

IMPLEMENTING A H.O.W. APPROACH

As discussed in the previous chapter, the H.O.W. approach has a two-sided curriculum base: God's Word (Bible studies) and God's world (academic studies). This chapter contains practical ideas for Bible study and a brief overview of the academic studies.

GOD'S WORD: BIBLE STUDIES

Using the H.O.W. approach, we show our children the importance of God's Word by making it the first priority of the day and continually referring to it throughout the day. The Bible was designed to be stimulating, interesting, delightful, challenging, comforting, and calming. Embarking on this path will provide you and your children with the wisdom all of you need for life.

The wise Solomon instructed us to search the Word of God for hidden treasure as we would seek after silver. In Matthew we read, *Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.* God wants us to diligently seek after His Word. Our desire is to be preferred over necessary food, raiment, or riches, (or state standards), or any enjoyment of life. We must make it first in importance. Everything else must give way before its demands.

Jesus said, "*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind*" (Matt. 22:37; also see Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27). To love God intellectually is to become a student of God—a student who takes a sincere interest in God. John Garr, founder of the Restoration Foundation, explains that study is the highest form of worship:

The decision to study God's Word in order to do His Word is a meaningful act of submission and reverence—in short, it is worship. Study carried out with this motive is the very essence of Biblical learning. This is not study in order to understand; it is study in order to do.

Study of God's Word in order to mold one's lifestyle to that Word is also worship in the truest sense of the English word worship, which means to "ascribe worth to." When we fully submit our lives to God's Word, when we study what he has said with complete devotion and intensity, we do, indeed, ascribe worth to Him: we worship Him.

The importance of studying the Word of God is seen in Paul's instructions to Timothy: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly

LEARNING STYLES—

Be cautious studying learning-style theories. As with other truths, non-believers take a discovery (as the secular world often does), and distort the principle to fit their secular world view. This does not mean we must discount facts because the non-believers discovered them, just as we would not discount discoveries such as the automobile, eyeglasses, or other things we use daily that may have been discovered by an unbeliever.

The Bible describes how different people are given different gifts and talents. Anything you read about learning styles should line up with God's Word and never be an excuse for sin or shortcomings.

The 4 Step Lessons have proven the four-step system outlined in this book prove:

- Improved Retention
- Higher Achievement
- Increased Motivation
- Improved Thinking Skills
- Lower Remediation

For further reading see:

- The 4Mat System, Teaching to Learning Styles with Right and Brain Processing Techniques* by Bernice McCarthy;
- 4Mat in Action* by Susan Morris and Bernice McCarthy,
- The 4Mat System Workbook*;
- The 4Mation Developer Software* by Excel, Inc.

dividing the word of truth. . . . from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 2:15; 3:15-17).

Intense study is necessary to avoid the shame of inaccurately interpreting God's Word. This is in keeping with David's description of the righteous man: "His delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night" (Psalm 1:2). The meditation to which David refers is not Eastern Monism's meditation. It is the repeating over and over again, of the words of God until one so ingests the Word that it becomes a part of the very fiber of one's being.

The Bible is not just a valuable collection of ancient documents. It is not just the annals of history. It is not just literary genius. It is not just an assemblage of entertaining stories. It is God's Word to us. Bible study is a transforming process. As we respond in obedience to what God speaks to us, then we will participate in the transformation whereby we become more and more like Jesus, our Lord.

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE EACH YEAR

It only takes fifteen to twenty minutes per day to read through the Bible in a year. We suggest that you set aside one to two hours each day (depending on your children's ages) for the Bible lessons. During these lessons, students will be learning to learn by referencing Bible tools. Having the tools on hand will make your studies more convenient and simple. Perseverance, persistence, and dedication are important. Your attitude toward the studies serves to motivate and inspire your students.

Our goal in reading through the entire Bible is to grasp the whole picture. There is nothing special about the one-year (or fifty-two week) time frame. You should read the Bible at a pace you feel comfortable with; you may decide to spend two years or longer. The Bible Reading Check List in this book is simply a framework to get you started. Rely on the Holy Spirit to guide you through the readings. The most important thing for us to remember is not to focus upon the quantity of information we learn, but to remain faithful to whatever spiritual truth God has entrusted to our care. Your Bible study should

be life changing, meaningful, and applicable to your daily struggles, tests, and challenges; it should not be just academic knowledge. An academic study of God's Word will produce little benefit apart from the Holy Spirit. Good study methods alone will not produce good Bible study. It takes a sincere heart with the right kind of attitude as well. The student who has a hunger and thirst for the Word of God will find that God will meet Him.

