video <i>The Privileged Planet</i> .
Week 10	Darwinists, ID, and the Creationists	Final Exam Read Richardson, <i>Peace Child</i> .

## 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 Plummer, <i>40 Questions</i> , chs. 1-4: For each question, provide a paragraph answer. Read Hodge & Warfield, <i>Inspiration</i> : Fill out the study guide completely.
Week 2	Prophecy	Memorize 2 Peter 1:21 and review other verses. Read Psalm 119 out loud. Read Luther's preface to his German writings. Read David Powlison, "Suffering and Psalm 119." Read Psalm 119 out loud again: Write an essay on how your perspective changed. Include the three themes and five Psalm 119 quotes.
Week 3	Inspiration	Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and review other verses. Read the tract <i>M'Cheyne's Daily Bible Readings</i> : Prayerfully consider reading the Bible for yourself. Reading four chapters per day finishes in one year. Watch <i>A Man for All Seasons</i> with a discerning adult: What kind of man is Henry VIII? Thomas More? Read Bragg, <i>William Tyndale</i> : What kind of man is Tyndale? Thomas More? Retell the story of Tyndale in 400 +/- 10 words.
<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 reliability of the Bible.
Week 5	Canonization	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	Apocrypha	Review the memory verses and notes. Prayerfully read Plummer, <i>40 Questions</i> , ch. 12. 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 and notes. Make papyrus in class using a water and a rolling pin. Read Plummer, <i>40 Questions</i> , chs. 5-7: Collect seven posies with proper citation. Copy by hand onto the papyrus a chapter from Paul: Bring your Bible into class to check accuracy. A prize is given for a copy with no errors.

Week 8	Translation	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Swaim, "God's English" on the KJV Bible. Read Ryken, <i>Choosing a Bible</i> . Read and compare your copied chapter in three versions: Write an essay on three significant differences.
Week 9	Interpretation	Review the memory verses and notes for a final exam. Read Plummer, <i>40 Questions</i> , chs. 8-11, 21: Collect seven posies with proper citation. Read <i>Dig and Discover Hermeneutical Principles</i> : Type twenty questions from your copied chapter. <i>Extra Credit</i> : From <i>40 Questions</i> , chapters 22-35: Read and summarize three chapters of your choice. <i>Extra Credit</i> : Try out five resources in chapter thirteen.
Week 10	Application	Final Exam Read Harris & Harris, <i>Do Hard Things</i> : Collect twelve posies.

## 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 Traeger & Gilbert, <i>Gospel at Work</i> , Intro, chs. 1-3: Collect seven posies with proper citation. Read Appendix 2 and type the bold-print sentences.
Week 3	A Goal of Work – Provision	Memorize 2 Thessalonians 3:10b and review other verses. Read Traeger & Gilbert, <i>Gospel at Work</i> , chs. 5, 11: Read and summarize an additional chapter to present. Read the conclusion and define success in a sentence. Read Hummel, <i>Tyranny of the Urgent</i> : Type out and answer the questions on page five. Type out and answer three other questions (pp. 6-7).
Week 4	A Goal of Work – Giving	Memorize Ephesians 4:28 and review other verses. Read the book of Proverbs: List the references on work, diligence, and laziness. With twelve verses, make a poster against laziness: Posters are assessed for clarity, ideas, and attraction.
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. 1-17: Do not forget—always read the preface and prologue.
	<i>Easter Break (varies)</i>	
Week 6	Finding God’s Will	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Elliot, <i>Shadow of the Almighty</i> , chs. 18-22. Conduct the three interviews, according to the handout: Businessman, employee, and homemaker.
Week 7	Planning and Setbacks	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Piper, <i>Risk Is Right</i> . Finish Elliot, <i>Shadow of the Almighty</i> : From Elliot’s life, write three lessons about pursuits. Include three quotes from Piper’s book.
Week 8	Art in Work	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Schaeffer, <i>Art and the Bible</i> : Collect five posies with proper citation. Write a report on work based on the interviews: Read the interviews conducted by fellow students. Summarize in an essay the data and your conclusions.

Week 9 Hospitality in Work

Review the memory verses and notes for a final exam.

Read Strauch, *The Hospitality Commands*:

Ask 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 is your summer plan in light of your vocations?

## 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. 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. [Darwin on Trial](#). 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1991, 1993.

This seminal book helped to launch the Intelligent Design movement. The author, a Berkeley law professor, examines the evidence for evolution, as a trial lawyer would. Students will also trace some of the subsequent debate between Johnson and Harvard paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould.

**Note:** The second edition is preferred, but the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary special edition also suffices.

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.

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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).

**Note:** The academy has copies of this booklet for students to borrow.

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.

Sermon Audio. “[The Scopes Trial](#).” In Bob Snyder, *Lessons from Fundamentalism* (July 2018).

This lecture summarizes the Scopes Trial with its backgrounds, issues, and lessons.

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.

## 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:** Many used copies are available, but please obtain the third edition.

Bragg, Melvyn. [William Tyndale: A Very Brief History](#). London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge [SPCK], 2017.

