Shine Like Stars

A Bible Study to equip educators in their role as missionaries in America's Schools.

Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night so I'll have good cause to be proud of you on the day that Christ returns. You'll be living proof that I didn't go to all this work for nothing.

Philippians 2:14-16 (The Message)

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What is a worldview and why does it matter?

Lesson 2: Your Work Matters to God

A biblical worldview maintains God has authority over ALL of life.

Help me, Lord, to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church... nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in Thy Presence.

Susanna Wesley

Lesson 2

A biblical worldview maintains God has authority over ALL of life.

Begin your lesson with prayer. Ask the Lord for wisdom and invite Him to take authority over all areas of your life.

My classroom? Holy ground? Oh yes, your classroom is holy ground. When you walk into that room, you are bringing the presence of the Lord with you (along with all the angels you can drag in). Neither Satan nor any of his little imps have any place there. Oh, but they will surely try to enter on the backs of your students; bringing disruption, distraction, confusion and rebellion. If you do not tolerate it in the physical realm as a teacher, do not tolerate it in the spiritual realm either. You've heard the saying that you may be the only Bible some people ever read. Well, your classroom may be the only place where some of these young people will have ever felt the peace and presence of the Holy Spirit. The fact that you work in a public school does not mean that you cannot demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ. You may not be able to preach to your class, read from your Bible, or pray aloud with your students. You don't have to. All you need to do is invite the presence of the Lord. For one hour, those kids are going to be in a holy environment.

Recently, one of my students commented that he did more work in my room than any other class he had. Keep in mind that he is not an ideal student. Not only was he repeating the class, but we had had a few confrontations at the beginning of the semester. When I asked why, he said, "Because it's easy to work in here; it's calm." That really surprised me, for the class consists of several rambunctious students who are not always motivated to work. They can be quite a handful at times. Yet I recognized immediately that it wasn't me who was providing the calming atmosphere which enabled him to do well. It is His unseen hand, and His holy presence. [1] *© Rebecca Harper*

There is no separation between our secular and spiritual lives.

Q: Do you ever wonder if God cares about the things you encounter during the school day? Why or why not?

God has dominion over all things.

Read Daniel 2:37-38: *You [Nebuchadnezzar], O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all.*

Define Dominion:

Define Authority:

Q; What does Christ have dominion and authority over?

Q: What territory does Christ's dominion cover?

As educators, you have a good understanding of dominion and authority as you deal with spheres of dominion and authority every day. Your classroom is your domain and you have the authority to set the rules and the power to enforce them. Your school is your principal's domain and he/she has the authority to set the rules and the power to enforce them.

Read Psalm 145:13:
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.

Read Daniel 7:14:
He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Q: When will Christ's dominion end?

A biblical worldview upholds the belief that there is no separation between the physical and spiritual. God's dominion is everlasting. God has dominion and authority over the whole earth and therefore he cares about everything that happens in it including what happens at school.

God cares about all we do.

God cares about your concerns.
List some of the things that concern you at work.

God can help you however he wants you to give you authority over your life.

We must willingly submit to God's headship.

John 15:7,8 states:
But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

Refer to John 15:7, 8 to answer the following questions.
Q: What kind of things can you ask of God?

Q: Where must you remain?

Q: What must remain in you?

Q: What does a true disciple do?

We need to understand the conditions scripture gives in regards to granting whatever we ask for. Jesus wants you to submit to his authority and be his disciple. When you remain in him you know his heart and when his words remain in you then you understand his will. True disciples bear much fruit because they know his will, they obey his commands, and they ask for his will (not theirs) to be done.

Fostering intimacy in any relationship takes a commitment to spending time together. Take a few minutes right now to redirect your thoughts to God.

When you are ready, open your Bible to **Psalm 139:1-10** and read it out loud.
...you are familiar with all my ways. Psalm 139:3b

David paints a beautiful portrait of the intimate relationship God has with those who know and love him. Spending time with someone you love is the key to intimacy in a relationship. When we love someone we care about the things they care about.

Q: What does Psalm 139 state about God's care for you?

You spend the majority of your waking hours at school. You have been given the privilege of educating and shaping the minds of the future generations. Be assured that your WORK matters to God and YOU matter to God as well!

Point to ponder
Q: Are there any areas of your life you have not willingly given God dominion over? Record your thoughts below.

Develop a Personal Application Plan
A suggestion to help get you started:
List two or three concerns you will pray about this week. Expect God to act on your behalf.

Prayer
Heavenly Father, I praise you for your omnipresence. The thought of you being present in all places at all times is impossible for me to comprehend.

I confess at times I get discouraged and wonder if you really care at all about the challenges I face at school on any given day. I know better but the thoughts come anyway. Forgive me for my lack of faith and understanding.

I am thankful that you know me in such an intimate way that you even know the number of the hairs on my head. Your Word promises that you go before me to prepare the way, and you hem me in from behind as well. Thank you for holding me fast.

Be my ever-present help in times of trouble. Help me to see your hand working in my life.

Proverbs 4:18 states, "The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day." Help me to shine your light and encourage everyone with whom I interact at school this week. In Jesus name, Amen.

Reflection What information presented in this lesson did you find helpful to equip you in your call as a missionary in the classroom? Record your thoughts below.

Key Terms
Dominion
Authority

Resources for Further Study
Creed or Chaos by Dorothy Sayers, Sophia Institute Press

Sources
1 Rebecca L. Harper, Making a Difference, (Bloomington, Authorhouse Books, 2006), p. 9.
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A Professional Association for Christians in Public and Private Schools

Our mission is "To Encourage, Equip and Empower Educators according to Biblical Principles." We are the only professional association for Christians who are called to serve in public schools. Our members have served the youth of America since 1953 through classroom teachers, administrators, and para-professionals in education.

CEAI is a non-profit religious association with a Membership Service Center in Westlake, Ohio. Our support is through memberships, tax-deductible donations and grants. CEAI membership consists of teachers, administrators, para-professionals including any person hired by a school district. In addition, we offer associate membership to parents, pastors, school board members, youth leaders and others concerned or interested in the education of our children.

Our Vision

God's Love and Truth transforming our schools.

Our Mission

To Encourage, Equip and Empower Educators according to Biblical Principles

- Proclaim God's Word as the source of wisdom and knowledge
- Portray teaching as a God given calling and ministry
- Promote educational excellence as an expression of Christian commitment
- Preserve our Judeo-Christian heritage and values through education
- Promote the legal rights of Christians in public schools
- Provide a forum on educational issues with a Christian world view
- Partner with churches, parachurch organizations, educational institutions and parents
- Provide resources and benefits for educators including professional liability insurance

Our Core Values

- Love
- Biblical Knowledge
- Respect
- Integrity
- Prayer
- Patience
- Self-control
- Worship
- Truth
- Unity
- Forgiveness
- Faith
- Servanthood
- Joy
- Professional Excellence

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