The Bible Reading Check List in Section IV arranges the Scriptures chronologically, in the order that the Bible events occurred. These portion divisions are from *The Narrated Bible: In Chronological Order*. *The Narrated Bible* is not a paraphrase or translation; the central text is composed entirely of Scripture using the New International Version. Narrative commentary is included in a separate and distinct typeface and color. Throughout the presentation of Scripture, chapter and verse designations are placed in the margin for easy reference. The narrative commentary is written in such a way as to be part of an unfolding story. The text in *The Narrated Bible* can be used for dictation and copying lessons (teaching handwriting, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation), because it is written in everyday English. Families with very young children may decide to use *God's Story* or Bible storybooks (explained later in this chapter). You can use any Bible version by referring to the chapters and verses listed in the Bible Reading Check List.

You Will Need:

- KJV Bible for Reference
- A chronological Bible to read aloud, such as *The Narrated Bible* (for younger children, *God's Story* or Bible storybooks)
- Write Source Handbook (proper age level)
- Spelling Notebook for each student (spiral-bound notebook divided alphabetically)
- Vocabulary Notebook for each student (spiral-bound notebook divided alphabetically)
- Art Portfolio for each student (Poster board stapled together to protect large artwork)
- Materials to make the Portfolio and Time Line Book (a three-ring notebook for each with a clear-plastic pocket cover, and a three-hole punch)
- A note book for the teacher to jot down ideas and thoughts
- Bible Tools
 - Bible Dictionary (Child or Adult)

STEP 1 EXCITE

- Brainstorm
- Mindmap
- Observe a video
- Discuss
- Make lists
- Draw tentative conclusions

STEP 2 EXAMINE

- Read the Bible
- Look up items and words in a Bible handbook
- Refer to a Commentary
- View Bible Maps
- Interview father or pastor

STEP 3 EXPAND

- Write a song
- Write poetry
- Make a poster
- Create illustrations
- Make a salt-dough model (lamp, menorah, etc.)
- Play interactive software
- Do a science experiment
- Create a puppet show
- Make a diorama from a shoe box
- Write a letter from a character
- Write a letter to a character
- Write a newspaper article about an event
- Trace a journey on a map
- Create a costumed play
- Make a booklet or pamphlet

STEP 4 EXCEL

Share and Explain a Project:

- Writing Activities
- Portfolio
- Artwork
- Oral Stories
- Recite poetry
- Sing a song

“The most important activity for building knowledge and skills eventually required for reading is that of reading aloud to children.”

—Marilyn Adams,
reading expert

Reading the Bible each day causes children to come to you all day long with questions. This gives you an opportunity to do what God commands us to do in Deuteronomy 6:7: “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

Bible Versions

We recommend the 1611 authorized King James Version Bible for Bible study, along with lexicons to look up Greek and Hebrew words. However, for daily Bible reading, we think of *The Narrated Bible* as a “story book” to read aloud, giving the children an overview of the entire Bible. It reads like a novel and is easy to understand.

- Bible Handbook (manners and customs)
- Bible Atlas (map book)
- *Strong’s Reference Book*
- Hebrew Lexicon (older students)
- Greek Lexicon (older students)

The specific Bible resources we recommend are listed at the end of this chapter.

THE FOUR-STEP BIBLE LESSONS

There are four basic steps to the H.O.W. approach. The amount of time for each step will vary from a few minutes to a few hours depending on the activities chosen. These four steps teach to all four learning styles and both brain hemispheres. Studies show that this four-step method motivates students to comprehend the material better and retain the information longer. The steps will occasionally overlap each other; they are just a general outline to organize the lessons.

