

Glorifying God in the Schoolroom

Acts 7:22, “And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.”

Introduction: We may think the lessons learned in primary and secondary schools have very little to do with our faith. We often isolate schooling and separate it from our religious service and treat the two like oil and water. However, it might be strengthening to both our attitude toward school work and our religious faith if we intertwined the two in our thinking rather than compartmentalizing them. Schooling can be useful in the kingdom of God and was for several key Bible figures (Acts 7:20-22; Daniel 1:5; 7:28; Acts 22:3; 1 Corinthians 9:20-21; Luke 2:46, 52). Today, let’s think about how the lessons we learn from kindergarten to college can help us in the Lord’s kingdom.

I. English Goals

- A. Knowing literature can help us get a feel for the heartbeat of a culture to better enable us to teach them (cp. Acts 17:28; Titus 1:12).
- B. Some Scriptural arguments hang upon our understanding of grammar.
 - 1. The tense of a verb (see Matthew 22:31-32).
 - 2. The difference between singular and plural (Galatians 3:16).
 - 3. The proper understanding of a conjunction (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).
 - 4. The agreement of pronoun-antecedent (1 Corinthians 13:10; Ephesians 2:8).
- C. Additionally, each author of the books of the Bible has something in common—literacy.

II. Foreign Language Goals

- A. The Great Commission calls us to teach those of other “nations” (Matthew 28:19-20).
- B. Daniel’s ability to speak the Chaldean language gave him opportunity to influence kings (Daniel 4:1, 37; 6:25-27).
- C. Paul was able to speak both Hebrew and Greek which afforded him opportunities depending on the audience (Acts 22:2).
- D. Any preacher who is fluent in another language is automatically more useful in overseas work and in teaching immigrants to our country.

III. Math Goals

- A. God does expect us to be good stewards of our finances (Matthew 25:14-30).
- B. Paying our bills, taxes and helping others means being wise with our money (Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 6:17-18).
- C. Good treasurers are honest and paid attention in math class!

IV. History Goals

- A. One of the Bible's greatest arguments is its history.
 - 1. Read through the first five books of the Old Testament and you will find Moses was an expert geographer.
 - 2. Stephen's speech in Acts 7 proves he was an expert historian.
 - 3. Luke's meticulous detail of people, places and events in the book of Acts has converted skeptics because of its minute accuracy.
- B. The Bible is an account of real people living in real time in real places and history verifies it.

V. Science Goals

- A. A true study of experimental science should lead to a profound respect for the Creator of this world (Psalm 8:3-4).
- B. Additionally, God can use us as a light to expose falsehood in our science classes when naturalism is taught unopposed (Romans 1:20).

VI. Extracurricular Goals

- A. A study of music can help you become a better singer and song leader.
- B. A study in public speaking can help you communicate the gospel (1 Peter 4:11).
- C. Studies in home economics and industrial technology can help us be better homemakers and helpers (Titus 2:5).
- D. Even sports can help develop a positive work ethic and teach us about working as a team (2 Timothy 2:5).

Conclusion: Most importantly, walk into your school each day ready to show the world how a Christian talks, dresses and lives (Matthew 5:16). Prepare to be positively different (Romans 12:1-2). This, above all else, will open the door to more opportunities than any amount of knowledge the world can offer (1 Timothy 4:12, 16). Set your mind to be a follower of Jesus so you may be the light the lost world needs to see. This may be a different approach to going to school than you have taken in the past. Maybe in the past you have been a follower rather than a leader. God is calling you to repent. If you do not repent, you may very well one day live with regret. This younger generation needs people willing to be spiritual lights. To turn them you must turn from the crowd and follow the light of the world, Jesus Christ. Start school with a fresh start by obeying Jesus Christ today.