



Church in Budir, Iceland

How to Use This Curriculum

You are about to embark upon an exciting journey. You will go to fascinating places and meet amazing people. You will hear stories of faith, courage, endurance, and victory over seemingly impossible odds. You will wrestle with challenging ideas that could change your life. You are about to begin a study of the story of mankind.

Our Goals

We have several goals for this curriculum. First, we want to honor God. To Him be all praise.

Second, we want to help you understand world history. The story of our world is the story of what God has done and what people made in His image have done. To tell the story we have provided 150 lessons. Part 1 has 75 lessons to be completed in the first semester. Part 2 has 75 lessons to be completed in the second semester. You will also learn the history of the world from the words of people who lived it when you read the assignments in *In Their Words*.

Third, we want to open your heart to good books and to help you enjoy reading. The twelve full-length works of literature we have chosen to go along with this course are uplifting and worth reading.

Fourth, we want to help you understand the Bible better. We have placed a great emphasis on

the story of the Bible, from Old Testament times through the period of the early church. The Bible studies included with the units are intended to help you see how relevant the Bible is to the study of history and to our lives today. The more you get into the Word, the more God will change your life.

Fifth, our prayer is that you will be a better person and a better Christian for having invested your time in this material. You will only get out of it what you put into it, so give it your best and you will receive great blessings from it.

How It Works

This curriculum provides credit in three high school subjects: world history, English, and Bible. The 150 lessons are divided into thirty units of five lessons each. Since a typical school year has thirty-six weeks, you have some flexibility in completing the course. You can take two weeks to complete a unit when you find a topic particularly interesting or when your schedule is especially busy. Families are free to choose how they want to schedule the course, but many families choose to begin a unit on Monday and finish it on Friday.

On the first day of a unit, you and a parent should read the unit introduction. Here you will

find a brief overview of the unit; a list of lessons for that unit; a Bible passage to memorize; a list of books used with that unit; choices for a project for that unit; and, when a literature title is begun, an introduction to that book.

After reading the introduction, choose a project to complete by the end of the unit and make a schedule for how to complete it. Find the memory work for the week in the Bible translation of your choice.

Complete the following each day:

- Read the lesson for the day.
- Complete each of the Bible, *In Their Words*, and Literature assignments for the lesson.
- If you are using the optional *Student Review*, complete the assignment(s) for that lesson.
- Work on your Bible memorization and on your chosen project.

On the last day of each unit, you will recite or write your memory work and complete your project for the unit.

An assignment checklist is available as a free download on our website (notgrass.com/ewlinks).

Student Review

We offer an optional *Student Review* pack with daily review questions; a quiz for each unit; and comprehensive exams in history, English, and Bible every five units. Reminders to do these are included in the list of daily assignments. The *Student Review* also has Bible commentary for many Bible readings and literary analysis for the twelve full-length works of literature.

Tips on Memorization

Each unit of *Exploring World History* gives a Bible passage to memorize. Here are some tips on memorization. Pay attention and internalize what the verses mean. It will be much easier to memorize thoughts that you understand than a string of words

that have no meaning to you. Write the verses on an index card or divide them between several index cards. Keep these handy to use when you have a spare moment. Copying out the verses is a good exercise, especially if you learn visually.

Draw pictures illustrating the verses. Ask another person to read the verses to you. Ask another person to listen to you and correct your recitation. Working on memorization consistently in small chunks of time over several days works much better than last-minute cramming.

Unit Projects

Each unit has three choices for a project. Your choices always include a writing assignment. Discuss with a parent how many writing assignments you need to complete to fulfill the English requirement as you study *Exploring World History*. We recommend that you choose the writing assignment as your project a minimum of six times throughout the course. The other project choices include a wide variety of activities: building models, cooking, field trips, volunteer opportunities, and more, all of which will enhance and expand what you are learning in the course.

The projects relate to the material in the unit. Where applicable, the lesson from which the project is drawn is noted. You should choose your project at the beginning of the unit and work on it throughout the unit. Don't wait until the end of the unit or until you reach the lesson noted. You may need to look ahead at the relevant section of the lesson to get started on your project.

As you choose your project unit by unit, take the opportunity to try new things and expand your skills. If you have never made a model out of STYROFOAM™, or seldom do any cooking, or don't know how to make a video, this is your chance!

You are expected to complete each project at a high school level. Some of these assignments could be given to an elementary school student and the

results would be on an elementary school level. Your work should be performed with care and research and with attention to accuracy, creativity, and excellence. Throwing something together in a haphazard fashion is not appropriate. Whether you spend your time writing an essay or building a model, use your mind and hands to create something you can be proud of.

Lesson Illustrations

We have carefully chosen historic illustrations and modern photographs to help you get a glimpse of the people and places you read about in this curriculum. Many of the illustrations are works of fine art from around the world. You will notice that artists often represented scenes from the Bible using clothing and buildings that were contemporary to the artist. We included some of these paintings for their artistic value, even though they are not accurate from an historical perspective.

How We Present Scripture

The most important material in this course are the studies from God's Word. Understanding world history and literature is important, but how we live before God is the most important issue before each one of us. We want to help you as you do that.

We emphasize the Bible a great deal, especially in the first half of the course. The events of the Bible took place in history, so we should look at the historical context of the Bible. At the same time, the Bible, Old Testament Israel, and Christianity have had a huge influence on world history, and we would not do justice to world history if we downplayed this influence. The Bible is central to our understanding of world history.

We believe in the inspiration and authority of the Bible, and our desire is to present the Bible in all of its truth, wisdom, and power. We strive in all we do simply to be Christians. We are on a quest to understand the truth that God has provided in His

Word. We believe that eternal truth does exist, but we do not claim to know it all.

In this curriculum we have sought to present a fair analysis of church history, highlighting various people, viewpoints, and denominations. If you read something in this curriculum that differs from what your family believes, take the opportunity to discuss the issue and search the Scriptures together. We welcome your feedback. If you believe that we have written something in error, please e-mail us so that we can learn together the truth that will set us free.

Thanks

This has been a family project for us. I wrote most of the lessons and guided the overall project. My wife, Charlene, and our son, John, each contributed several lessons. John did a fantastic job developing this new edition with a new format, color pictures, and many new documents in *In Their Words*. Our daughter Bethany and I developed the unit activities and the assignments at the end of the lessons. Our daughter Mary Evelyn designed the beautiful covers. All of us along with our son-in-law Nate did the proofreading.

As we have worked on this curriculum, time and again we have seen God's wisdom, power, and love displayed in the story of mankind. We are convinced anew that Jesus really is the answer for every individual and for human society. We see this curriculum as an opportunity for us to help and encourage other homeschooling families and to explore together the wonderful story of world history. May God bless you.

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