

Your Children. Your Schools. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

- To get involved and for information on this and other initiatives please visit the Salt and Light Institute and Black Robe Regiment websites.
<http://saltandlightinstitute.org>
<http://blackrobereg.org>
- Contact us to obtain a link to download this initiative.
- Contact us to speak to your groups.



WHAT IS THE TEACHER'S GUIDE TO CHRISTIAN STUDENTS?

It's **NOT** an attempt to impose Christian beliefs or influence the classroom to accept Christianity as a religion.

It's **NOT** a recruiting tool for any organization or church.

It's **NOT** an evangelical or political tool.

The Teacher's Guide to Christian Students **IS** set forth to serve and support teachers in his and her efforts to teach curriculum which does include references to world history, social studies and science.

It **IS** set forth to ensure a historically accurate, yet brief presentation of Christianity.

It **IS** a tool to provide accurate information for the students and teachers who are attempting to actively practice their Christian faith in the public sphere and to provide accurate education on their fundamental First Amendment right that protects religious expression.

The cover page of the "A Teacher's Guide to Christian Students" features a title at the top right and a small icon of a cross and books at the top left. The page is divided into several sections: "Greetings", "Christianity & Christians", "Christians in the USA", and "Core Christian Values". Each section contains text explaining the guide's purpose and providing background information on Christianity. A small image of a Bible is also present.

A Teacher's Guide to Christian Students

Greetings

"Greetings and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." The Apostle Paul often opened his letters to the church in the New Testament with a greeting in the name of Jesus. Shalom, a Hebrew greeting is also frequently used as both a greeting and a blessing. Shalom means peace.

Christianity & Christians

Christianity: The term "Christian" is derived from the Koine Greek word Christ, a translation of the Biblical Hebrew term Messiah. The Christian faith is based in the gospel as presented in the Holy Bible, and includes the teaching that humans have hope for salvation through the message and work of Jesus Christ. In particular, his atoning death on the cross. Christianity is a way of life.

Christian: A Christian is one who believes that Jesus is the Messiah prophesied in the Hebrew Bible. According to the Bible, Jesus is the promised Messiah foretold in the Hebrew Scriptures. His Hebrew name is "Yeshua", which means "salvation". He is the only begotten Son of God, God came in the flesh, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, who suffered, and was crucified for the sins of the world. He died and was buried, and on the third day, He rose again from the dead having the keys of hell and death. Soon afterward He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will soon return to judge both the living and the dead. A Christian is one that has professed faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.

The Holy Bible: The Holy Bible is a book of scripture made up of the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Bible means "The Books" in Koine Greek; it is comprised of 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament. The Bible is the Holy Scripture to Christians and is the foundation of their faith. The book contains prophecies, a history of God's people, and the birth, life, death, and teachings of Jesus Christ. The Holy Bible was written by prophets to teach God's commandments and laws to all people on Earth. Scriptural references are divided up into books, chapters and verses.

Christians in the USA

- * Christianity is ranked the largest religion in the world today.
- * An estimated 79.5% of the population of America consider themselves Christians.
- * American Christians are comprised from a number of different denominations including Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian and others.
- * There are over 246 million Christians in the United States of America.
- * Christians are comprised of all ethnicities and nationalities.
- * 32% of the world's population is considered to be Christian.
- * There are 2.18 billion Christians worldwide.

Core Christian Values

Christian values are based on God and the work of Jesus Christ. The most important Christian value is to just fear God more than anything, or anyone. A core Christian value is having God first in your life, acknowledging Him and His Word (Holy Scriptures) in your daily life. There are many values esteemed by Christians including: humility, giving, self-discipline, wholesomeness and forgiveness. Core Christian values can be expressed in short by this scripture, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." from I Corinthians 13:13 Christians endeavor to live their lives in a way that expresses their faith and hope in Jesus Christ by loving God, and others.

TEACHER'S GUIDE TO CHRISTIAN STUDENTS

YOUR 1ST AMENDMENT RIGHTS

The issue of separation of church and state has caused many teachers and students much confusion. (See 1947. *Everson vs. Board of Education*) It is the intention of this initiative to balance and provide equality for the Christian's active practice of faith in community and the public sphere.

The issue of **school speech** as it relates to the **First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution** is one that has been of much debate and the subject of much litigation since the mid-20th century. The First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech applies to students in the public schools: In the landmark decision *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, the Supreme Court formally recognized that students do not "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate."



"You do well to learn our arts and our ways of life, and above all the religion of Jesus Christ."

George Washington, 1st President of the United States, Commander in Chief of the US during the Revolutionary War, chairman of the Constitutional Convention

"Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason, and experience both forbid us to expect, that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." ... "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

Washington's Farewell Address, Sept. 17, 1796

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure if we have removed their only firm basis; a conviction in the minds of men that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever."

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration, President of the United States.

"Religion and morality are the essential pillars of civil society."

Constitutional Convention, First President of the United States of America, Father of our nation, George Washington.

"Christianity is not a theory or speculation, but a life; not a philosophy of life, but a living presence."

Samuel Taylor Coleridge