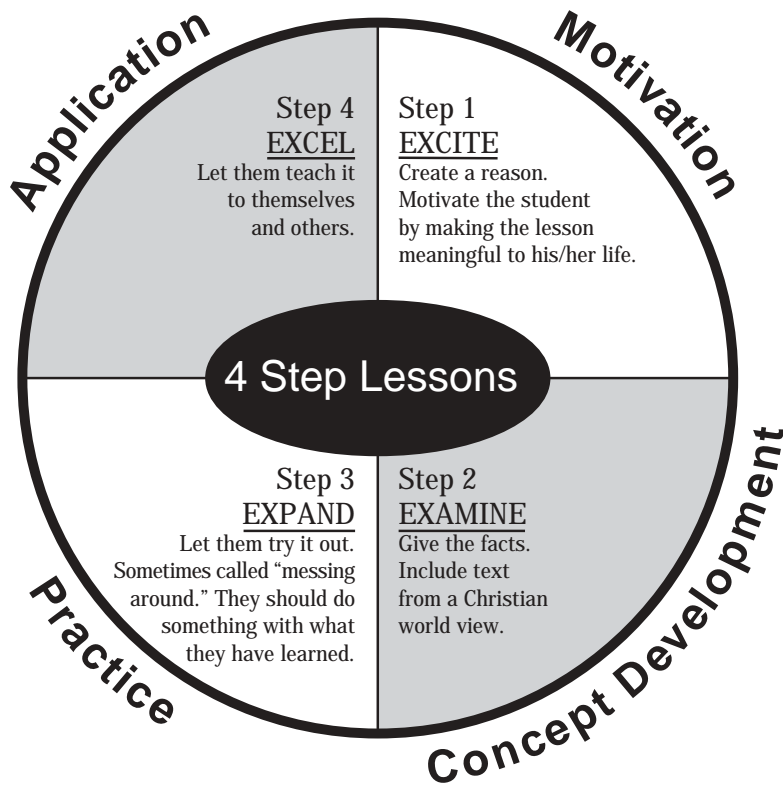
Explain to your children what a privilege it is for us to know God through Jesus, and how relationships are based on communication. God communicates with us through His Word; we communicate with God through prayer. Before beginning the school day, talk to God through prayer. Devote your day to Him and ask His blessings. During your studies, stop at any time you have difficulty with a passage. Remember that God promises us wisdom when we ask for it (James 1:5); therefore pray for wisdom. Prayer comes from a humble spirit that is willing to ask for assistance and acknowledge need. Praying shows that you recognize your dependence upon God (Proverbs 11:2; James 3:5-6).

STEP 1 EXCITE: CREATE AN INTEREST

Motivate students by making the lesson meaningful to their lives. (5-10 minutes)

Before Beginning a New Book of the Bible

Get a clear overview of the book as a whole before trying to dissect it into different minute parts. Discuss the author, time period, and overall theme. Refer to handbooks: *What the Bible Is All About for Young Explorers* and *The Amazing Expedition Bible*; both include an outline and list of the main people in each book, helping you to see the contents of that book in a nutshell. They also include time lines that show you when events happened. You’ll find summaries of sections within

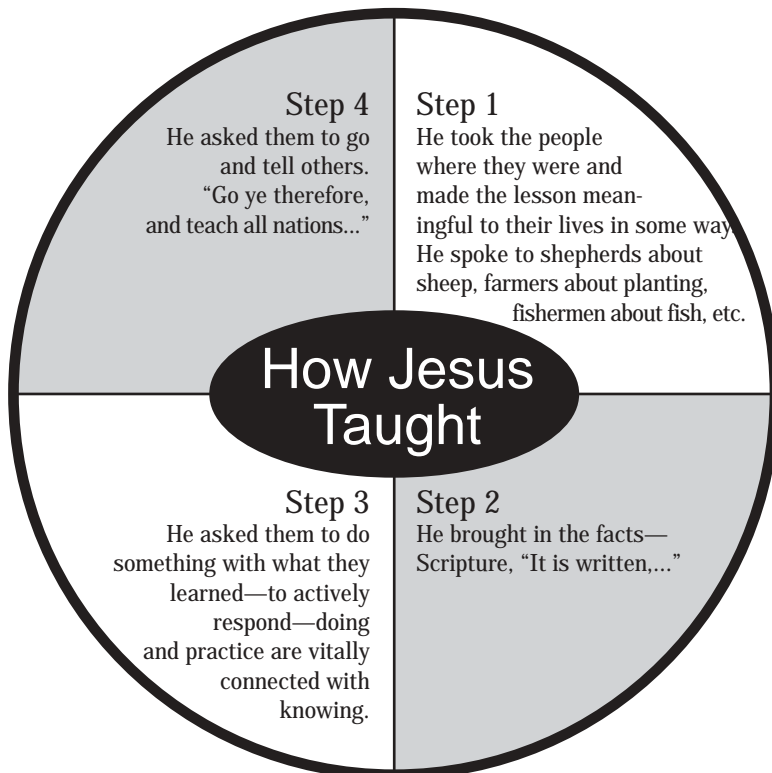


The 4 step lessons consists of four instructional goals:

1. Motivating students
2. Teaching facts
3. Experimenting and trying out concepts
4. Integrating new learning into real life

The lessons are designed so that all learning styles are addressed.