Although sketchy by nature and random in details, the book is engaging and excited about Tyndale's work. The author's appreciation of Tyndale is largely due to his cultural contribution to the English language.

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. In Theology IV, we plan to examine the Harris family and look more closely at what may be wrong with pushing teenagers into early leadership positions.

Hodge, Archibald A., and Benjamin B. Warfield. [Inspiration](#). Intro. Roger R. Nicole. Reprint, Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2007 [1881].

This short book is the most historically-significant American book written on the inspiration of the Bible. In a sense, the book inaugurated the so-called "Princeton view" of the Bible. To help students understand this important work, a study guide will be provided.

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.

**Note:** Due to possible copyright restrictions, students may need to share the available copy.

[Make Your Own Papyrus](#). Veritas Press (Item #183500)

This kit contains real papyrus reeds—all that is needed is a rolling pin and water!

**Note:** The academy plans to provide each student with a kit.

[A Man for All Seasons](#). DVD (1966)

Originally a play, this award-winning film portrays Thomas More and Henry VIII in a struggle of conscience. Used as historical backdrop for William Tyndale, it is also helpful for students to see how history is twisted. The film portrays More as perfectly rigid and true to his own principles (not God's?), but is it accurate? The book about Tyndale portrays More as increasingly radical in his opposition to Tyndale, but is it accurate?

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 before the New Year, when a yearly systematic Bible reading would begin.

Plummer, Robert L. [40 Questions about Interpreting the Bible](#). 40 Questions & Answers Series. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2010.

This book is much more engaging, succinct, and dense with details than *The Origin of the Bible* book.

(cont'd)

Powlison, David. "[Suffering and Psalm 119](#)." *Journal of Biblical Counseling* 22 (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. This article describes the author's personal experience in seeing deeper and deeper layers in this large psalm. Very helpful article for encouraging a closer, more searching read of this grandest of all psalms!

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.

**Alternate Edition:** Ryken, Leland. *Bible Translation Differences*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004.

Swaim, Barton. "[God's English](#)." *Touchstone* (May/June 2011): 23-28.

The author presents the King James Version of the Bible as a literalistic translation that has retained its cultural contribution of phrases, even though modern culture is biblically illiterate.

WordPartners. [Dig and Discover Hermeneutical Principles: The Core Principles](#). 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Palos Heights, IL: Leadership Resources International, 2018. Former: Leadership Resources International.

**Alternate Online Edition:** [Dig and Discover Hermeneutical Principles](#). The ministry encourages Americans to purchase the booklets as ministry support.

## 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](#). Ed. Eddie Broussard. Online Resource.

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.

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

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.

Traeger, Sebastian, and Gilbert, Greg. [The Gospel at Work: How the Gospel Gives New Purpose and Meaning to Our Jobs](#). Updated and expanded ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013, 2018.

This book is a great exposition of the sins of idolatry and idleness in work, and of reasons why to work. Many practical questions are discussed at length, such as dealing with difficult coworkers and being a boss.

**Note:** Please verify that the student is obtaining the updated and expanded edition.

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

### Spring Branch Academy

*Instilling Wisdom, Inspiring Worship*

#### 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 Gaede, <i>When Tolerance Is No Virtue</i> , chs. 1-6: Write an essay about why and when to tolerate.
Week 2	The Basic Elements of a Nation	Memorize Acts 17:26-27 and review other verses. Read Oliver, <i>No Flesh Shall Glory</i> , chs. 1-2, 4-7: Write an essay about having a national identity.
Week 3	The American Experiment	Memorize Galatians 3:28 and review other verses. Read Locke, <i>A Letter Concerning Tolerance</i> : Collect five posies with proper citation. Read McLeod, <i>Messiah</i> : Collect five posies with proper citation. Write an essay on the compatibility of these visions.
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 and education in America.
Week 5	The Culture War	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 Douglass, “What the Black Man Wants” (1865). Read Washington, “Atlanta Exposition Address” (1895). Read DuBois, <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> , chs. 1-5, 8, 9, 14: 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	Judging and Personal Faith	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Mohler, <i>Atheism Remix</i> : Collect ten posies with proper citation. Add a personal comment or question to three posies.
Week 7	Islam	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Schirrmacher, <i>The Islamic View</i> , chs. 1-15. Write an essay about Islam. <i>Extra Credit</i> : Read <i>The Islamic View</i> , ch. 16.
Week 8	Eastern Religions	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Wilson, <i>Letter from a Christian Citizen</i> : Collect ten posies with proper citation. <i>Extra Credit</i> : Watch the movie <i>Collision</i> .

