

## Guidelines for Teaching Bible

ACSI holds several truths as central in terms of Bible instruction:

1. Students need to be taught foundational Bible knowledge as part of their Christian education. Unless they know the Word of God, they cannot apply it to their lives.
2. Knowing the words, concepts, Bible references, and even historical stories and facts is not enough. Students need to get to know the person of Jesus Christ and how he loves each one of us personally. Students also need to experience the personal disciplines of prayer, Bible reading, meditation/memorization, and service.
3. In addition, students need to know how to apply their Bible knowledge in various areas of their lives. They need to move from information to application and hopefully into discernment.
4. Finally, students need to see the truths of God's word in all other areas of the world, including the academics they are studying and as they prepare to live a godly life beyond high school. A biblical worldview should be knit together by what students learn, hear, see, and process with their teachers, parents, and peers and through a personal relationship with God.
For all these reasons, ACSI Inspire includes Indicator 7.5 which states: The instructional program includes Bible as a required core subject. The school places a similar emphasis on Bible instruction as in other core subjects, incorporating engaging learning experiences and instructional strategies.

Since ACSI recognizes that all schools cannot or choose not to structure their Bible instruction exactly the same, flexibility is granted on how Bible instruction is delivered.
Schools ask, "How much flexibility do we have?" Here are some guidelines:

1. At a minimum, at least $50 \%$ of the semesters of instruction of any division (HS, MS, ES) need to contain dedicated, single subject, Bible instruction (e.g., New Testament, Old Testament, Bible book studies, Apologetics, Life of Christ, Scripture-based thematic studies). A course may have a title such as "Bible 10," and it may include personal application, worldview, etc. but the primary focus of the class should be Bible. A course such as Worldview may be very Scripture-based and fit in this category or it may be more issues-based and fit in the following category (\#2 below).
2. No more than $50 \%$ of the semesters of instruction of any division (HS, MS, ES) can use interdisciplinary studies to meet the Bible requirement. Examples might be Marriage and Family, Cults, Bible as Literature, Bible and Current Events, Bible and the Middle East, Worldview Foundations, etc. The state may have heavy academic requirements, and as such, the school may have to allow up to $50 \%$ of its Bible credits to be fulfilled through a course like Bible as Literature, counting it as an English credit, as well as fulfillment of ACSI's Bible requirement. The state only cares about the English credit. The school can allow it to fulfill ACSI's Bible requirement while still not double counting the credit.
3. Another example of a way to fulfill the situation in \#2 above might be to allow the student to enroll in an additional Senior Seminar while completing their Senior Capstone Project. This might not take up an actual class period (no credit, but it fulfills the requirement). Two options might be: 1) Students would have to either show up once every week, or 2) Students would be involved in online discussions of the project as it develops. Schools could create other options that would also meet a one semester Bible requirement.

ACSI is not suggesting that teaching less Bible is recommended. This document was written to help schools who are struggling with the reality that students cannot take all required classes, four years of high school Bible, and enjoy a balanced selection of electives as well. We appreciate that students are gifted in multiple areas and may want to enjoy classes in art, music, computers, and other subjects. If the state requirements are so tight that students must choose between taking Bible and electives, then we must find ways to be creative. We do believe that a well-planned path of Bible instruction can include single subject courses as well as some creative and deeply biblical interdisciplinary options.

