



# THE PLACE OF THE BIBLE IN THE CDA CURRICULUM

At the heart of Coram Deo Academy's distinctives – that we are classical, Christian, and collaborative – we find the place of the Holy Bible in our curriculum, seeking to integrate the Old and New Testaments in all areas of study from math to music.

For Christian families, knowledge of the Bible forms a core part in the development of a disciple of Christ. We want our young students to be like Timothy, who from childhood was "acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

The Bible also provides a foundation for the study of history and literature. The great 20<sup>th</sup> century literary scholar, Northrop Frye, wrote, "The Bible forms the lowest stratum in the teaching of literature. It should be taught so early and so thoroughly that it sinks straight to the bottom of the mind where everything that comes along later can settle on it." Frye continues, "The Bible... should be the basis of literary training."

While there are many Classical schools, not all sustain an emphasis on the Holy Bible. From PreK to graduation CDA students read, narrate, study, memorize, discuss, and apply the Scriptures. We make it our goal to integrate the Bible in every discipline, and we also make sure to provide devoted study of the Bible.

The following is an overview of our school-wide Bible and theology curriculum:

## PREK & KINDERGARTEN

Children's Bible stories are read aloud in class and at home. Those stories are remembered throughout the day.

## FIRST GRADE

In class, students prepare for formal study of the Scriptures by listening to familiar Bible favorites such as the stories of Noah, Moses, Gideon, Daniel, and Christ from the text combined with narration practice.

## SECOND GRADE

In class, students listen to the entire book of Genesis and narrate and discuss the text.

## THIRD GRADE

In class, students listen to the Book of Exodus with narration and discussion.

## FOURTH GRADE

In class, students make their way from Joshua through Judges.

## FIFTH GRADE

In class, students complete the narrative of the Old Testament from Samuel to the divided kingdom and the return of the exiles.

## FIRST TO FIFTH GRADE

**IN ADDITION TO IN-CLASS STUDIES AND RECITATIONS, CDA'S BIBLE CURRICULUM IS AMPLIFIED BY AT-HOME READINGS OF SCRIPTURE.**

Narration, Biblical art, and picture study can be enjoyed by children of all ages, but specifically students in grades 1-5 share the same assignments, paced to complete that book of the Bible over the school year. Instead of having different Bible lessons for each child, families do the Scripture lesson together, regardless of grade level, reading The Gospels and the Book of Acts in rotation. This year CDA families are reading the Gospel of Mark.

## RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

The Child's Story Bible  
The Jesus Storybook Bible  
Common Prayer  
Getty Kids Hymnal  
Family Worship Bible Guide  
Daily Light on the Daily Path

### SIXTH GRADE

Church history in 6<sup>th</sup> grade begins with a quarter dedicated to a close reading of the Acts of the Apostles and then continues through the history of Christianity to the present.

### SEVENTH GRADE

Speech class includes memorization and recitation of Bible passages and poetry.

### EIGHTH GRADE

Ancient history in 8<sup>th</sup> grade is an in-depth study of the Old Testament and literature class includes the Book of Job.

### NINTH GRADE

History includes the time of the New Testament church.

### TENTH GRADE

Theology I includes a study of the Gospel of John along with basic theological instruction.

### ELEVENTH GRADE

The student's major research paper in Rhetoric is an application of Biblical wisdom to a modern issue or problem.

### TWELFTH GRADE

Theology II includes the defense of the faith and application of the scripture to the student's life.



## ORIENTING FAMILY BIBLE READING WITH PRAYER

EXCERPT FROM *HABIT #1: ROOTED IN PRAYER AND THE WORD OF GOD* BY ROBERT TERRY, LATIN AND ENGLISH TEACHER AT CDA

The original meaning of our English word "orient," when used as a noun, referred to the east, or the direction where the sun rises. As a verb, it meant to arrange something to face the east. When we attend an orientation, it is meant to set us off in the right direction for some new task or endeavor. Traditionally, Christians would literally orient themselves and their churches to face east when praying. This was a symbolic way to act out the turn toward Christ who is "the Sun of Righteousness" (Malachi 4:2). Ancient Christian hymns even refer to Christ as "the Orient from on high."

***"A family without prayer is like a house without a roof, open and exposed to all the storms of heaven."*** – Thomas Brooks

One of the important ways that we daily re-orient ourselves toward God is the practice of prayer. When the entire family meets daily to pray, it also forms a habit and demonstrates with concrete actions what we believe is most important. Family prayer can take a variety of forms, but it is important to begin small and build the habit before attempting too much. A typical morning prayer time might include scripture reading, prayer, and singing.

For many years, while my children were small, we would gather together and read the prayers in a little book with prayers for each day of the week. We would also sing a favorite hymn or a hymn that was sung at church. It was remarkable how many times outside of our prayer time we would hear little ones singing "A Mighty Fortress is our God" or "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken."

At CDA our first through fifth grade Bible curriculum is meant to help facilitate this habit of meeting together to read scripture. Instead of having different Bible lessons for each child, families can do the scripture lesson together and even include older children.

This daily habit is one of the most important ways to orient our families toward Christ.