- Week 9    Atheism
- Review the memory verses and notes 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    The Global Mission of Jesus Christ
- Read Lewis, *Mere Christianity*:  
    Collect seven posies with proper citation.  
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

**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. 1-5: Write an essay.
Week 2	The Trinity	Memorize Matthew 28:18b-20 and review other verses. Read Sproul, <i>Holiness of God</i> , chs. 6-9: Write a review. <i>Extra Credit:</i> Read Sproul, <i>Holiness of God</i> , chs. 10-11.
Week 3	The Incarnation	Memorize John 1:1 & 14 and review other verses. Read Reeves, <i>Delighting in the Trinity</i> : Collect twelve posies with proper citation.
<i>Christmas Break</i>		
Week 4	The Pursuit of God	Memorize Psalms 27:4 & 86:11 and review other verses. Read Piper, <i>Desiring God</i> , Preface, Introduction, chs. 1-3: Write an essay on a pursuit of God.
Week 5	Concurrence in Theology	Memorize Romans 9:16, and review other 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 6	Calvinism and Arminianism	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Tozer, <i>The Knowledge of the Holy</i> , Preface, chs 1-9: Write an essay.
Week 7	The Greatness of God: Time and Space	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Tozer, <i>The Knowledge of the Holy</i> , chs. 10-23: Summarize one chapter for a class presentation.
Week 8	The Greatness of God: Knowledge and Ability	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Papa, <i>Look and Live</i> , Introduction, chs. 1-5: Write an essay.
Week 9	The Goodness of God: Justice and Faithfulness	Review the memory verses and notes for a final exam. Read Papa, <i>Look and Live</i> , chs. 6-9: 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. (If there was no snow week, read all of Müller.)

**Spring – Personal Finances**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	The Importance of Money	Memorize Matthew 6:19-21 and 24. Read Alcorn, <i>Treasure Principle</i> : Write a review.
Week 2	Asceticism	Memorize 1 Timothy 6:6-8 and review verses. Write out 1 Timothy 6:9-10 five times. Read Alcorn, <i>Money</i> , Preface, Introduction, chs. 1-2, 16: Collect ten posies with proper citation.
Week 3	Materialism	Memorize 1 Timothy 6:9-10 and review verses. Read Alcorn, <i>Money</i> , chs. 3-4, 6, 20: 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. 18-19: Collect ten posies with proper citation. Do a budget sheet for one adult on a minimum wage.
Week 5	Stewardship	Memorize Proverbs 22:7 and review verses. Read Alcorn, <i>Money</i> , ch. 10. Read Ramsey, <i>Total Money Makeover</i> , chs. 1-9, 12-13: Write a review that compares Ramsey with Alcorn.
<i>Easter Break</i>		
Week 6	Giving to the Church	Memorize Acts 20:35b and review verses. Read Alcorn, <i>Money</i> , chs. 11-13: Collect ten posies with proper citation. Conduct the following interviews (due in two weeks): Two personal-finance interviews One church-finance interview
Week 7	Giving to the Poor	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Edwards, <i>Christian Charity</i> : Write an essay on giving.
Week 8	Debt	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Alcorn, <i>Money</i> , ch. 17. Read Burkett, <i>Complete Financial Guide</i> , Intro, chs. 1-8: Collect five posies with proper citation. Read the interviews and type up three conclusions.
Week 9	Planning Ahead	Review the memory verses and notes for a final exam. Read Burkett, <i>Complete Financial Guide</i> , chs. 9-14: Collect five posies with proper citation. Write a story of a young couple getting in and out of debt: Include details from Burkett and the interviews.
Week 10	The Unseen Eternal World	Final Exam What are your summer plans as a steward of resources?

## Bibliography – Pluralism

Douglass, Frederick. [“What the Black Man Wants”](#) (1865).

This former slave and skilled orator was one of the most famous men of nineteenth-century America.

**Note:** The Library of Congress gives details of the source, but not where the speech was originally published.

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:** DuBois, W. E. B. [The Souls of Black Folk](#). Dover Thrift Editions. Reprint, Mineola, NY: Dover, 1994 [1903].

Gaede, S. D. [When Tolerance is No Virtue: Political Correctness, Multiculturalism and the Future of Truth and Justice](#). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

The message of this book has been summarized as, “Like loyalty, tolerance is a sham virtue, taking its worth from something else.” Possibly. The book is highly readable and instantly engaging. A great introduction for students into the problems and possibilities of tolerance in a pluralistic age.

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 it, students will already have read Wilson’s blow-by-blow response. It is risky to assign such a book, but it also risky not to assign one. Overall, the academy believes that it is better to inoculate our children than to over-shelter them; someday they will face these attacks. *Please pray for the Spirit’s enlightenment*. Ironically and wondrously, the Bible itself already answers many of these attacks in the OT wisdom literature, which proves (again) there is nothing new under the sun.

Hitchens, Christopher and Douglas Wilson. [Collision: Is Christianity Good for the World?](#) DVD (2009)

This ninety-minute video pits atheist Christopher Hitchens against pastor-theologian Douglas Wilson. Presented in a highly dramatic fashion, students can get a first-hand taste of the modern debate.

**Note:** Parents should not purchase this video, because students borrow a copy from the academy library.

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

Besides Narnia, this is Lewis’ most famous book and certainly his most famous apologetic book. It mainly consists of material originally 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 reasoning. As an apologist for theism and a critic of human immorality, he is often very strong.

