

Course Title: The Biblical View of the Student

Course Format: online course (site: <http://moodle.acsieurope.org>)

Course Language: English

Participants: primarily for K-12 teachers

Length of Course: 4 weeks (~3-4 hours/week of study)

Instructor: Paul Madsen, Educational Consultant, ACSI Europe, paul_madsen@acsi.org

Course Description

Every student has God-given value and potential. What are the barriers to student development and how can we as teachers help them realize their value and potential? This class examines who our students are based on a biblical perspective and how this impacts the way they learn.

Course Purpose

An understanding of each student is important to realize their unique skills, learning styles and potential for growth while shaping their character under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The responsibility of the Christian teacher is to have a clear understanding of what the Bible teaches about human nature and how that is manifested specifically in the life of our students. This process impacts the relationship with the student and the potential for learning together. Participants will be challenged to discover and reflect on the role they play in the life of their students through this course.

Course Objectives

Students (participants) will...

- 1) Develop an understanding of the student from a biblical perspective.
- 2) Explain differences that make learning a challenge for particular students.
- 3) Evaluate their own attitudes and approaches to their students and their learning potential.
- 4) Share strategies for successful teaching and interact with the insights of other course participants.
- 5) Prepare a lesson plan that demonstrates a variety of instructional methods to motivate individual student growth.

Required Texts/Other Resources

Kaufmann, S. (2008). *First the Foundation: A primer for Christian School Education*. ACSI Europe, Budapest, Hungary. (Chapter 3 - Provided in electronic format)

Course Outline

Week	Instruction Methods	Focus Topic	Activities
1	Reading: <u>First the Foundation</u> , ch. 3 Video presentation with PowerPoint presented by the course instructor	Who is the student? How does the Bible help us to understand the nature of the learner? What perspectives do we currently have about our students?	- Forum discussion: Self introduction - If someone asks you, "Do you like your students?", what do you tell them? - Pre-test: ungraded with a focus on introducing the topics and the vocabulary needed for the course (Objectives 1, 2, 3)

2	Notes: "Student Characteristics" Other reading: "Instructional Methods and Learning Styles"	Which instructional methods address different learning styles and student needs? Which instructional methods may allow me to best challenge and motivate each student?	- Forum discussion: Based on the instruction, which classroom methods might better address the particular needs of one of your students? - Assignment: Write a summary of one characteristic of the student and how you address this in your approach to teaching (or not). (Objectives 1, 2, 4)
3	Notes: "Barriers to learning" Presentation: "Helping students see what they look like"	What spiritual issues are barriers to learning? What other issues become barriers to learning? What is the teacher's responsibility?	- Forum discussion: Based on the instruction this week, discuss how you see the challenges your students face in the learning environment. (Objectives 2, 3, 4)
4	Application of learning (lesson plan) Peer-review and learning		- Assignment: Prepare a lesson plan that demonstrates your learning from this course and engage in peer-review of another participant's lesson plan. (Objectives 4, 5)

Assessment Tasks

Task	Objective/s	Week	% Weight
Contribution to the course discussion forum by a) Creating forum posts that thoughtfully address the questions outlined in the course. b) Responding to the forum posts of other participants by making comments and asking reflective questions.	1, 2, 3, 4	Ongoing	30%
Self-assessment at the conclusion of the course	3	4	20%
Assignment: Write a summary of one characteristic of the student and how you address this in your approach to teaching (or not).	1, 2, 4	2	10%
Assignment: Prepare a lesson plan that demonstrates your learning from this course and engage in peer-review of another participant's lesson plan.	4, 5	4	40%