

# 11th Bible Course Description

## **Philosophy Statement:**

God's word is authoritative in all aspects of reality, and culture is certainly no exception. By applying the Bible to the culture at large, students and staff can gain practical knowledge about how the Bible relates to culture and how this impacts our day-to-day lives. Using the Bible, memorizing scripture, and comparing Christian norms to the broader culture is also essential to do in terms of our apologetic witness. Christians should not - indeed cannot - avoid engaging with the culture. On topics ranging from abortion to marriage, God calls us to join Him in His mission to redeem creation. God cares about the culture, and Christians should necessarily care about what God cares about. Therefore, it's time for all of us to roll up our sleeves and start understanding the culture.

## **Course Objectives:**

This course is an introduction to Christian social engagement. By the end of the course, students will understand the various approaches that Christians have used in the past to engage culture and will have a clear path forward to begin making a difference in their communities. Apologetic methods will also be an emphasis, as properly understanding and engaging with the culture requires sound apologetic strategies.

## **Biblical Integration:**

- Weekly scripture reading, and verse memorization. Overall verse theme for the year is Romans 5:8 - "But God shows His love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

## **Materials:**

- Bible
- Teacher Manual - *Understanding the Culture: A Survey of Social Engagement* (Jeff Myers, Summit Ministries).
- Student Textbook - *Understanding the Culture: A Survey of Social Engagement* (Jeff Myers, Summit Ministries).
- Student Workbook - *Understanding the Culture: A Survey of Social Engagement* (Jeff Myers, Summit Ministries).
- *10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and answer) About Christianity* - Rebecca McLaughlin

## **Time Allotment:**

- One 50 minute period; two 85 minute block periods

## **Weekly Objectives/I CAN Statements:**

- Week 1 (8/6-8/12)
  - Introduction to class/Lecture #1
  - I CAN explain how decisions, even small ones, impact the lives of everyone
  - I CAN identify and discuss primary arguments for God's existence
- Week 2 (8/13-8/19)
  - Chapter 1: "Introduction"
  - I CAN explain how Christian caring starts with good decisions
  - I CAN tell the difference between fundamentalism and liberalism

- I CAN explain why Christians ought to care about the culture
- Week 3 (8/20-8/26)
  - Chapter 2: “What Is Culture?”
  - I CAN explain why culture matters
  - I CAN explain what culture is
  - I CAN accurately answer the question “what should Christians do about culture?”
- Week 4 (8/27-9/2)
  - Chapter 2: “What Is Culture?”// Debate #1 Video
  - I CAN create a review game in preparation for the upcoming test
  - I CAN demonstrate proper understanding of Chapter 1 and 2 material on a test
  - I CAN review a debate
- Week 5 (9/3-9/9)
  - Debate #2
  - I CAN summarize both position’s arguments in a debate
  - I CAN point out weaknesses in both positions in a debate
- Week 6 (9/10-9/16)
  - Chapter 2: “What is Culture?”
  - I CAN explain how artifacts impact a culture’s history
  - I CAN explain how institutions impact a culture’s stability
  - I CAN explain how beliefs impact a nation’s identity
- Week 7 (9/17-9/23)
  - Chapter 2: “What is Culture?”// Article Review
  - I CAN demonstrate how Christians can effectively engage agnostic individuals in our current setting
  - I CAN explain why Christians need to take the culture seriously
  - I CAN describe what culture really is and how it affects us
- Week 8 (9/24-9/30)
  - “A Christian Perspective on Art” video
  - I CAN describe how Christianity relates to cultural art
  - I CAN demonstrate a firm understanding of chapter 2 material
  - I CAN begin preparing for our first debate and start researching material
- Week 9 (10/1-10/7)
  - Chapter 3: “Christianity and Culture: A History”// *10 Questions* book
  - I CAN explore what Christianity has to say about racism, slavery, and diversity
  - I CAN describe the historical context surrounding Christianity and Culture
  - I CAN focus on how to make effective counter-arguments in a debate