



**EAST LINN
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS**



BIBLICAL LENS OF ACADEMICS

Engaging with Social Studies through a Christian Lens

What subject, aside from the Bible, offers a broad overview of God's unfolding redemptive plan for humanity? Which area showcases God's sovereignty in all circumstances, regardless of humanity's choices to cooperate with or oppose Him? Engaging in this field allows students to uncover how our attributes as bearers of God's image contribute to the formation of culture. The answer is Social Studies! Let's delve into how to integrate biblical principles within social studies and examine real-world classroom examples that will help shape your biblical perspective as you prepare your lessons.

As outlined by the National Council for the Social Studies, this discipline is defined as "the study of individuals, communities, systems, and their interactions across time and place that prepares students for local, national, and global civic life." Social Studies provides students with a holistic understanding of God, humanity, and the relationship between the two. When taught from a biblical viewpoint, it serves as a way to "witness the universal Truth of the gospel in the circumstances of humanity" (Classicalchristian.org). Social Studies is comprised of various subfields, including history, government, economics, civics, sociology, geography, and anthropology. At East Linn Christian, our desire is to explore these aspects of social studies through a biblical lens.

History is the study that chronicles and interprets past events. From a biblical standpoint, history is linear, beginning with God's creation of time and space (Genesis 1:1-3) and concluding on earth with the final Day of Judgment (Acts 17:31) and the start of eternal life. The overarching aim of history is the redemption and restoration of humanity and the original created order (Acts 26-28, Ephesians 1:2-14). Throughout history, we witness God's sovereignty (Job 12:23, Zechariah 14), whether individuals choose disobedience and sin (Acts 5:38-39, Malachi 1:4) or align with God's intentions (Matthew 28:18-20). Therefore, as you explore U.S. History, European History, and both Ancient and Modern World History, remain attentive to how these biblical concepts are manifested.

Civics, often referred to as government, encompasses the organization, machinery, or agency through which a political entity exerts authority and carries out its functions. This is typically categorized by the distribution of power within it (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). Those in positions of authority bear significant responsibility and possess the capacity to either assist or harm individuals.

From a biblical viewpoint, it is believed that God oversees the rise and fall of nations and their leaders (Proverbs 8:15-16; Daniel 2:20-21). The prosperity and stability of a nation hinge on its alignment with God's will and laws (Deuteronomy 28). Furthermore, one of the key roles of government is to restrain evil (Romans 13:1-7).