Each lesson contains "something for everybody."



For detailed instructions relating to copying and dictation methods, read chapters six through ten in Ruth Beechick's *You Can Teach Your Child Successfully*.

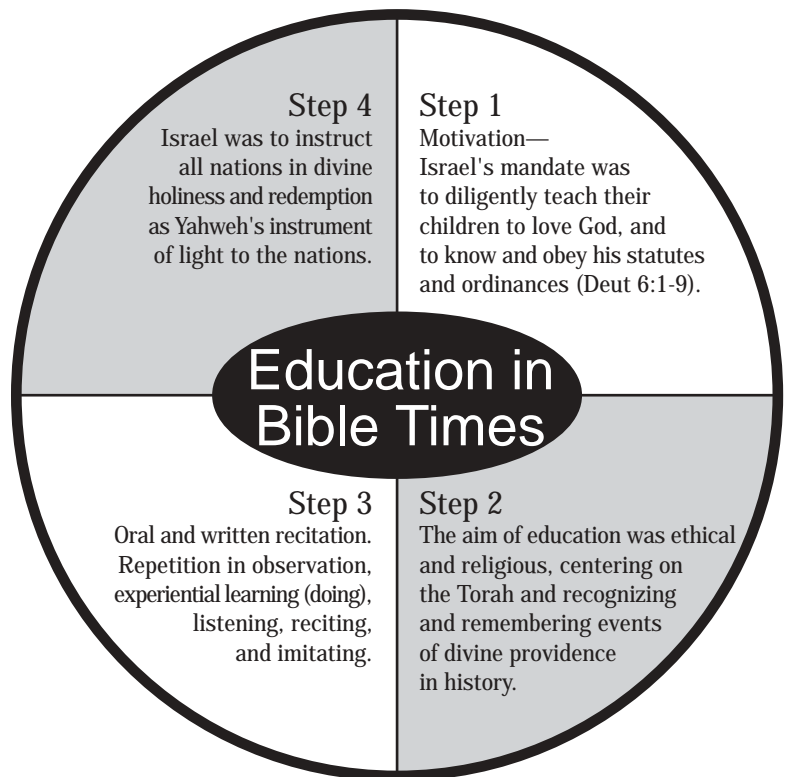
LISTENING TO BIBLE READINGS

If you are reading Bible text to older children, the toddlers may not seem to gain much from the reading time, but this period is an excellent opportunity to teach children to sit still and be quiet.

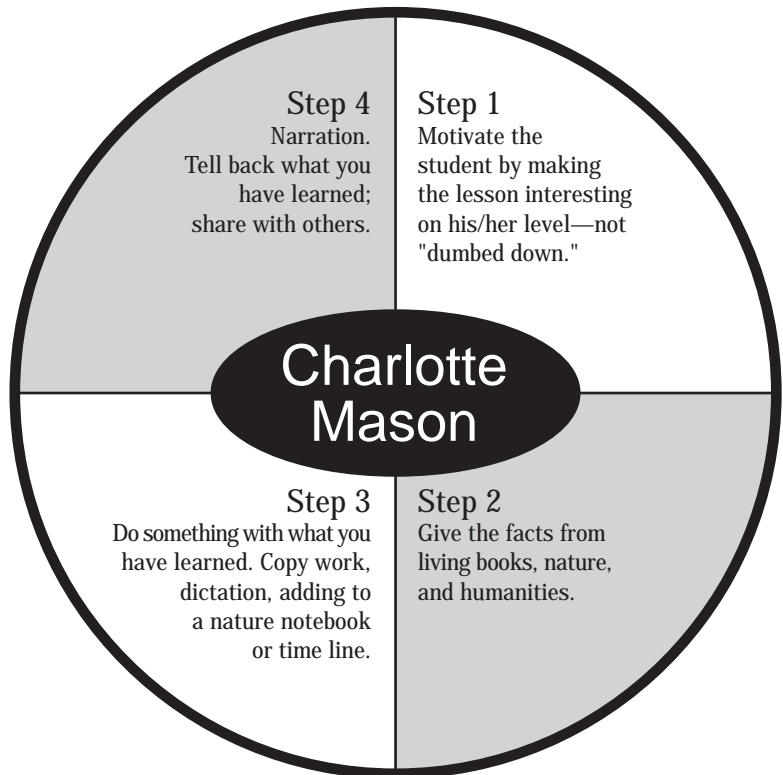
Sometimes we practice being still and sometimes, I provide a set of wood blocks or coloring books for younger children (only available to them during this reading time).