**Note:** Book 2 will also be read and critiqued in Theology IV.

Locke, John. [A Letter Concerning Toleration](#). Hackett Classics. Reprint, Indianapolis: Hackett, 1983 [1689].

It is difficult to find Enlightenment reading that is neither too obtuse nor ungodly for high school students to read. Locke’s letter is said to be the most assessable piece he wrote. His seminal vision on tolerance had a lasting influence on British and American political thought. This book can dovetail with McLeod’s sermon.

**Alternate Thrift Edition:** Locke, John. [The Second Treatise of Government and A Letter Concerning Toleration](#). Dover Thrift Editions. Reprint, Mineola, NY: Dover, 2002 [1946, 1956].

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.

(cont’d)

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

This two-hundred-year-old sermon by a Covenanter Presbyterian explains 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, although 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 online, so please do not purchase an expensive used copy.

Mohler, R. Albert, Jr. [Atheism Remix: A Christian Confronts the New Atheists](#). Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

This small book first surveys the four main new atheists and their arguments, then answers them using arguments from Alister McGrath and Alvin Plantinga. In the end, Mohler rejects both theistic evolution and theological liberalism as an adequate response to atheism. Instead, he argues for biblical theism, which asserts not only that God exists but also that God speaks. For such a short book, much is accomplished—a very appropriate size for high school students.

Oliver, C. Herbert. [No Flesh Shall Glory: How the Bible Destroys the Foundations of Racism](#). 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1959, 2021.

In 1943, this Birmingham native began to rethink the assumptions he had absorbed as a black man about his place in American society. After thirteen years of study, seminary training, and pastoral experience, Oliver published his views about the descendants of Ham, segregation, and interracial marriage. This book fits well with our emphasis on the book of Genesis defining ethnicity for us within the one human race.

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 resource examines 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.

**Note:** There is no need to purchase anything, because this 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 link has not only the text, but also a genuine, later rerecording of the first few minutes of the speech.

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, but used copies are available and affordable.

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.

## Bibliography – The Doctrine of God

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.”

**Optional Resource:** Matt Papa, [Look & Live CD](#).

Piper, John. [Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist](#). Rev. ed. Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1986, 1996, 2003, 2011.

The author is perhaps the most significant evangelical preacher of our day, certainly one of the most provocative and God-centered. His philosophy of Christian hedonism has influenced an entire generation of Reformed-minded preachers. Although not without fault, the vision of this book should generate a thirst for God and His glory.

Reeves, Michael. [Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith](#). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2012.

This delightful book combines humor and engaging prose in presenting the grandest of all truths—the triune nature of the one living God. Students should find this book captivating.

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 Knowledge of the Holy: The Attributes of God: Their Meaning in the Christian Life](#). New York: HarperCollins, 1961.

As the culmination of his seminal manifesto, *The Pursuit of God*, Tozer aims to lift up the majesty of God for the relief of modern man’s temporal burdens and as spiritual preparation for salvation.

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.

## 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](#).

Ramsey, Dave. [The Total Money Makeover: A Proven Plan for Financial Fitness](#). Classic ed. Nashville: Nelson Books, 2003, 2007, 2009, 2013.

This very readable book is perhaps the most famous financial guide from a Christian today. It gives very good advice on getting out of debt, but its goal of becoming rich is highly questionable (cf. 1 Timothy 6:6-10). As such, the book provides a good opportunity for students to learn discernment in a Christian context.

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

### Spring Branch Academy

*Instilling Wisdom, Inspiring Worship*

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

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	Introduction	Memorize 1 Corinthians 14:33 and 40. 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 1 Corinthians 11:3 and Matthew 10:31. Review the other memory 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 19:3-6 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 and notes. Read the Gettysburg Address five times out loud. Read Guelzo, <i>Lincoln and Douglas</i> , ch. 6, Epilogue: Write a review.
Week 7	Slavery	Review the memory verses and notes. Read the first paragraphs of the Declaration five times. Read McMillen, <i>Seneca Falls</i> , Introduction, chs. 1-2: Collect ten posies with proper citation.
Week 8	Women	Review the memory verses and notes. Read the Gettysburg Address five times out loud. Read McMillen, <i>Seneca Falls</i> , ch. 3, Epilogue, App.s: Write a review.

## Week 9 The Civil Rights Movement

Review the memory verses and notes for a final exam.

Read Gamble, "Gettysburg Gospel":

How much of this speech missed your attention?

Read King, *Letter from Birmingham Jail*:

How does King understand the American republic?

In what ways do King and Lincoln agree or disagree?

Read King, "The Three Dimensions of a Complete Life."

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

How much of these photos missed your attention?

How much of modern media misses your attention?

Write a cautionary essay about politics and media.

Review the notes for the final exam.

## Week 10 Equality and Institutions

Read Kasher, *Civil Rights Movement*.

Watch the movie *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Write a three-page review on American civil rights.

