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Business and the Good Shepherd

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and forever” (NKJV); James 1:17, “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow” (NASB); and 2 Corinthians 1:20, “For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen.” Jesus is the great constant! We can trust a God who represents certainty.

I continue to search the scriptures for that intersect between psychology and God’s word. This search is what has led me to a true and honest study of the brain God gave us. ♦



Ruth WilliamsMorris finds the true principles of psychology to be rooted in Scripture.

Spiritual Connections in WilliamsMorris’ Classes

- Lesson plan preparation includes prayer for specific Bible texts or spiritual principles to be brought to mind.
- Students are reminded that Christians should be the best scholars.
- Class begins with a prayer inviting Jesus to sit in and help with the day’s topic.
- Students’ attempts to find spiritual applications are encouraged and affirmed.
- Unexpected teachable moments are sought, during which spiritual applications are made.

“I really appreciated the way Dr. WilliamsMorris would give us the facts but always mention her Christian bias.”

– Daphne Bastien, sophomore psychology major

Business and the Good Shepherd

By Michael E. Cafferky, School of Business and Management

“Know that the lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture” Psalm 100:3 (NASB).

These words became the basis for a complete overhaul of one of my favorite class periods in one of my favorite courses: Ethical, Social, and Legal Environment of Business, where I teach about the agency theory. After talking briefly about what it means

to be someone’s agent, to act on someone else’s behalf, we start a Biblical journey, examining the amazing imagery of sheep, owner-shepherds, and hiring-shepherds.

We begin with Jacob and his experience working for Laban and review evidence from ancient Babylonian shepherd agreements. I ask students to tell me where the sheep owners are likely to have difficulties with their hired shepherds.

Then we take a whirlwind tour of agents in the Bible, with particular focus on shepherd agents, who cared for the wealth-building assets of their owners. As the discussion continues, the imagery takes on a distinct spiritual meaning. We look at the symbolism of people being sheep and God being the shepherd before studying hired shepherds who allow the sheep to wander. I ask the students how people, as sheep, can get

scattered and what it means to be scattered. We consider the laments of the prophet Ezekiel over the nation of Israel, where we learn a little more about the work of a shepherd and the plight of scattered sheep who were supposed to be cared for by what turned out to be false shepherds. Here we pick up again the linkage between David and the Messiah before leaping into the Gospels to look at Matthew 2:6. For a few minutes we bring our thinking to John 10, where we learn more about hired shepherds and the Good, Noble Shepherd. Once again the questions of what it means to be scattered come up, creating a natural segue to the call of the gospel. If you are one of God’s sheep, what is it that has scattered you away from God? I ask if you realize that you have been scattered, who would you rather have responsible for bringing you back: the Shepherd or a hired hand?

Though not every business subject lends to such an in-depth Bible study as this one, there are many occasions throughout the year when verses from the Bible add an extra layer of meaning to the principles we’re learning in class. ♦

“Dr. Cafferky is in tune with the lives of the students and their prayer requests and praises and applying practical spirituality. His day-to-day decisions are decisions always made with the Lord’s leading.”

– Joshua Hooker, senior management major



Michael Cafferky uses Biblical stories to illustrate business concepts.

Spiritual Connections in Cafferky’s Classes

- Hymns are sometimes sung at the beginning of class.
- Recorded religious music is played five minutes before class starts.
- Bible verse and devotional thoughts are shared at the start of each class.
- Class begins or ends with prayer, with students invited to share requests.
- Term paper assignments have students comparing claims of the Christian faith with the topic they are studying.
- Full class period is devoted to discussing faith-sharing in secular workplaces.
- Story is shared about an organization where organizational leaders attempt to integrate faith in their work.
- Students read one or more articles or book chapters where issues of faith and integration are addressed.

Biology and the Creator

By David Ekkens, Biology Department

The thing that makes teaching biology fun is that one can introduce students to exciting, new things and also show God’s activities in the creation of life.

Ideas of intelligent design have created interest in the scientific community. But what about structures that seem to be badly designed? Sooner or later, students will hear this argument used against intelligent design: “God was

“Dr. Ekkens has a very good balance in presenting the controversy between evolution and creation. By the way he interacts and in conversation with the students, you can tell that his personal faith plays a major role.”

– Ingeborg Hogganvik, senior psychology major

a bad engineer. Look how He designed the eye backwards.”

In my Animal Histology class, I tell students, “Critics claim that the eye is poorly designed.”

A student might respond, “Why do they think that?”

“Well, they think that it is inefficient because the pathways of light and nerve impulses are opposite,” I reply. “How can our discussion of the eye’s tissues support a belief that God designed life?”

Then I discuss the way the eye works, including details that these critics, who have different areas of expertise, may not be aware of. As light enters the eye, it passes through the cornea, aqueous humor, lens, and vitreous humor before finally hitting the retina, the light sensitive layer. There are 12 layers of retinal cells that the light passes through; the very back (outer) layer is the rods and cones. These cells convert light to nerve impulses that then reverse direction to the front surface of the retina. Here, nerve fibers pass along the inner surface of the retina and exit as the optic nerve. But what some people fail to think about is that light is toxic; many free radicals are produced when light hits the rods and cones. Free radicals destroy cells if we don’t get them out of there.

Using a photomicrograph of the retina, I might say, “Look at this layer, the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE). It’s right here, just outside of the rods and cones. The RPE cells constantly remove the outer sections of the rods and cones, getting rid of the free radicals.”

If the cells in the retina were oriented the other way (what some people consider the “right” way), free radicals would build up in the interior of the eye and wouldn’t likely be efficiently removed. Having the retinal receptors in front would not enable the essential process of cellular rejuvenation and removal of toxins.

So it turns out the eye is very efficiently



David Ekkens explains the intricate designs of God’s creations.

Spiritual Connections in Ekkens’ Classes

- Devotional texts at the beginning of class follow the theme of characteristics that Christians need in their lives.
- God’s wisdom is discussed as His creations are studied.
- Stories are shared of how graduates have used their education to impact lives for God.

designed, and we can forget about God not being a good engineer. The problem is with humans trying to understand God’s creation.

In all my classes, the students and I see design like this that shows tangible evidence of a Creator,

evidence that leads us to join with the psalmist and exclaim, “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” Psalm 139:14. ✨