

## Christian Education Curriculum Proposal

### I. The Proposal

We have divided the teaching of the Scripture into some 35 themes and sub-themes. A church will focus in its Sunday school, worship services and possibly youth meetings and other study groups on one of these themes each month.

In order to carry through the theme idea through the various departments of the Sunday School, we will draw on lessons from various publishers, principally Great Commission, Christian Reformed, Gospel Light and Scripture Press as well as other materials which we will recommend to the participating churches. Each participating church will agree to purchase at least one complete set of the curriculum materials we recommend, plus any other resource materials we recommend. These would be made part of a Christian education resource library maintained by the local church. We will send recommendations for each month regarding which lesson materials will be used for the month as well as our comments and suggestions about these materials.

### II. The Approach

#### A. Pastor involvement

1. The pastor will be a resource person in the Scriptures training those who will train others. An indispensable part of this proposal is a monthly teachers' meeting in which the pastor will expound the Scriptural theme on which the church will focus for the month.
2. The pastor will preach on subjects related to the monthly theme so that the entire church has its focus on the theme for the month.
3. If the pastor is gifted in the area, he might also act as a Christian education trainer. The church may wish to utilize the skills of an educator(s) in the monthly meeting.

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B. Teamwork in Preparation - In the monthly teachers' meeting we want to:

1. Encourage one another to risk (be creative).
2. Support one another in prayer.
3. Pool ideas.
4. Encourage the use of different techniques of communication (movies, drama, art, speaking, reading, field trips, etc.).

The monthly meeting is the key to the success of this program. In that meeting the teacher receives instruction on the biblical material and stimulation on ways to approach the material. In addition, the meeting will help to develop a team spirit.

III. The goals - we want to develop:

A. The church as a family of families - we want to strengthen the family. This will come by:

1. Helping individuals in the family to find Christ and mature in their relationship with Him.
2. Encouraging family activities.
3. Developing within the church an atmosphere in which family problems can be shared and family members receive support.

B. The uniqueness of individuals

1. Each person must have a personal confrontation with Jesus Christ.
2. Each person has God-given gifts, strengths, abilities - some of which are unique to him in their expression. These must be cultivated and used for the glory of God.
3. Each person has a unique value system which must be appreciated and cultivated for the glory of God.

C. The presentation of Scriptures' redemptive theme. What God is doing ~~in~~ His relationship with people in bringing us back to himself. As the relationship with Him is healed, our relationship with ourselves and others is healed.

- D. A long-range working knowledge of the Bible - its':
1. Content
  2. Doctrine - this would involve an understanding and appreciation of the Westminster Standards
  3. History
  4. Validity
  5. Relationship to general revelation
  6. Relationship to other religions and philosophies
- We want to stimulate an appetite on the part of teachers and students to want to study the Bible. The Bible is what God has said to us in words. To know God involves learning the Bible.
- E. An alertness to evangelism - This would be accomplished by:
1. Training in evangelism.
  2. Confronting each person in the church family with the claims of the gospel.
  3. Helping families to present the claims of Christ to each member.
- F. A presentation of the negative in a positive (constructive) way.
- G. An awareness of the atmosphere and facility in which Christian education takes place.

#### IV. The Mechanics

- A. Preparing a month's lessons in the church
1. The church will purchase the resource materials we recommend.
  2. We will send suggestions to the church for each Sunday School department on what and how to use the recommended resources to develop the monthly theme.
  3. These suggestions will be reviewed by the pastor and passed on to the teachers.
  4. Above, we speak of one monthly meeting. But a pastor could review the Scriptural teaching on the theme for the month at, say a Sunday evening service

which teachers would be expected to attend.

5. However, it is imperative that there be one monthly meeting at which teachers, after getting a grasp of the Scriptural teaching on the theme, work together to outline their lessons for the month. This would involve stimulating and encouraging each other by pooling and testing ideas, discussing problem areas, and praying for one another.

Summary: At the monthly meeting(s), the pastor outlines what the Bible says and the teachers work together to present that material effectively to their classes. Pastors and teachers must be willing to spend the time and energy necessary to develop their knowledge of the Bible and their teaching skills.

