

Foundations Course description
2017/18 Year Five - The 20th Century
The United States of America and the Modern World

The Foundations program integrates the arts, Bible/worldview, and science, to study a single historical time period, examining the events and culture of an era and the personal stories of real people which make them meaningful. When people and events are studied in their historical context, students are better able to understand the big picture of God's purposeful, sovereign work throughout history. Foundations strives to present each lesson through a Biblical lense in order to identify worldview and help shape a God-centered perspective. Understanding how God worked in the past improves our ability to evaluate the present and prepare for the future with hope. When the engaging classroom presentation is complemented by comprehensive home study, students are challenged to grow in wisdom as well as intellect. Parents receive an Academic Instruction Manual (the AIM), which provides a subject-by-subject, weekly overview, strengths-based learning activities, literature recommendations, and spiritual application for a rich, at-home experience. Add math, phonics or language arts, and you have a complete curriculum!

SURVEY OF HISTORY

The United States of America greets the 20th century as a world superpower, basking in the warm glow of a decisive victory in the Spanish-American War. The recently opened processing station at Ellis Island is flooded with immigrants from all corners of the world seeking refuge . . . and rightly so: America, the land of opportunity, has plenty of room to grow and offers equal liberty for every individual to pursue happiness and enjoy domestic tranquility, protected by justice and a common defense.

Blood, sweat, and tears characterize the Modern Era more than any other time in history. Never before has change been so complete, so constant, and so accelerated. The media plays an ever increasing role in directing the course of events and the public's response to them. *World War, cold war, nuclear war, and war on terrorism* become familiar phrases to the general population. Technology impacts every aspect of life from the rise and fall of political systems and governments, to how business, education, communication, transportation, and entertainment is conducted. The unrestrained pursuit of personal freedoms leads to a fight for women's rights, civil rights, individual rights, and the right to life. Still, the world responds to regional catastrophes of historic proportions with compassion of equal magnitude. A look at the 20th century is like riding a roller coaster: a building sense of anticipation followed by breathtaking exhilaration. Come along for the ride!

WORLDVIEW

God's Spirit moves sovereignly in isolated lands without Bibles, in urban ghettos, on college campuses; and in countries enslaved by Nazis, Communists, Muslims, materialists, and racists. Today, more Presbyterians worship in Ghana than in Scotland; more Anglicans worship in Nigeria than in Britain. There are now more non-white Christians alive than white. There are an estimated 100 million Christians in mainland China, and more Chinese are coming to faith in Jesus Christ by the thousands every day. In fact, by the end of the 20th century, Christianity has become, by far, the world's largest religion: one third of the world's population! With 143 language groups represented in Central Florida, the world mission field has come to our doorsteps! Notwithstanding, the great Christian melting pot must diligently seek to expose and extract the converging worldviews and help modern believers align their personal and cultural perspectives with the truth of scripture. To that end, students will evaluate significant events and survey the lives of believers such as Billy Graham, C. S. Lewis, Bill Bright, Dietrich Bonhoffer, Corrie Ten Boom, and Francis Schaeffer. In the process, we trust God's Spirit will reveal the Biblical plumb line for understanding and developing a Biblical worldview in theology, philosophy, biology, psychology, ethics, sociology, law, politics, economics, and history.

SURVEY OF SCIENCE

Thrilling discoveries flourished in all scientific disciplines. As a result, modern mankind was better able to take dominion over creation in obedience to the directive given in Genesis 1:28. These sweeping advances had broad application, to both good and evil ends. How exactly did aviation grow into the space program of today? How is it possible to move, in such a short amount of time, from understanding germs to the modern medical marvels of successful organ transplants? The power found in God's smallest stable unit of creation, the atom, was harnessed to serve man through nuclear power. Surely these accomplishments should elicit a sense of awe for the Almighty Creator God and captivate the heart of man. Yet, enlightenment philosophies have so pervaded man's thought process, that his heart is hardened toward the Divine, and naturalism and evolution have become accepted scientific doctrine. Using the lens of scripture, students will investigate the achievements of great scientific minds like Henry Ford, Madame Curie, Albert Einstein, and Alexander Fleming. Unearth a gem or two for yourself!

VISUAL ARTS

Does modern visual art continue to epitomize God's character or does it rebel against it? Meet the artists of the 20th century, their subjects, styles, and mediums through observation and exploration. How does the devoted follower of Christ respond to *Expressionism*, *Cubism*, *Surrealism*, and abstract art forms? Who and what influenced the development of each style? More importantly, how are we influenced *by them*? From the intricate designs and practical applications of Louis Tiffany to the nostalgic inspirations of Norman Rockwell; from the simple and colorful geometric compositions of Piet Mondrian to the inspiring beauty captured by Ansel Adams' photography, a wide variety of creative endeavors are used to communicate ideas and emotions. Never before in history has it been so easy to become an acclaimed artist! Who knows? Your child's big break may be just around the corner!

PERFORMING ARTS

What roles do the performing arts play in our culture? The broad availability of diverse technology has created a society where music and drama are no longer mere enhancements to the quality of life; they are now forces commanding a great deal of power over it. Students will trace the trends in entertainment and compare and contrast each to a Biblical perspective. The music of the *Roaring 20's* gave rise to the 'Swing Dance' era of the 40's. The birth of jazz heralded the beginning of 'Rock and Roll'. Few things in life are stagnant and nowhere is this more evident than in entertainment.

Likewise, theater, television, and movies thrive during the Modern Era - for better and worse! In response to the Great Depression, Broadway and Hollywood provide escapism and political and social commentary. Later, Rogers and Hammerstein pioneer a new form of narrative storytelling, ushering in a new age of musical classics. People transition from 'watching the radio' to being 'glued to the television'. The history of American film is a tribute to the persistence of an imaginative breed of technicians. Specialized skills and special effects improve with every decade. What kind of influences do these mediums have? Is theater a reflection of life or has life become a reflection of theater? How can we watch and discern what ideas and agendas are behind those who control the media? How can we apply a Biblical worldview to the entertainment of our time? What a backdrop for a fabulously fun and personal experience of participating in on- and off-stage activities!