WRITING PROMPTS

- Write a newspaper article for an event that happened in the Bible story. Include who, what, where, why, when and how.
- Contrast the life of the people in the Bible story with your life today. How are they alike and different?
- Give examples of cause and effect in the event.
- Write about a character that displayed qualities of bravery. Tell what you would have done if you had been in that character's place.
- Write an editorial expressing your opinion about an event.
- Choose characters from the Bible reading and give a report on them.



Modern-day science may have come up with the 4 step lessons, but is it really a new way to teach or have we had this pattern all along?



The Heart of Wisdom approach creates lesson plans using Charlotte Mason's methods and teaching to the four styles. Its a new, creative way to organize Charlotte Mason's unique methods.

each book that show how each section fits into the big picture, illustrations that show events in detail, and maps that show you where it all happened.

Step 1 Suggestions:

- Brainstorm, ask questions, and discuss what the children may already know about the passage.
- Make a list of what they would like to find out.
- Share with them what the passage meant to you when you read it for the first time.
- Talk about the previous events (from previous day's readings).
- Have each student begin a mind map (see our Web site for samples— <http://HomeschoolUnitStudies.com>) which they will add to after the reading.
- Have each student begin an outline.

STEP 2 EXAMINE: READ THE PASSAGE AND USE BIBLE TOOLS

If you are using the Bible Reading Check List, the suggested readings contain several different stories. Example: One reading includes pages 23-30 in *The Narrated Bible*. These pages include the following stories:

1. The Call of Abram
2. Abram Dishonors Himself in Egypt
3. Separation of Abram and Lot
4. Defeat of the Kings
5. God's Covenant with Abram

It may be easier to complete one of the stories, using the Bible tools, then continue on to the next story.

Step 2 Suggestions

Each student may do one or several of the following:

- Look up the area where each story took place in a Bible atlas. *The Holman Atlas* (also set up chronologically) includes maps and historical text that will illuminate each story.
- Look up selected words in the Bible dictionary. Jot down unknown words for the next step.
- Look up manners and customs (such as circumcision) in a Manners & Customs book.
- Use a Bible concordance to expand the study.
- Use a book like *Who's Who in the Bible* to learn about character and trials of a person's life.

Several Bible storybooks are available in Christian bookstores:

Hear Me Read Bible Storybooks are available on two levels. Each story consists of 15 to 25 words that are repeated often to help children develop a sight vocabulary. There are currently twenty-six books in the series.

The *Arch@Bible Storybooks* consists of a set of inexpensive, lively, rhyming poems, and colorful illustrations for children preschool to kindergarten. The books in this series published before in the 1980s, include realistic type illustrations. The newer illustrations are too "cartoony" for our family. There are over forty-four books in the series.

Now You Can Read Bible Stories are delightfully written and illustrated. The new series (from Thomas-Nelson) consists of nine books; however, we were able to find several books that used to be in this series (originally published by Rourke) from used book stores.

The *Biblearn Series* are good read-aloud hardback books with nice illustrations. Currently there are twenty-four books in this series. Books include several stories each.

MATERIALS TO MAKE THE BIBLE PORTFOLIO

- A large, sturdy three-ring notebook with a clear plastic front (designed to slip a cover sheet under the plastic) for each child.
- Three-hole-punched plastic protective covers (for photos, artwork, and flat collections).
- Plastic photo pages (for photos of plays, large projects, etc., in portfolio).
- Ten tabbed notebook dividers labeled:
 1. Law/Instruction
 2. Historical
 3. Poetry
 4. Major Prophets
 5. Minor Prophets
 6. Gospels
 7. Acts
 8. Paul's Letters
 9. General Instruction
 10. Prophecy

Optional Supplies

- Colored pencils and/or washable markers and/or crayons
- Ruled and un-ruled paper
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Three-hole punch
- Decorative paper
- Decorative stamps
- Various art supplies (charcoal, paint, chalk, etc.)