Final Exam

## 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 Meldau, <i>Prophets Still Speak</i> : Quote verbatim the seven most striking prophecies. Tell in one sentence how each prophecy is fulfilled. Listen to Handel's <i>Messiah</i> sometime during December.
Week 2	The End in Light of the Beginning	Memorize Job 41:11 and Romans 11:36. Review the memory verses. Read Piper, <i>God's Passion for His Glory</i> , Preface, ch. 1: Type all the bold headings from Edwards (Part Two).
Week 3	Antithesis	Memorize Genesis 3:15 and Psalm 110:1. Review the memory verses. Read aloud your typed 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	Biblical Theology and Progressive Revelation	Memorize Matthew 5:17-18 and review memory verses. Write out Jeremiah 31:31-34 three times. Read Goldsworthy, <i>Gospel and Kingdom</i> , Intro, chs. 1-5: Describe three theological questions you are asking. Add a paragraph of your reflections at this point.
Week 5	Kingdom	Memorize John 1:17 and review memory verses. Write out Jeremiah 31:31-34 three times. Finish Goldsworthy, <i>Gospel and Kingdom</i> : Write a review with some answers to your questions.
Week 6	Covenants	Memorize Jeremiah 31:31-34 and review memory verses. Read <i>The Second London Baptist Confession of Faith</i> : Type up the headings for each section. Under each heading, type an insight in one sentence. Under each heading, add how much is tied to history.
Week 7	The Law of God	Review the memory verses and notes. Read McClain, <i>Law and Grace</i> : Write an essay on law and grace in our lives today.
Week 8	The New Covenant	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Cross, <i>By This Name</i> , chs. 1-5: Collect seven posies with proper citation.
Week 9	The Mystery of Christ	Review the memory verses and notes for a final exam. Read Cross, <i>By This Name</i> , chs. 6-9: Collect seven posies with proper citation.
Week 10	End Times	Read Cross, <i>By This Name</i> , chs. 10-15. Write a review. Final Exam

## Spring – Marriage

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	Marriage and Singleness	Memorize Proverbs 18:22 and 19:14. Read Piper, <i>This Momentary Marriage</i> , Intro, chs. 1-8: Collect ten posies with proper citation. Add a comment to at least three posies.
Week 2	The Origin of Marriage	Memorize Hebrews 13:4 and Genesis 2:24, review verses. Finish Piper, <i>This Momentary Marriage</i> : Collect ten posies with proper citation. Write an essay with at least three quotes.
Week 3	The Definition of Marriage	Memorize the “I do” and “I will” portions of the vows. Review the memory verses. Read Girgis et al., <i>What Is Marriage?</i> , Intro, chs. 1-3: Collect seven 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 “I do” and “I will” portions 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	<b>Women:</b> Memorize Ephesians 5:22-24. <b>Men:</b> Memorize Ephesians 5:15-27. Review the vows and the memory verses. Read all of Chapman, <i>Things I Wish I'd Known</i> : Collect twelve posies with proper citation. <i>Due to sex content, a student may skip chapter nine.</i> 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 memory verses, vows, and notes. 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 McQuilken, <i>A Promise Kept</i> : Write an essay.
Week 7	Communication within Conflict	Review the memory verses, vows, and notes. 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 memory verses, vows, and notes. Read the two letters on birth control. Read Torode & Torode, <i>Open Embrace</i> : Write an essay. <i>Due to sex content, a student may skip this entire week.</i>
Week 9	Romance	Review the verses, vows, and notes for a final exam. Read thirty stories from Wales & Platz, <i>Match Made</i> : Describe ten tips to guys on romance from the book. Cite examples from the book, giving the background.
Week 10	A Christian Marriage	Final Exam

## Bibliography – Social Order

Gamble, Richard. "[Gettysburg Gospel](#)." *The American Conservative* (November 14, 2013).

A short, but incisive critique of this portion of "American Scripture" in light of history and the gospel.

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.

King, Martin Luther, Jr. [Letter from Birmingham Jail](#). Penguin Modern Classics. New York: Penguin, 2018 [1964].

This classic essay allows students to hear the famous civil rights leader for themselves.

**Alternate Online Edition:** [Letter from Birmingham Jail](#). This text lacks the sermon "The Three Dimensions of a Complete Life," which is in the booklet from Penguin Modern Classics.

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 this end of this technical 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.

## Bibliography – The History of Redemption

[The Baptist Confession of Faith 1689](#). Ed. Peter Masters. Rev. ed. Oberlin, OH: The Wakeman Trust, 1981, 1989, 1998.

Also called “The Second London Baptist Confession,” this document is the traditional Baptist confession of faith. In the main, the confession echoes the Westminster Confession of Faith, but without Presbyterianism. This edition has updated English and supplies Scripture proofs, and is inexpensive. The confession of faith can also be found online in the original seventeenth-century English.

**Alternate Online Edition:** [The Second London Confession](#).

Cross, John R. [By This Name](#). 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Olds, Alberta, Canada: GoodSeed International, 2007, 2011, 2014, 2015.

This overview of the Bible’s redemptive theme is an adaptation of [The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus](#) for an international postmodern audience. 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.

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.

