



God in Education: Learning to Love

CREATION:

Perfect
relationship
between God,
man, world

FALL:

Fragmented
relationships
in all areas,
pain, suffering,
death

Noah

Abraham

Isaac-Jacob-Joseph

Moses

Israel ... Exile... 400 yrs

JESUS

CHRIST:

God's perfect
solution to sin

Lived

Died

Rose again

FULFILLMENT:

All things made
right; no more pain,
death, perfect
relationships again

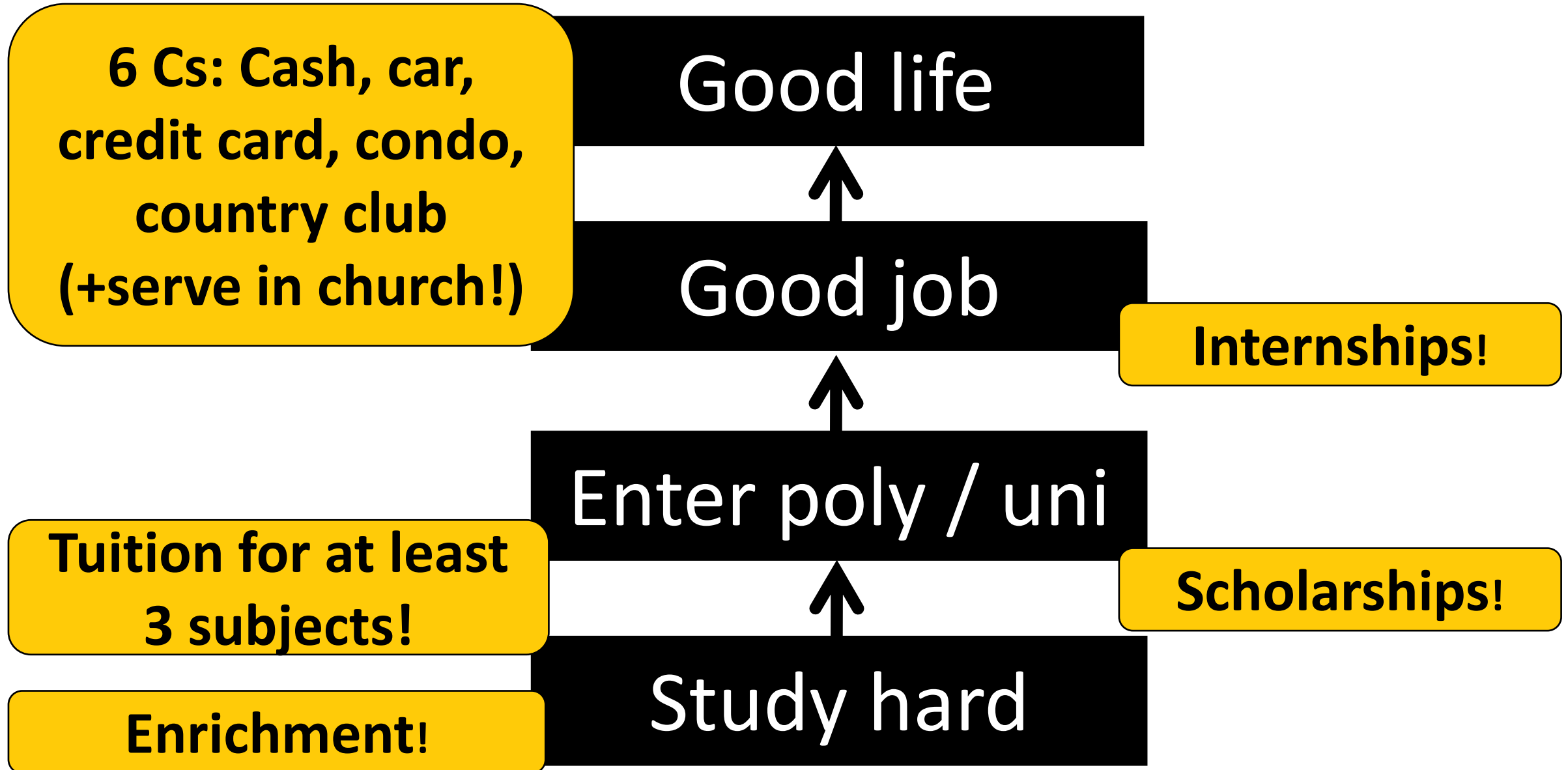
Partner with Christ

*Restore and reconcile
all things*

*Reconciled all things
to himself*

God's Grand Story

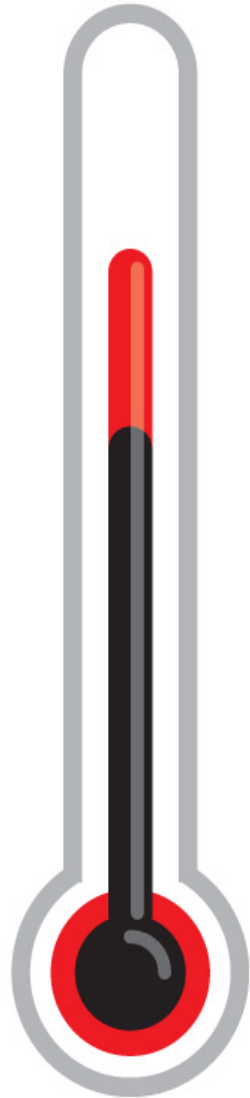
Which story do we live by?



How Singapore students responded

Singapore students suffer from high levels of anxiety: Study

(Straits Times, Aug 20, 2017)



On test anxiety

"I feel very anxious even if I am well prepared for a test."

76%

agreed or strongly agreed with the statement compared with the OECD average of

