

## BIBLE COURSES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

Christian Parents and church leaders all long to see their young people studying the Bible so they can grow in their faith. Wouldn't it be wonderful if students could take Bible courses in high school? If such courses were available, how much would it be worth for your son or daughter to take two or three Bible courses as part of their school curriculum? This is the time of life when they easily slip away from the church. God's word is powerful. Studying it will change our lives. Would you invest six hundred dollars per course?

### GOOD NEWS:

In BC, grade 10-12 students can take correspondence courses from any BC high school while they continue to attend their home school. This includes Bible courses offered by Christian schools. The good news is: There are over thirty Christian courses that students can take. Here are some of them:

- ▲ Life of Christ
- ▲ New Testament Survey
- ▲ Foundations of Christian Ministry
- ▲ Origins Science.

**PRICE PER COURSE:** They are all free, including the textbooks.

### SO HOW DO I SIGN MY CHILD UP?

This is the easy part. There is a listing of all these correspondence courses at <http://www.teenstoservejesus.com/index.cfm/page/highschoolcredit.html>. Once there, check out which course you are interested in and then phone up the school that offers it. They will tell you what you need to know, sign your child up and supply the teacher and course materials. When the student has finished the course, the school will transfer the credit to the student's home school.

### HOW DO I ENCOURAGE MY TEEN TO TAKE ONE OF THESE COURSES?

For some teens, this is easy. Just let them know about the courses. They already want to learn about the Bible and would jump at the chance.

For others, it may take a bit of motivation. Here are some suggestions

- ▲ Pray. Ask God to give them a desire to learn his word and the willingness to study it.
- ▲ Make a date to take them out for dinner. Tell them you want to talk with them about their future and their education. At dinner, talk about the importance of your family values and developing spiritual roots. Bring a list of courses you have printed out and ask them which one (or two) they would prefer.
- ▲ Speak to their youth leader. Ask him or her to promote these courses. If their youth leader is for it and their friends are doing it, that makes it easier for your child to do the same.
- ▲ Sign them up in February. Most students sign up for their next year courses in February or March. Once they have chosen their courses, they are less likely to add a Bible course.
- ▲ When possible start talking about it years before they are in grade 10. Make it a family expectation.

## WHAT IF MY CHILD IS ONLY IN GRADE 9?

This actually makes it easier to get them into Christian courses. All secondary students in BC are required to take Planning 10, so sign them up for a Christian version of Planning 10, which many students prefer to take by correspondence anyway. In this course, the students plan the remainder of their school courses. The Christian teacher can be asked to encourage your student to choose some high school Bible courses.

## HOW ABOUT YOUNGER CHILDREN?

This is even easier. You have more time to pray and to plant seeds. Mention years ahead to your children that you want them to make Christian courses as part of their high school electives. Talk with your church's youth leader this year and encourage him/her to promote these courses so that by the time your child is in high school, it will be common practice in your youth group.

There are no such courses for younger children, but that need not discourage us. We need to find creative ways to teach our children at home. However, let's take advantage of this resource which is one more tool we can use as we seek to bring up our children in the training and instruction of the Lord.

## IDEAS FOR YOUTH WORKERS

If your students are going into grade 10, 11, or 12, they can take Bible courses by correspondence and get high school credit. These courses could be a great addition to your teaching ministry. Students can learn as much Bible in one course, as you can teach them in several years. Each course provides 100+ hours of teaching by a qualified Christian teacher, and the student has to pay attention because he/she is being graded. You could virtually double your teaching ministry with little effort on your part. For leaders looking for additional ways to teach the word, this is an amazing resource.

**The most strategic course:** A Christian version of Planning 10. Why is this course so strategic?

- ⤴ While taking this course, the student chooses the rest of their courses in high school. This introduces the student to the value of Christian courses. Students are far more likely to choose Christian courses if they have a Christian teacher recommending them.
- ⤴ Students have to take Planning 10 anyway, so why not take a Christian version at home.
- ⤴ The Christian version is an easy sell. First of all, the public school course is not very popular with students. Secondly it is not very popular with Christian parents either because it teaches non-christian approaches to sexual planning. Thirdly, Christian students know that a Christian teacher will be more understanding of their life goals. This all makes it an easy sell.

**Make Christian courses a part of your youth group culture.** For some youth groups, supporting a certain camp is part of the group culture. It is almost expected that if you are part of the group you will attend or help at the camp. It can be the same way with Christian high school courses. After awhile, students will just assume that taking Christian courses in high school is what every Christian does.

**Changing your youth group's culture takes strategic, ongoing effort.** Here are some suggestions:

- ✧ Every year in January (a month before high school students pick their courses for next year) start teaching about the importance of learning the word and developing a Christian world view.
- ✧ Then at another meeting tell the students about these Christian high school courses, and encourage them all to look at them.
- ✧ Phone the Christian parents and let them know about these courses and that you are encouraging your students to choose Christian high school courses. Send them an e-mail with the details.
- ✧ If you have a core group (team of student leaders) challenge them to take one or more of these courses. Remind them that as leaders, they need to stay ahead of those they lead.
- ✧ Provide recognition for students that pass one of these courses.
- ✧ Encourage students who are taking courses to share ways their course has blessed them.
- ✧ Start early promoting high school courses with junior youth. Developing a culture takes years, so you need to start with students as soon as you get them.
- ✧ Talk with non-churched parents about their teens' spiritual growth. Ask if they would be open to their student taking a Christian elective in grade 10,11, or 12. Show them some courses that they might be open to. Explain that because the student takes the course at home, they can see what he/she is learning and discuss things together.

In a society which is so effective at teaching secular values, we need to use every teaching resource at our disposal. Christian high school courses are one of those really valuable resources.

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NEEDS A  
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INFLUENCE