McClain, Alva J. [Law and Grace: A Study of New Testament Concepts as They Relate to the Christian Life](#). Reprint, Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1973 [1954].

This dispensational perspective may not be entirely accurate, but it brings up the necessary questions about the nature of the Law (unified or not?) and its role in the Christian life (normative or not?). Succinct discussion-starter.

Meldau, Fred John. [The Prophets Still Speak: Messiah in Both Testaments](#). Rev. ed. Ed. Amy L. Julian. Denver: The Christian Victory Publishing Co., 1988 [1956]. Reprint, Bellmawr, NJ: The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, n. d.

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.

**Note:** This book is also used in Humanities III.

## 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.

**Note:** Parents should be aware that chapter nine has some specific biological information on sexuality. *If any family does not approve, students can be exempted from this portion of the assignment.*

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

**Note:** The academy plans to provide a copy of this booklet for students to borrow.

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!

Piper, John. [This Momentary Marriage: A Parable of Permanence](#). Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009.

In this full treatment of marriage, pastor-theologian John Piper gives both a strongly theological and intensely practical vision for marriage as a parable of Christ and His church. It would be hard to find a better all-around book on marriage as the foundation of a theology course. God be praised!

Torode, Sam, and Bethany Torode. [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.

**Note:** Parents should be aware that this book has some specific biological information on sexuality. *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.

## Theology IV: Hermeneutics, Salvation, and Parenting

### Spring Branch Academy

*Instilling Wisdom, Inspiring Worship*

#### Fall – Hermeneutics: Interpretation in Postmodern Times

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	Three Worldviews and the Fact-Value Split	Memorize Proverbs 9:10 and Ecclesiastes 12:10. Read Gilson, <i>Reason and Revelation in the Middle Ages</i> : Collect ten posies with proper citation. Describe each philosophical position and add a quote.
Week 2	Realism, Nominalism, and the Authority of Naming	Memorize 1 Corinthians 1:21 and 2:14 and review verses. Read Naugle, <i>Philosophy</i> : List and define the six major topics of this book. Define twelve additional topics with proper citation. Describe the author's position in a paragraph.
Week 3	Postmodernism and the Sovereign Self	Memorize John 7:17 and 18:37 and review verses. Read Butterfield, <i>Secret Thoughts</i> , chs. 1-3: Write an essay.
Week 4	Metanarratives and the Challenge of Prophecy	Memorize John 8:31-32 and review verses. Read Erickson, <i>The Postmodern World</i> , chs. 1-4: Write a review.
Week 5	Words and the Symbolic World: 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 and notes. Read (or recite) Psalm 23 seven times out loud: Type out ten questions about the text. Read Keller, <i>A Shepherd Looks at Ps. 23</i> , Intro, chs. 1-8: Add as many answers as you can find from Keller.
Week 7	The Text and Its Context	Review the memory verses and notes. Read (or recite) Psalm 23 five times out loud: Are there more questions about the text to your list? Read Keller, <i>A Shepherd Looks at Ps. 23</i> , chs. 9-12: Add as many answers as you can find from Keller. Read Brown, <i>Understanding and Enjoying</i> , Intro, chs 1-8: Add as many answers as you can find from Brown. Discuss how Brown and Keller agree or disagree.
Week 8	The Art of Exegesis	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Brown, <i>Understanding and Enjoying</i> , chs. 9-18. Read the <i>Dig and Discover</i> booklet and arcing handout: Pick a psalm of ten or more verses. Read the psalm twelve times out loud. Write a review of this psalm, using all the resources.

Week 9 Form Matters

Review the memory verses and notes for a final exam.  
Read Pearcey, *Saving Leonardo*, Introduction and Part 1:  
Collect seven posies with proper citation.  
Listen to Franz Joseph Haydn, *The Farewell Symphony*.

Week 10 The Idea of Christian Cultures

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

## 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 Phillips, <i>Your God Is Too Small</i> , Part I and II.1-4. Read John 1 and Acts 17 for the “focused God”: Write an essay on which false god is your tendency. Include how the “focused God” corrects this mistake.
Week 2	Moralism and Merit	Memorize Ephesians 2:8-10 and review verses. Read “The Council of Trent on Justification” (ed. Olin). Read Spurgeon, “Baptismal Regeneration:” Collect three posies with proper citation. Read Scougal, <i>The Life of God in the Soul of Man</i> : Collect seven posies with proper citation. Add a comment to at least three posies.
Week 3	Sacramentalism	Memorize the Romans Road and review verses: This “road” is Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, and 10:9-10. Read Hodge, <i>Way of Life</i> : Read one chapter per day over Christmas break. Collect two posies per chapter with proper citation. Add a personal comment to at least ten posies.
<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> <i>Extra Credit</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 twelve posies with proper citation. Add a personal comment to at least three posies.
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: Justification	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Stott, <i>Basic Christianity</i> , chs. 7-11: Write a review.
Week 8	A Complete Salvation	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Packer, “What Did the Cross Achieve?”: Write an essay that describes “penal substitution.”
Week 9	C. S. Lewis on Salvation	Review the memory verses and notes for a final exam. Read Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i> , Bk. 2.1-5 and Bk. 4.5-11: Write an evaluative essay on Lewis and salvation.