- If the student is unclear about a certain passage, he should use a concordance to compare Scripture with Scripture. One passage will shed light on another as he cross-references with other verses and passages.

STEP 3 EXPAND: DO SOMETHING WITH WHAT WAS LEARNED

Ask each student which section of the reading spoke to him. Allow each student to choose the story or passage that he is the most interested in (delight-directed studies) to expand on in this step.

Step 3 Suggestions:

Each student may do one or several of the following:

- Rewrite the story in his own words.
- Narrate the story (tell back) to someone.
- Copy an important passage (the older the student, the longer the passage).
- Have you dictate the passage to him (the older the student the longer the passage).
- Dictate the story to you (younger students).
- Illustrate the story.
- Make a salt-dough model of a map of the area.
- Create a diorama (a shoebox "scene").
- Write a song.
- Write a poem.
- Trace a journey on a map.
- Make a booklet.
- Make a poster.
- Make a postcard.

STEP 4 EXCEL: PULL EVERYTHING TOGETHER

In this step, the student shares his work with another person. This can be done at the end of the week or end of each day. The goal is for the student to prepare each assignment with the object of sharing in mind. When a student can teach someone else what he has learned, it demonstrates that he knows the subject.

Step 4 Suggestions:

- Correct all spelling. Have students add misspelled words to their Spelling Notebooks.
- Have students record unknown words with their definitions in their Vocabulary Notebooks.
- Have students add the work to their Bible Portfolio or Time Line Book.
- Have students share work with others (father, grandmother, neighbor, home school group, sibling, etc.).



Sample page from a Bible Time Line Book

GOD'S WORLD: ACADEMIC STUDIES

The Heart of Wisdom course of study (see chart on the page 140) is a logical structure of history and science unit studies (for grades K-12) and life skill unit studies (grades 7-adult). The course is designed to be repeated every four years. History is taught chronologically and science is taught in the order of the days of creation. Literature, spelling, vocabulary, composition, character, and fine arts are taught, not as isolated subjects, but as interactive skills with each unit study theme. Math, grammar, and phonics are taught at grade level. Students in upper grades -also study life skills units.

The Bible is studied every year. Students complete approximately five to seven history units and four to six science units per year. This suggested course of study can be easily adapted to fit different families' needs. The course does not have to be followed in order. You can rotate units according to the tastes of your children, or alter the course to the studies your child needs to complete his or her school year objectives.

The course of study can be followed as an outline to create your own unit studies, or as a guide to choosing preplanned

THE BENEFITS OF WISDOM

1. Gain in our knowledge and understanding of who God is (Proverbs 2:4-5).
2. Get clear guidance and direction about life (Proverbs 4:11-12; 10:13; 3:21-2).
3. God's divine protection (Proverbs 4:5-7; 28:26).
4. Protects from evil (Proverbs 14:15-16).
5. Protects us in our relationships (Proverbs 2:10-22).
6. Protects us from making serious mistakes (Proverbs 2:8-10).
7. Provides strength and power from God (Proverbs 24:5).
8. Peace, contentment, and happiness will characterize our lives (Proverbs 3:13-18).
9. Contributes to a good self-image (Proverbs 8:32-35; 19:8). We can love our own soul because we have God's viewpoint about our value.
10. Prosperity (Proverbs 8:17-21). Two kinds of wealth: spiritual and material.
11. Good health and a long life. (Proverbs 3:7-8; 9:8-11; 15:24).

—Charles Stanley
Intouch.org

Academic Course of Study		
God's Plan	God's World	God's Kingdom
History	Science	Life Skills
Grades K-12		Grades 9-Adult
Year 1		
Adam to Abraham	Creation	Wisdom
Mesopotamia	Light	Diligence
Ancient Egypt	Electricity	Personal Economic
Ancient Israel	Light	College/Apprenticeship
Ancient Greece	Meteorology	Driving Vehicles
Ancient Rome		
The Messiah		
Year 2		
Early Church	Oceanography	Virtuous Women
Vikings	Botany	Godly Men
Middle Ages	Geology	Courtship
Renaissance	Astronomy	Marriage
Reformation		
Year 3		
Age of Exploration	The Cell	Homemaking
Thirteen Colonies	Marine Zoology	Interior Design
Colonies to Country	Ornithology (Birds)	Exterior Design
New Nation	Entomology (Insects)	Home Industries
Civil War	Earth Zoology	
Reconstruction		
American West		
Year 4		
Industrial Era	Anatomy General	Parenting
World War I	Brain/Nervous	Home Education
Depression	Skeletal/Muscular	Politics
World War II	Respiratory	Spiritual Fruit
Holocaust	Heart/Circulatory	

