



## **PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY**

### **About Our Mission Field**

Our vision to reach unchurched students in public schools creates the opportunity for us to interface with many unchurched people. Therefore we will be hyper vigilant to “walk in wisdom” as we interact with those “outside the faith.” (Col 4:5) All our public messaging, branding and communication will be intelligible, relatable and engaging to those without a church background or a prior understanding of the intrinsic value of Scripture. Classes themselves will also be designed primarily to engage unchurched students as opposed to mimicking traditionally Christian gatherings such as corporate worship services and Sunday school classes.

### **About Serving Schools**

We are committed to providing a high quality Released Time program with an emphasis on character education. We believe such a program meets the felt needs of schools for improved student behavior, academic performance and student retention. We seek to meet these needs out of a sincere desire to serve students, schools and communities, not simply as the means to an evangelistic end.

### **About Teaching Scripture**

We are committed to faithful, gospel-centered teaching of Scripture. We believe Scripture is the revelation of God manifested most supremely in the person and work of Christ, the Word of God incarnate. For this reason all biblical teaching will be tied to the broader context of the gospel, the metanarrative of God’s unfolding plan of redemption - that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has come to reconcile individuals by His grace and to renew the whole world by and for his glory. This is the gospel that saves and empowers true inward change. Out of this gospel-centered teaching we will apply explicit and implicit character principles. We will also use apologetics when appropriate to help engage students with the text of Scripture but we will not expect anyone to be intellectually argued into the Kingdom of God.

### **About Results**

We trust that the faithful teaching of the Word of God is spiritually effective and fruitful. We expect the results to vary in magnitude and visibility. We plant and water but it is God who brings true inward growth and change. While always striving to be winsome, we will measure success primarily by whether students are hearing the gospel. We will look for and track other indicators of effectiveness, but we do not feel obligated to accomplish the impossible task of fully quantifying the spiritual results.

### **About Relating to Churches**

We understand that LifeWise Academy is not a local church. However we aim to serve local churches as an effective tool they can wield in their mission to reach their communities. We will look for every opportunity to strategically connect students and their families to the broader ministry of local churches. We will be careful to leave the responsibilities of robust spiritual shepherding, church discipline and administering baptism and communion to local church leaders.