55%

Numbers up and ages down for child suicides: Experts explain (The New Paper, May 30 2018)

“

Some children as young as eight years old are thinking of suicide to cope with their problems.

”

Numbers up and ages down for child suicides: Experts explain (The New Paper, May 30 2018)

4,563 children 10-19 yrs old called up SOS (nearly double from 2,366 in 2012-13)

22 young people from 10-19 yrs old took their own lives in 2016.

4 in 5 young adults in Singapore experience quarter-life crisis: study (The Straits Times, 18 May 2018)

“S’pore ranked 4th out of 16 territories polled on prevalence of anxiety felt by youth.

Mr Nathan Aw, 31, who has switched jobs six times in the last four years, has felt a "persistent restlessness".

”

SO STRESSFUL!
SO TERRIBLE!...

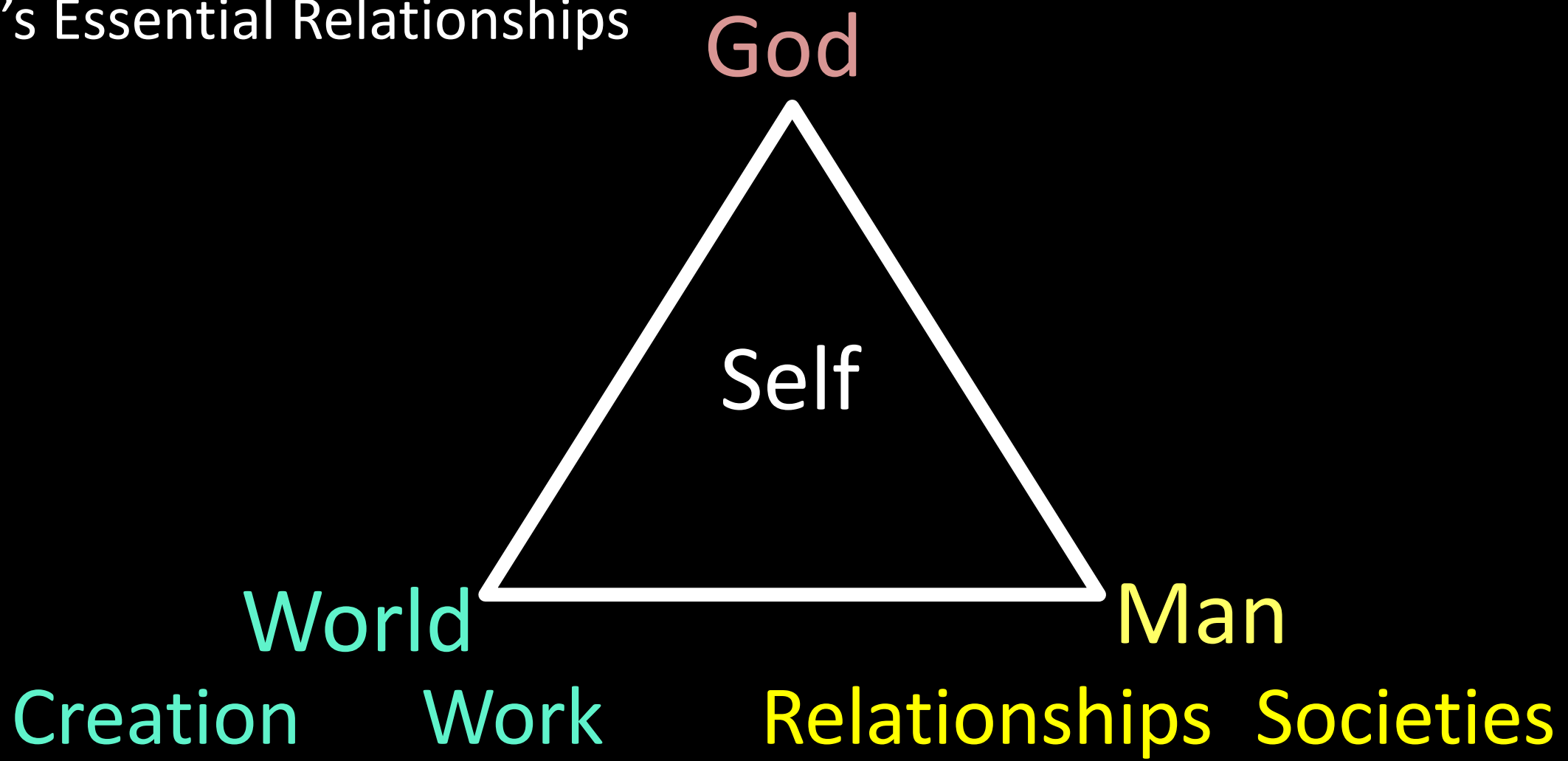
But...
Bo pian lah.
What to do?
No choice...