Designed to be repeated every four years.

studies. The book, *The Heart of Wisdom Teaching Approach* includes a section explaining the H.O.W. Bible-focused teaching philosophies and a section describing how you can make your own lessons following the course of study. The book also includes many outlines, resources (living books), and suggested activities for all the units. It's a how-to book for those desiring a Bible-focused, family-centered program to teach students a love of learning.

Preplanned unit studies (creation, ancient Egypt, astronomy, etc.) by various publishers are available from several homeschool suppliers. Heart of Wisdom is in the process of publishing unit studies based on the philosophies outlined in Chapter 8 of this book. Twelve volumes are planned. Each H.O.W. unit includes links to Internet sources. Each history volume includes five to seven units, while each science volume includes four to six units. Each unit is divided into twenty to forty lessons as well as: Overview, Objectives, Time Line, Vocabulary, Resource Lists, and twenty to forty 4 step lessons (Excite, Examine, Expand, Excel).

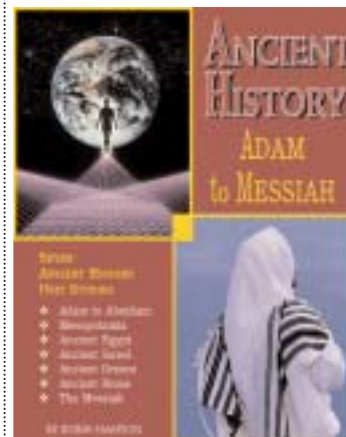
At the time of this writing, the first book, *Ancient History: Adam to Messiah* (grades 4-12) is available in two forms: on the Internet and in a bound book. The first science and life skills volumes are due online in fall 2001. Lord willing, the other volumes will be created over the next few years. See our Internet site at <http://HomeschoolUnitStudies.com> for progress and sample lessons.

GETTING STARTED

To gain a fundamental understanding of Bible times, we suggest that the first year the family reads most of the Bible chronologically, intertwined with ancient history studies by completing the book, *Ancient History: Adam to Messiah*. The entire family learns how God's people interacted with and lived among each of the world's civilizations. These lessons are an introduction to the Mesopotamian world of the patriarchs, the Egyptian world of the Exodus, the Babylonian world of Daniel, the Persian world of Esther, and the many Bible stories that show us not only the faithfulness of our God, and the greatness of our privileges, but also the marvelous wisdom of the plan of salvation. With these studies we can train our children to have a personal knowledge of God and His instruction telling us how to live. His Word reveals His will and spells out the kind of person He wants each of us to be. By obeying its commands, thinking as it tells us to think, and accepting the Savior it presents, we can learn how to live in our complex world.

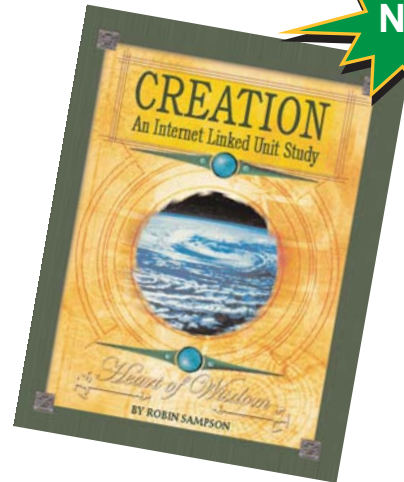
Step 3 Activities

- Tape-record a section of the Bible reading you especially liked. Tell why you chose this part. Add background music to fit the mood of the passage.
- Create a political cartoon, caricature, or cartoon strip for some event or character in the Bible reading.
- Create a mural, diorama, 3-dimensional figure, costume, or mobile to depict an event or person in the Bible reading.
- Make an acrostic using a character in the Bible reading. Tell about the character using each letter from the title.
- Make a time line for the events in the story.
- Create a travel brochure depicting points of interest in the Bible reading. Include transportation used, landforms, kinds of housing, natural beauty, etc.



