



SPARROWS HI CURRICULUM

The Life and Teachings of Jesus

PURPOSE

The purpose of this framework is to help students know Jesus Christ personally, understand His life and teachings faithfully, and increasingly become His disciples.

Students should not simply learn about Jesus. They should learn to follow Him.

Throughout this framework, students are continually invited to ask:

- What did Jesus teach?
- Why did He teach it?
- What does this reveal about God?
- How should this shape my life?

PHILOSOPHY

Jesus Christ stands at the centre of all Christian discipleship.

His life reveals the character of God. His teaching reveals the values of the Kingdom. His death and resurrection accomplish our salvation. His ongoing reign shapes the mission of His Church.

Accordingly, every student should leave Sparrows HI with a growing love for Christ and a desire to order every area of life under His lordship.

GRADUATE OUTCOME

By the completion of Year 12, students should be able to:

- describe the major events of Jesus' life;
- explain the central themes of His teaching;
- understand the Kingdom of God as taught by Jesus;
- interpret His parables responsibly;
- appreciate His historical and Jewish context;
- recognise how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament;
- explain the significance of His death, resurrection and ascension;
- identify practical implications for everyday discipleship.

THE PERSON OF JESUS

Students explore:

- the incarnation;
- the humanity of Christ;
- the deity of Christ;
- the Messiah;
- the Son of God;
- the Son of Man;
- the Suffering Servant;
- the King.

Students learn why these titles matter and how they shape Christian belief.

THE WORLD OF JESUS

Students develop an understanding of:

- first-century Judaism;
- Roman rule;
- the Temple;
- synagogues;
- Pharisees;
- Sadducees;
- scribes;
- tax collectors;
- Samaritans;
- the geography of Galilee and Judea.

Understanding Jesus' historical setting helps students read the Gospels more faithfully.

MAJOR THEMES OF JESUS' TEACHING

The framework revisits these themes throughout the secondary years.

The Kingdom of God

Students explore:

- what Jesus meant by the Kingdom;
- the Kingdom already present;
- the Kingdom yet to come;
- Kingdom values;
- Kingdom mission.

Discipleship

Students examine Jesus' invitation to:

- follow Him;
- deny self;
- take up the cross;
- remain faithful;
- make disciples.

Love

Students study Jesus' teaching regarding:

- love for God;
- love for neighbour;
- love for enemies;
- forgiveness;
- mercy;
- compassion.

Prayer

Students explore:

- the Lord's Prayer;
- persistence in prayer;
- private prayer;
- trusting the Father;
- dependence upon God.

Wealth and Stewardship

Students examine Jesus' teaching regarding:

- generosity;
- contentment;
- greed;
- worry;
- treasures in heaven;
- faithful stewardship.

Justice and Mercy

Students explore:

- compassion;
- care for the poor;
- hospitality;
- humility;
- servant leadership;
- reconciliation.

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

Students study miracles not merely as demonstrations of power, but as signs revealing:

- the identity of Jesus;
- the arrival of the Kingdom;
- God's compassion;
- restoration;
- hope.

Students also discuss appropriate ways of understanding miracles today.

THE PARABLES

Students learn to interpret parables by considering:

- historical setting;
- audience;
- central message;
- Kingdom implications.

Particular attention is given to:

- the Good Samaritan;
- the Prodigal Son;
- the Sower;
- the Mustard Seed;
- the Pearl of Great Price;
- the Lost Sheep;
- the Unforgiving Servant;
- the Wise and Foolish Builders.

Students are encouraged to see how the parables invite personal response.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Because of its foundational importance, the Sermon on the Mount is studied progressively across all year levels.

Students examine:

- the Beatitudes;
- salt and light;
- righteousness;
- prayer;
- fasting;
- generosity;
- anxiety;
- judging others;
- forgiveness;
- enemy love;
- the Golden Rule.

The focus is not merely on explanation but on learning to live as allegiant citizens of God's Kingdom.

THE CROSS AND RESURRECTION

Students develop an increasingly mature understanding of:

- the Last Supper;
- Gethsemane;
- the crucifixion;
- the resurrection;
- the ascension;
- Pentecost as the continuation of Christ's mission through the Church.

These events remain the centre of the Christian faith.

LEARNING PROGRESSION

The program is structured across three stages of secondary education.

Years 7–8

- The Gospel narratives;
- key miracles;
- major parables;
- Jesus' disciples;
- His compassion;
- His invitation to follow Him.

Years 9–10

- Historical context;
- Kingdom theology;
- ethical teaching;
- discipleship;
- conflict with religious leaders;
- mission.

Years 11–12

- Christology;
- biblical theology of the Kingdom;
- contemporary application;
- apologetic questions concerning Jesus;
- leadership shaped by the example of Christ;
- lifelong discipleship.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Students should regularly participate in:

- close reading of the Gospels;
- memorisation of selected teachings of Jesus;
- dramatic readings;
- discussions;
- service projects inspired by Jesus' teaching;
- reflective journalling;
- prayerful meditation on Scripture;
- practical acts of discipleship.

Learning should consistently connect belief with practice.

ASSESSMENT

Students demonstrate growth through:

- discussion;
- presentations;
- reflective writing;
- Scripture engagement;
- mentoring conversations;
- evidence of increasing Christlike character.

Assessment should encourage faithful application rather than simple information recall.

INTEGRATION

This framework connects naturally with:

- Biblical Literacy;
- Christian Worldview;
- Spiritual Practices;
- Leadership Development;
- Service & Mission;
- Worship;
- Church History.

Jesus is not one topic within the curriculum. He is the centre around which the entire curriculum is organised.

OUR PRAYER

We pray that every student increasingly echoes the words of the Apostle Paul:

"For me, to live is Christ."

Philippians 1:21

May students leave Sparrows HI not merely informed about Jesus, but joyfully committed to following Him in every area of life.

"Whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked."

1 John 2:6