REALLY ??

From God's perspective,
education is *so much more* than
surviving the system
to get your ticket to a good job.

It's about learning to
love God,
His world,
His people,
and being equipped to serve
in His kingdom.

Man's Essential Relationships



What is education from God's perspective?

1. It's about learning to **love the Lord** with your heart, soul, MIND and strength
 - Mark 12:30
 - Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ (2 Cor 10:5)
 - Think God's thoughts after Him.

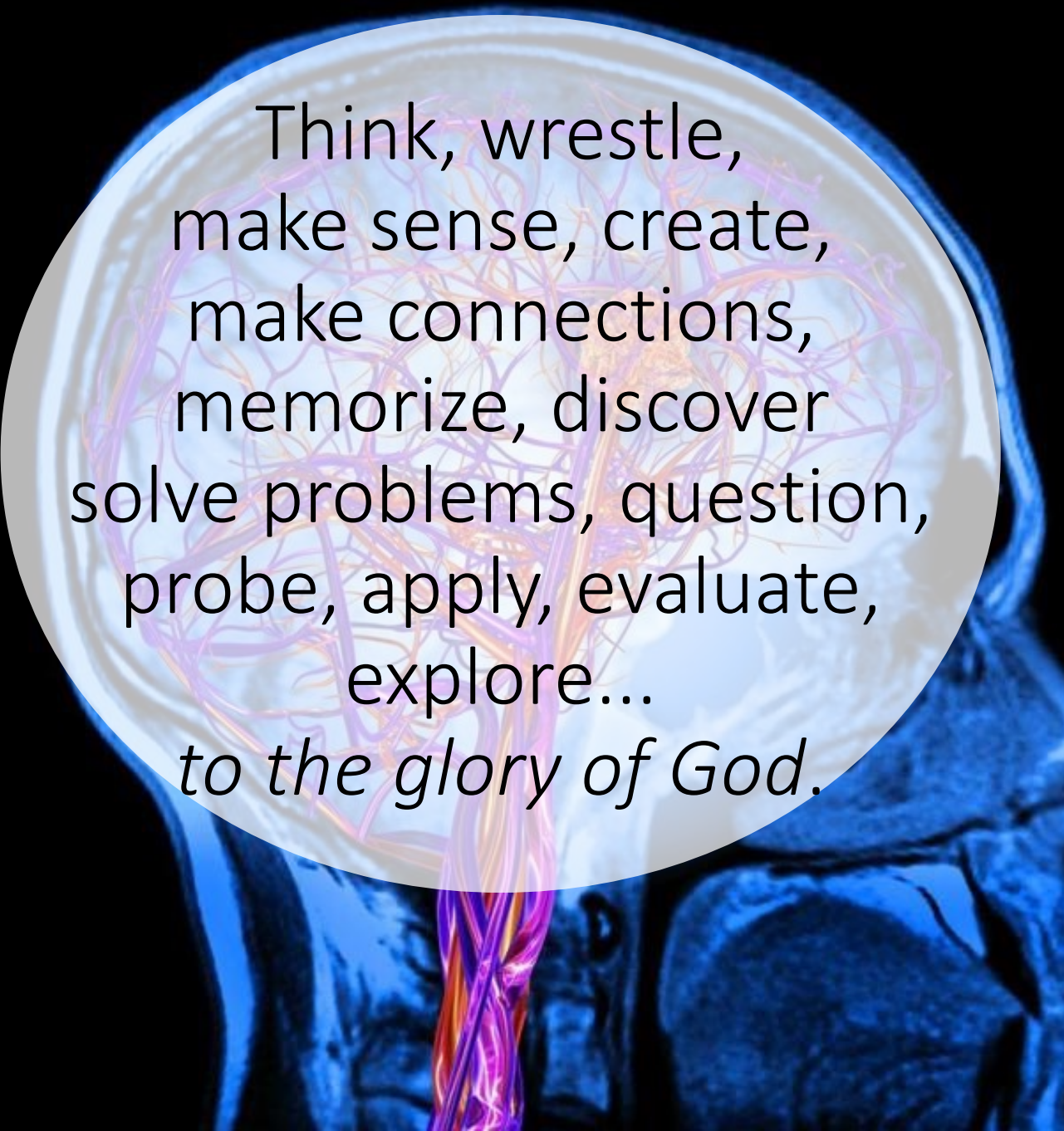
God has given us a mind.