Week 10 Assurance of Salvation

Read Ryle, *Holiness*, Intro, chs. 1-7:

Read one chapter per day over the break.

Write a gospel tract with each chapter topic included.

Final Exam

## 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 Dobson, <i>The New Dare to Discipline</i> , chs. 1-3, 5-6: Collect ten posies with proper citation. Add a personal comment to at least three posies. <i>Extra Credit:</i> Dobson, <i>The New Dare to Discipline</i> , ch. 4.
Week 2	The Fear of the Lord	Memorize Proverbs 1:7 and 8:13 and review verses. Read Murray, <i>The Fear of God</i> . Read Dobson, <i>The New Dare to Discipline</i> , chs. 7-9: Write an essay on parenting in our culture. 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. How close were your answers?
Week 3	The Steps to Independence	Memorize Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and review verses. Read the Proverbs handout on parenting. Read Naselli and Crowley, <i>Conscience</i> , Preface, chs. 1-4: Collect seven 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 4	Childhood Development	Memorize Deuteronomy 6:6-9 and review verses. Read Naselli and Crowley, <i>Conscience</i> , chs. 5-7, App. B: Write a review and include application to parenting.
Week 5	The Dangers of Adolescence	Memorize Proverbs 22:15 and 29:15 and review verses. Read Dobson, <i>The New Dare to Discipline</i> , ch. 10. Read Harris, <i>I Kissed Dating Goodbye</i> : Read Lee, “Kisses of Regret,” “Hindsight and Hope.” Read 1 Timothy 1:18-20 about a shipwrecked faith. Write a review as a parent’s cautionary tale to a teen.
<i>Easter Break</i>		
Week 6	Preparation for Effective Parenting	Memorize Proverbs 4: 23 and 13:24 and review verses. Read Tripp, <i>Shepherding a Child’s Heart</i> , Intro, chs. 1-6: Collect ten posies with proper citation. Add a personal comment to at least three posies. 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 their responses to the stories.
Week 7	Formal Instruction	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Tripp, <i>Shepherding a Child’s Heart</i> , chs. 7-13: Collect ten posies with proper citation. Add a personal comment to at least three posies. Read Marcellino, <i>Rediscovering Family Worship</i> . Read 1 Samuel 17 to children and sing a Bible song: Report date, setting, name of child, and song title.

Week 8	The Discipline of Development	Review the memory verses and notes. Read Tripp, <i>Shepherding a Child's Heart</i> , chs. 14-19: Write a review with a comparison to Dobson.
Week 9	The Discipline of Correction	Review the memory verses and notes for the final exam. Read again the Proverbs handout on parenting. Read Lessin, <i>Spanking</i> : Collect five posies with proper citation. Write an appreciation of the parenting in your home.
Week 10	Guarantees, Grace, and Generations	Final Exam

## Bibliography – Hermeneutics

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.

Butterfield, Rosaria Champagne. [The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: An English Professor's Journey into Christian Faith](#). Expanded ed. Pittsburgh: Crown & Covenant, 2012, 2014.

Formerly a lesbian, Butterfield describes her late-thirties conversion to Christ as a “train wreck,” not something smooth or easy at all. Through her testimony, students will gain insight into the postmodern communities of today’s secular universities. God be praised for His sovereign call on her life and for the pastor and his wife who loved her!

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. Caputo is a disciple of postmodern philosopher Jacques Derrida.

Erickson, Millar J. [The Postmodern World: Discerning Our Times and the Spirit of Our Age](#). Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2002.

This book applies to a popular audience the research of the author’s award-winning book *Truth or Consequences* (2001). Rather than argue directly against postmodernism, Erickson presents its strengths and weaknesses and argues for its incompatibility with Christianity, especially in the definition of truth. As a balanced and knowledgeable treatment of postmodernism for an evangelical audience, this book prepares a student well for reading with discernment John Caputo and other postmodernists who claim to be Christians.

Gilson, Etienne. [Reason and Revelation in the Middle Ages](#). Reprint, Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 1998 [1938].

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.

Keller, W. Phillip. [A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23](#). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1970.

The author grew up in eastern Africa, around settings similar to the imagery of Psalm 23. In addition, for eight years, he herded sheep and then became a pastor (literally, “shepherd”) of his own congregation (flock) of people. Through this book, students will see that a reader’s experience colors the way he sees a text. Also, students will be reminded of what they learned in Nature class, that nature is a language God uses to communicate spiritual truths.

Naugle, David K. [Philosophy: A Student’s Guide](#). Reclaiming the Christian Intellectual Tradition. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.

This excellent little volume introduces students to five major areas of modern philosophy—metaphysics, anthropology, epistemology, ethics, aesthetics. The author includes a chapter on prolegomena, which explains his Augustinian philosophy of “canonical Trinitarian theism.” By far the best volume examined so far in the series!