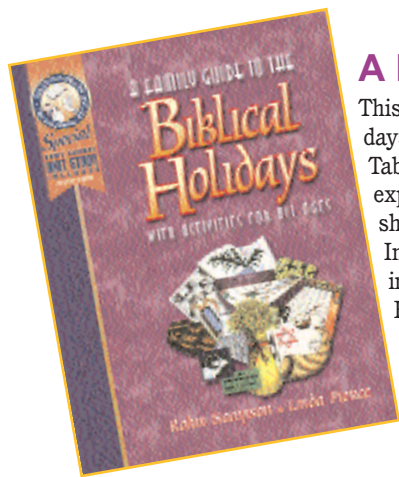
We hope you enjoyed the sample pages from Heart of Wisdom.

Want to see more? Click on any book below to read more!



Creation: An Internet Linked Unit Study

“This is more than a study of Creation --This is a study of Christianity versus humanism”This new unit study is a multi-level (grades 4-12) Bible focused, study utilizing the Charlotte Mason approach (living books, narration, etc.), lifestyle of learning methods, and the Internet! All Biblical doctrines of theology, directly or indirectly, ultimately have their basis in the book of Genesis. Therefore, a believing understanding of the book of Genesis is a prerequisite to an understanding of God and His meaning to man. **Price includes password Internet access** to updates, and links to hundreds of sites that correlate with the study.

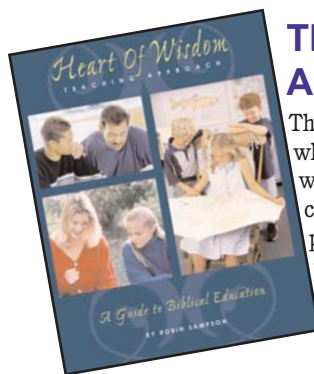
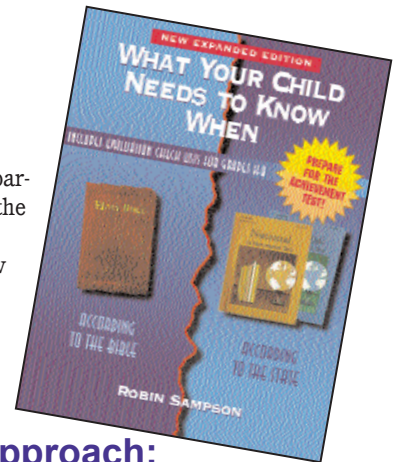


A Family Guide to the Biblical Holidays

This giant, 585-page telephone-size book gives an extensive look at the nine annual holidays: Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles, Hanukkah, Purim and the weekly holiday--the Sabbath! This book explains the historical, agricultural, spiritual, and prophetic purposes of each holiday, showing how each points to Christ and creative ways to teach them to your children! Includes projects, crafts, recipes, games, and songs for celebrating each holiday. Also includes instructions for a weekly Bible study and instructions using the Special Home School Section to incorporate the teaching of the biblical holidays with the academic school subjects! Excellent, fascinating information about the true New Testament Church and our Hebrew roots also included! ISBN 0-9701816-0-4. [Read Excerpts at BiblicalHolidays.com](#)

What Your Child Needs to Know When

Revised 2001. This is long-time homeschool best seller. Concerned homeschooling parents are always asking, "Am I doing enough?" This book is the answer. It includes the checklist for academic evaluation for grades K-8 and explains why children need to obtain not just academic knowledge but, more important, the Godly wisdom to know how to use the knowledge! Includes chapters on true Biblical education methods (compared to classical Greek) and the Heart of Wisdom teaching approach! ISBN 0-9701816-1-2. 312 p.



The Heart of Wisdom Teaching Approach: A Guide to Biblical Education

This book provides you with the methods, program, and resources for a 12-year course of study where students spend half the school day studying God's Word and the other half studying God's world (academics). Students study history chronologically and science in the order of the days of creation. This book will instruct you, step by step, how to give your child an Bible focused, comprehensive education from preschool through high school; one that will train him or her to read, to study, to understand, to love to learn and most importantly to desire and seek true wisdom. The Heart of Wisdom teaching approach is a beautiful, exciting blending of Bible first philosophy, the Charlotte Mason approach, Hebraic education, Delight Directed learning, 4 Step Lessons, and more.