Love God with it!

Use it!

Strengthen it!

Steward it well!



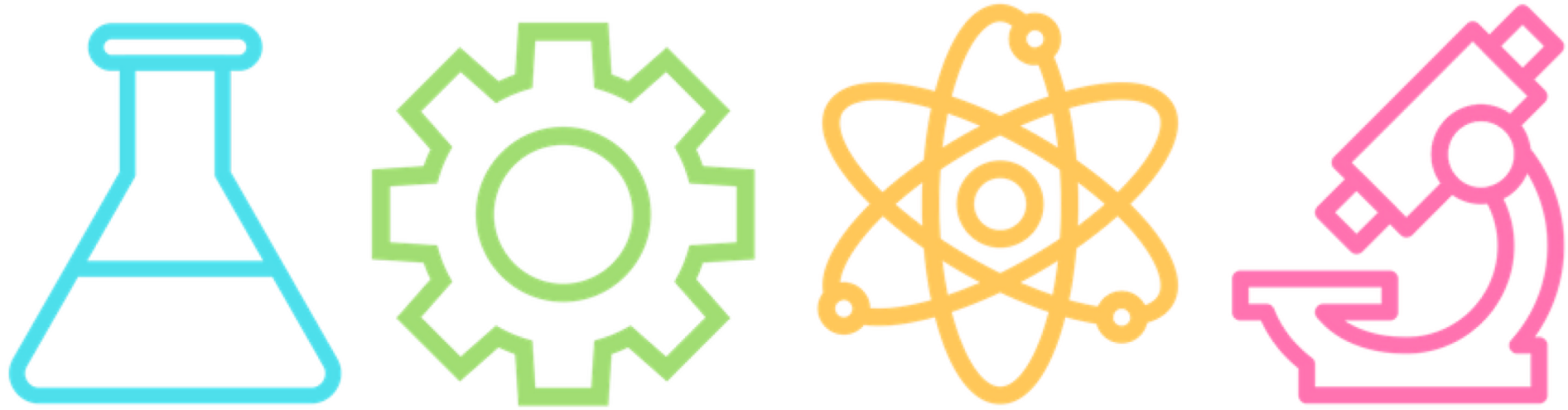
Think, wrestle,
make sense, create,
make connections,
memorize, discover
solve problems, question,
probe, apply, evaluate,
explore...

to the glory of God.

What is education from God's perspective?

