



2017-2018 Sovereign Grace High School Study The Old Testament

Here we are again! The beginning of Fall means the beginning of many things, including Wednesday Night Studies at Sovereign Grace. This is going to be a great year for our high school class! It is a significant season of life, one full of growth and development, both physically and mentally. However, too easily overlooked during age 14-18 is spiritual formation. The purpose of the high school Wednesday night study at Sovereign Grace is to provide young adults with a biblical foundation for the rest of their lives.

The intention behind separating young adults for their own class on Wednesdays is to offer more focused instruction to young adults who can tend to get lost in adult studies and discussion. We don't want to neglect young people at a crucial time in their lives. My desire is to partner with you - parents - the primary and most influential people in your child's life. Your home is the most important place for spiritual formation - demonstrating love for God, grounding in biblical truth, and involvement in God's mission in the world. On Wednesday nights, our goal is to supplement what students hear and see at home, while engaging them personally about spiritual matters. They are regularly confronted with the important question: "I grew up in this. My parents believe this. Do *I* believe this? Is Christ *my* treasure?"

My approach is different from many typical "youth groups." Given the high stakes (i.e. the glory of God, heaven and hell, unspeakable joy, inevitable suffering & death, and increasingly cultural hostility, etc.) my goal is to maximize our short time together on Wednesdays. Students will find less games and entertainment, and more intentional fellowship and discussion of spiritual matters. While I hope all students enjoy themselves on Wednesday nights (we *do* have fun), I hope even more that they encounter the living God who has revealed himself in Jesus Christ.

We are on a four-year rotation of study that covers four critical categories for students preparing for adulthood. They include the following areas:

- Core Christian Doctrines/Beliefs
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Worldview, Outreach & the Christian Life

This year, we're digging into God's glory in the Old Testament, anticipating the coming of Jesus. We'll spend the whole year working through all that God has revealed for us prior to Christ.

Please pray for us and for your high school student this school year. Pray that God would use our short time each week to affect life-lasting results on the students' hearts. Also, please engage your son or daughter on the content that we cover. This study is meant to be a partnership between "the church" and "the home." We hope that this time will only serve your own discipleship efforts of your son or daughter.

Once again, I am excited and looking forward to a great year!
Scott Ristau