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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.

WordPartners. [Dig and Discover Hermeneutical Principles: The Core Principles](#). 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Palos Heights, IL: Leadership Resources International, 2018. Former: Leadership Resources International.

**Alternate Online Edition:** [Dig and Discover Hermeneutical Principles](#). The ministry encourages Americans to purchase booklets as ministry support.

**Note:** This booklet was also assigned and used in Theology I class.

## 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.

**Note:** This book is also required for Humanities II.

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

Originally written for the American Sunday School Union, this book summarizes basic 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].

Outside of the Narnia series, this is Lewis' most famous book and certainly his most famous apologetic book. The book consists of four "books," all of which were originally 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. As an apologist for theism and a critic of human immorality, he is often very strong. In this class, students read and critique his view of salvation, as presented in the second and fourth "book" in this overall book. It should become clear that Lewis operates from a Catholic view of the salvation process, where heaven is the organic result of a changed character through imitation of Christ.

**Note:** This book is also required for Theology II.

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](#), which is not required material.

Packer, J. I. "[What Did the Cross Achieve? The Logic of Penal Substitution](#)." *Tyndale Bulletin* 25 (1974): 3-45.

This classic essay presents a logic argument for penal substitutionary atonement against the backdrop of historical theology. Challenging reading, but this is the core of much attack today on the evangelical understanding of the gospel. Students will also benefit from listening to Packer before considering fellow Anglican C. S. Lewis.

Phillips, J. B. [Your God Is Too Small](#). New York: Macmillan, 1952.

This small apologetics book traces a lot of modern belief to false conceptions of a *small* god. After dispensing with these conceptions, Phillips claims that the true God can be come into clear focus through the "aperture" of Jesus Christ. As such, this book makes a good bridge between the doctrine of God and the doctrine of salvation through faith in Jesus, although it should have moved to the Gospel witness instead of conjecture ("A"). In reading this book, students should recognize a personal tendency towards some false conception of God. Moreover, this book should help them to embrace with fearless faith the explorations of modern science, especially physics.

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.

**Note:** The first seven chapters are the original edition and the only ones the author composed as a unit.

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Scougal, Henry. [The Life of God in the Soul of Man in Modern English](#). Ed. Paul Lamb. Self-published, 2016 [1677].

This classic description of the vital union of the soul with God was instrumental in George Whitefield coming to Christ. Written by a young Scottish theologian to his friend, this book has the warmth and earnestness of a true exhortation to ask God for divine regeneration (what Jesus called being “born again”). Freshly modernized, archaisms are removed, so that its message can be heard clearly again! Near the end, it advises passivity too much and thus misses some of the congruence of true saving faith with divine sovereignty; however, the overall spirit and biblical perspective outshines the drawbacks. If students have an ear to hear, they should sense the call of God on their lives to strive for universal holiness in spirit and life.

**Alternate Original Edition:** Scougal, Henry. [The Life of God in the Soul of Man](#). Reprint, Harrisonburg, VA: Sprinkle Publications, 1986 [1677].

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.

**Alternate 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 J. C. 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 pedobaptist position.

Strawbridge, Gregg. [A Critical Review of A String of Pearls Unstrung](#). Online document.

This is a direct response to Malone’s credobaptist booklet.

## Bibliography – Parenting

Dobson, James C. [The New Dare to Discipline](#). Rev. ed. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1970, 1992.

For years, licensed psychologist Dr. Dobson was the leader in counseling Christians on parenting, especially through his popular radio program Focus on the Family. This book is the updated edition of the book that made him famous, when he was a professor of pediatrics (child development) at the University of Southern California School of Medicine. In contrast to Tedd Tripp's book, which represents the biblical counseling movement, Dobson's book represents an integrative approach of psychology and Christianity. Students should compare the two books in light of our culture's tendency to behaviorism in raising children.

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 young man for other young adults, it provokes a thoughtful response among 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.

Lee, Sophia. "[Kisses of Regret](#)." *WORLD* (February 17, 2018): 40-43; and idem, "[Hindsight and Hope](#)." *WORLD* (February 17, 2018): 44-45).

These twin articles describe Joshua Harris' initial steps in succumbing to the cultural pressure of guilt. May the Lord spare his soul and bring him back to strong and confessing faith in Christ Jesus!

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.

Lessin, Roy. [Spanking—A Loving Discipline: Helpful and Practical Answers for Today's Parents](#). Rev. ed. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1975, 2002.

This straight-forward little book provides a step-by-step guide for spanking children. Very helpful!

**Note:** It is out-of-print, so used copies may be difficult to obtain. Please do not pay an exorbitant price!

**Older Edition:** Lessin, Roy. *Spanking—Why, When, How?* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1979, 1982.

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

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

**Older Edition:** Marcellino, Jerry. *Rediscovering the Lost Treasure of Family Worship*. 2<sup>nd</sup> rev. ed. Laurel, MS: Audubon Press, 1996, 2002.

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. It will also be helpful for students to understand how the conscience works before considering the life and work of Joshua Harris.

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.