

God's Prevailing Work

Scope & Sequence for Volume 1: AD 30–1517

Chapter	Objectives	Notable Points
1. Life in the Early Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate continuity between the early and modern church • Emphasize the love and unity central to biblical descriptions of the church • Discuss the priorities of the early church, comparing them with Christian activity today 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Apostles • Papias • Tertullian
2. The Persecuted Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the basis for Christian persecution, along with examples in the early church • Discuss common responses to persecution, as well as the view encouraged by Scripture • Note ways that God can turn the evils of persecution toward good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polycarp • The Early Persecutions
3. Living in the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss ways Christians have related with the world • Discern appropriate ways to respond to opposition from unbelievers • Challenge students to develop an answer for their hope in Christ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Anthony • The Apologists
4. From Persecution to Privilege	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how Christianity became a legal religion in the Roman Empire • Discuss the benefits of religious freedom • Examine some dangers of religious privilege 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constantine • Eusebius of Nicomedia • The Edicts of Milan and Thessalonica
5. Heresies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe some of the heresies faced by the early church • Review biblical teaching on heresies and false teachers • Briefly note major ecumenical councils • Discuss the response to major heresies, including God-given opportunities to clarify truth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ecumenical Councils • The Nicene Creed
6. No Earthly City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the life and work of Augustine • Note the distinctions between what Augustine called earthly and heavenly cities • Discuss Augustine's later controversies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augustine • The Sack of Rome
7. To the Regions Beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce several early Christian missionaries, including the ministry of Patrick • Note the importance of the Great Commission • Discuss the nature and goals of biblical discipleship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick • Boniface • Cyril and Methodius

Chapter	Objectives	Notable Points
8. Light for the Dark Ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note God’s use of monasteries to preserve His Word • Introduce the split between the Eastern and Western Churches • Explain the foundations of the Holy Roman Empire • Emphasize God’s sovereignty over governments and leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcuin • Charlemagne • John Asser
9. Christendom Divided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the causes and catalyst for the Great Schism • Review attitudes that lead to conflict in the church • Discuss essential points of agreement for Christian unity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pope Leo IX • Humbert • Kassa
10. The Crusades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the origin and early expansion of Islam • Define a crusade • Review biblical teaching on Christians and warfare • Outline several crusades and their impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pope Urban II • Pope Innocent III
11. Out of the Cloister	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the growing divisions between clergy and laity in the Middle Ages • Explain the rise and mission of mendicant orders • Discuss the importance of service to the Christian life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominic de Guzmán • Francis of Assisi
12. A Turbulent Darkness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the difficulties of fourteenth-century Europe • Explain the origin and course of the Western Schism • Discuss the impact of the Council of Constance • Introduce the teachings of John Wycliffe and John Hus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Avignon Papacy • Catherine of Siena • John Wycliffe • John Hus
13. The Light of the Word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the state of the Roman Catholic Church at the beginning of the sixteenth century • Discuss the centrality of Scripture to the dawning Reformation • Note a few significant figures of the early Reformation 	<p>Briefly introduces . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pope Leo X • The Council of Trent • Erasmus • Ulrich Zwingli • Martin Luther