

Starting Points Worldview Course Description and Details

This one-year worldview study guides the student in establishing a personal biblical worldview as the standard for evaluating ideas. The student will develop critical thinking skills by learning to recognize assumptions and assess ideas presented in literature, media and culture. A variety of learning methods will be used including reading, analysis, outlining, short answer, plot summary, interactive discussion and writing. In addition, the curriculum includes popular movies and apologetics readings through which the student is challenged in critical analysis, reading comprehension, and studies on ethics, man, history and spirituality. The student will learn basic composition and literary analysis while gaining formative experience in public speaking.

Sample Curriculum

View sample pages from the Starting Points syllabus:

http://www.cornerstonecurriculum.com/pdfs/samples/Starting_Points_sample.pdf

Starting Points curriculum is divided into four major sections:

UNIT 1: BUILDING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

The course begins with an inductive Bible study that leads students to address questions that are vital to building a biblical worldview in the heart and mind of your student.

- What is God like?
- What is man like?
- What is the universe like?
- What is the cause of evil and suffering?
- What is the basis of ethics and morality?
- What happens to man at death?
- What is the meaning of life and history?

UNIT 2: DISCERNING WORLDVIEW IN LITERATURE

Your student will go beyond plot, character and theme and learn how to analyze the worldview of an author using the biblical worldview as the gauge against which ideas are evaluated.

UNIT 3: SPEAKING THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW INTO CULTURE

Three approaches to apologetics will be studied to prepare your student to give reasoned responses and explain the biblical view to those living in the 21st century. This study is designed to help your children provide answers while also building his or her personal faith.

- Evidential Apologetics: What is the evidence for the biblical worldview?
- Classical/Moral Apologetics: What does moral responsibility have to do with worldview?
- Presuppositional Apologetics: What assumptions underlie a given worldview?

UNIT 4: FOUNDING A NATION BASED ON A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Your student will examine the foundational thoughts and customs of colonial America to understand the ideas that shaped such founding documents as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

Benefits of a Starting Points Class

- *SMALL CLASSES* facilitate learning and meaningful relationships.
- *DIRECT INSTRUCTION* brings studies into focus.
- *MENTORED DISCUSSION* expands learning.
- *SIMPLIFIED STUDIES* allow students to dig deep while earning several course credits.
- *VARIETY IN TEACHING METHODS* keeps things interesting. (mini-lecture, questioning, multi-media, modeling, discussion).
- *CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT* provides opportunity to grow by participating in group discussions and making individual presentations.
- *ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTERACTIVE LEARNING* motivates students in a lively and encouraging environment.

Grade Level

The course is best suited for 8th or 9th grade. Mature 7th grade students will also find the course beneficial.

Credits Earned

The Starting Points course is unique in its inter-disciplinary approach. The course serves as a core curriculum, covering a number of subject areas. Credits listed here differ from those listed in the curriculum itself because I have added composition and logic. Coursework will include weekly vocabulary, formal writing, quarterly speech assignments and in-class quizzes. Students will have various opportunities to earn extra credit.

- Bible: 1 credit
- Literature: 1 credit
- Composition: 1 credit
- Logic: ½ credit
- American History: 1 credit

Time

Class meeting times will be determined at a later date based on interest. Class will meet for three hours each week. This time will include weekly writing instruction and an interactive class environment centered on discussion and modeling.

Cost:

\$100 per month (Discounts are available for a limited number of parents who wish to volunteer as a classroom assistant and depending on class size).

Book List

- *Starting Points Syllabus* published by Cornerstone Curriculum
- *Answers for Difficult Days* by David Quine
- *Know What You Believe* by Paul E. Little

- *How to Read Slowly* by James Sire
- *Know Why You Believe* by Paul E. Little
- *The Magician's Nephew* by C. S. Lewis
- *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis
- *The Horse and His Boy* by C. S. Lewis
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *The Deadliest Monster* by J. F. Baldwin
- *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis (any edition)
- *Assumptions* by Christian Overman
- *Never Before in History: America's Inspired Birth* by Gary Amos
- *IEW's Starting Points Worldview-Based Writing Lessons*
- *Daily Grams* (for appropriate grade level)
- *The Thinking Toolbox* by Nathaniel Bluedorn and Hans Bluedorn

Classroom Resources

The following is a sample list of resources that will be used in class. You will *not* need to purchase these.

- *Teaching the Classics* by Adam Andrews (DVD curriculum)
- *Secrets of Great Communicators* by Jeff Meyers (DVD curriculum)
- *Drive-Thru History* with Dave Stotts (DVD curriculum)
- *Wizard of Oz* (movie)
- *It's a Wonderful Life* (movie)

Links to Check Out

Cornerstone Curriculum's Starting Points webpage

<http://cornerstonecurriculum.com/Curriculum/SP/sp.htm>

What is a Worldview? with John Stonestreet of BreakPoint Ministries and Summit Ministries

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=8dOi2fp8Rns

Instructor



Karen True is a lifelong learner, wife of one great man, home school mom to two and teacher of many. She has taught Bible studies, Sunday school, computer classes and worldview courses, led women's ministry and mission trips, worked as writing assistant and editor for Jennifer Rothschild Ministries and has spoken for Christian women's events including Fresh Grounded Faith with Jennifer Rothschild and She Speaks with Lysa TerKeurst and Renee Swope. Her greatest love after Jesus and her family is teaching...and this from a woman who changed her college major to avoid a public speaking class. Yes, God is funny sometimes.