B. Preparing the church - CTI's Christian Education Seminars are the means by which we will give on-the-job training.

C. Preparing suggestions for the development of the monthly theme. We foresee a small group of voluntary people working together with the CTI staff to prepare the suggestions to be passed on to churches. It took approximately a day a department to develop the suggestions for the month of lessons on "Redemption Applied".

D. The Timetable

1. We want to conduct a one year experiment of the project in Manchester and Coventry, Connecticut and Boothwyn, Pennsylvania, beginning Sept. '75.
2. It is possible we will want to broaden the experiment in Sept. '76. Or, should the initial experiment seem to warrant, we will offer this curriculum proposal to any interested church beginning Sept. '76. In any case, if the program seems workable, we will offer it to any interested church no later than Sept. 77.

<u>THEMES</u>	<u>YEAR 1</u>	<u>YEAR 2</u>	<u>YEAR 3</u>	<u>YEAR 4</u>
1.	<u>RELATIONSHIPS</u>			
	Family and selfhood	Other believers	Government and nations	Family and selfhood
2.	<u>REDEMPTION</u>			
	Accomplished	Applied	Applied	Accomplished
3.	<u>CREATION</u>			
	Life	Man	Covenant	Life
4.	<u>HISTORY</u>			
	Genesis	Exodus	Kings and kingdom(s)	Exile
5.	<u>HISTORY</u>			
	After exile	Time of Christ	Acts	History of church
6.	<u>JESUS CHRIST</u>			
	Diety	Humanity	Ministry	Diety
7.	<u>JESUS CHRIST</u>			
	Passion	Exaltation	Passion	Exaltation
8.	<u>GOD</u>			
	Sovereignty	Person	Attributes	Sovereignty

<u>THEMES</u>	<u>YEAR 1</u>	<u>YEAR 2</u>	<u>YEAR 3</u>	<u>YEAR 4</u>
9.	<u>THE BIBLE</u>			
	Inspiration	How to use	Survey	Bible and comparative religions
10.	<u>WORSHIP</u>			
	Prayer	Sacraments	Service	God's Word
11.	<u>PROPHECY</u>			
	Old Testament	New Testament	Old Testament	New Testament
12.	<u>THE CHURCH</u>			
	What it is	How it grows	Where it's heading	What it is

## THE MONTHLY THEMES

### I. RELATIONSHIPS

#### A. Family and selfhood

1. marriage
2. children
3. sex
4. divorce

#### B. Other believers (our relationship to other believers), include ethics

#### C. Government and nations (our relationship to other authorities), include ethics

### II. REDEMPTION

#### A. Accomplished

#### B. Applied (calling, regeneration, faith, repentance, justification, adoption)

#### C. Applied (sanctification, perseverance, union with Christ, glorification)

### III. CREATION

#### A. Creation of life

#### B. Creation of man

#### C. The covenant

### IV. HISTORY (providence)

#### A. God and His people Genesis

#### B. God and His people Exodus

#### C. God and His people the kings and kingdom(s)

#### D. God and His people in exile

V. HISTORY (providence)

- A. God and His people after exile
- B. God and His people at the time of Christ; include sermon on mount
- C. God and His people Acts; include evangelism, ministry of Holy Spirit
- D. History of the church

VI. JESUS CHRIST

- A. The person of Christ, His deity
- B. The person of Christ, His humanity
- C. The ministry of Christ; include prophet, priest, king

VII. JESUS CHRIST

- A. His passion
- B. His exaltation

VIII. GOD

- A. His sovereignty
- B. His person; father, son, holy spirit
- C. His attributes; holiness, justice, mercy, etc. (priesthood, sacrifices)

IX. THE BIBLE

- A. Inspiration and canonicity
- B. How to use the Bible
- C. Survey of contents
- D. Bible and comparative religions



X. WORSHIP

A. Prayer

B. Sacraments

1. circumcision/baptism

2. passover/communion

C. Service

1. stewardship

2. music, etc. (tabernacle, temple)

D. God's Word

1. hear

2. respond

XI. PROPHECY AND FULFILLMENT

A. Old Testament

B. New Testament

XII. THE CHURCH

A. What it is (the concept); how it works (government, gifts, interrelationships)

B. How it grows (evangelism)

C. Where it's heading (the consummation)