

Philosophy of Social Studies

Suzy Goulart and Jennifer Mathiak/Washtenaw Christian Academy

Social Studies is the study of people, places, events, nations and culture in the past and present of God's creation. God has given us the gift of Social Studies as a means to understand His world and His will. God is an ever present active part of Social Studies. Social Studies allows us to follow the pattern of humans and holds us accountable for our role as Christians in a fallen world.

Instructional Goals and Biblical Truths

1. God expects us to learn from a knowledge of history.¹

“These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.”(1 Corinthians 10:11)

2. God has a plan he is carrying into completion, history records the process of the plan.²

“And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.”(Ephesians 1:9-10)

“For this is what the LORD says— he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited— he says: ‘I am the LORD, and there is no other.’”(Isaiah 45:18)

3. God holds nations accountable for their actions.³

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” (2 Corinthians 5:10)

4. God sometimes withholds judgments that is due, most often it brings honor to his name.⁴

“For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, so as not to cut you off.” (Isaiah 48:9)

5. The fact that God uses a nation to judge another does no relieve that nation from its own responsibility to God.⁵

“Does the ax raise itself above him who swings it, or the saw boast against him who uses it? As if a rod were to wield him who lifts it up, or a club brandish him who is not wood!”(Isaiah 10:15)

6. The actions of believers, even few in number, can change the direction of the government.⁶

¹ Haycock, Dr. Ruth. (1993). Encyclopedia of Biblical Truths for School Subjects. Association of Christian Schools International. p 10.

² Haycock, p 10

³ Haycock, p 52

⁴ Haycock, p 10

⁵ Haycock, p 10

⁶ Haycock, p 52

“Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.”(Daniel 3:28-30)

7. Obedience to God comes before obedience to man when the two conflict.⁷

“Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!” (Acts 5:29)

8. Believers are responsible to pay their share for the support of government.⁸

“This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.” (Romans 13:6-8)

9. Believers are stewards over God’s possessions and His creation, we are responsible for the care and wise use of them. ⁹

“The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” (Genesis 2:15)

“You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet” Psalm 8:6

10. God is concerned about all kinds of people, wherever they live and whatever their status.¹⁰

“Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.” (Acts 10:34-35)

“For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:12-13)

⁷ Haycock, p 52

⁸ Haycock, p 52

⁹ Haycock, p 26, 32

¹⁰ Haycock, p 26