2. It's about training young people to **understand and marvel at God's world**
 - “Christ, in whom is hidden ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” ~ Col 2:3
 - CHRIST is the Greatest Mathematician, Linguist, Artist, Scientist, Historian!

Every subject can reveal a
different facet of Christ,
His wisdom and His glory.



CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY, PHYSICS

The sciences help us discover more about the magnificence of God's handiwork – the natural order, the components of life – and how everything wonderfully fits together.



MATHEMATICS

God's 'language' of numbers helps us understand His world. It reveals God's attributes of order, beauty, symmetry, consistency.



HISTORY

The study of God's providence and sovereign grace over time; the unfolding of God's cosmic plan and His interaction with His people.




Geography

The study of God's creation; the how many interacts with his environment. It's about proper stewardship.



Languages are a gift from our God who wants to communicate with His people. It is a celebration of cultures and creativity and about finding the best way to communicate God-given revelation across generations.

LITERATURE & THE ARTS

A close-up photograph of a violin and a painter's palette. The violin is on the right, with its body and f-hole visible. The palette is on the left, featuring several blobs of paint in blue, green, and purple. Two paintbrushes are also visible on the palette. The background is dark.

Literature explores the glory and depravity of man.
Man is created in God's image to create.
The arts provide all-important food for the soul!

PHILOSOPHY

(the pursuit of *wisdom*) celebrates our God-given ability to *reason* and forces us to question our assumptions.

It helps us develop a Biblical worldview!



P.E. provides the best chance to marvel at the human body in action. It also provides great lessons on team work, discipline, focus, etc.



Each theory, equation, definition and skill
learnt is a way of...
learning more about God's world,
learning a new aspect of His glory,
and deepening our worship of Him.

What is education from God's perspective?

3. It's about equipping the next generation with the foundations and skills they need to be *willing* and *effective* partners with God in His kingdom.

- "Love your neighbor as yourself." ~ Mark 12:31



SKILLS AND EXPERTISE
SOCIAL MORAL CHARACTER
INTELLECTUAL EMOTIONAL
FOUNDATIONS

What does that look like in reality?

Kingdom office administrators



Just filing stuff?

OR



Loving your neighbour by
making things orderly,
beautiful and efficient?

Kingdom F&B / Service



Just a means to
earn some money

OR



A way of bringing great
delight to body and soul?

Kingdom Journalism:
Reporting that speaks TRUTH clearly and winsomely



Business acumen used for the Kingdom



Just about about making as much profit as possible?

OR

Using more Biblical measurements of success;

Developing or funding products that are sustainable and meet genuine needs?

Kingdom Engineering



Ong Tian Chang & Sim Zhi Min –
used mechanical engineering skills to
design drones to deliver critical medical
cargo to rural areas

Tech skills used to redeem the digital sphere



HACK AND MAKE DISCIPLES

A MISSIONAL TECHNOLOGY HACKATHON

A HACKATHON FOR MISSIONS | NOVEMBER 4-6, 2016



IT SKILLS: Only for vice and crime?
Fixing projectors in church?

OR

Harness unique skills to find
digital solutions for modern day
problems like suicide, human
trafficking, family issues, etc.
E.g. *Indigitous* Hackathon

Education aligned with *God's* definition of success

5,000 teachers leave service over five years

Super tutors in demand



A teacher guiding the students in her class. ST PHOTO

Each of them earns at least \$1m a year

Calvin Yang

Parents pay up all hands to find a place for their child in the school entrance to the class. Some try to secure a spot three years ahead. A few well-heeled ones even offer two years' fees to secure a spot.

Most educators into tutoring are part of a small but growing group of "super tutors" with earnings of at least \$1 million a year.

There are at least 10 such private tutors, mostly in the private sector, who are helping students in the growing tuition industry. Parents turn to Mr. Yang for his tutoring services. He is one of the few tutors who have been featured in the media.

He says he has been tutoring for more than a decade, and his earnings are around \$1 million a year. He says he has been tutoring for more than a decade, and his earnings are around \$1 million a year.

Students look for the best tutor, even those who are already doing well in school, said 25-year-old Mr. Yang, who has about 200 students and 40 tutors on his waiting list. Some are even from overseas.

According to him, the earnings of his students have gone up since the A-levels exam.

His fee is about \$100 to \$120 for four hours a month. The fee is about \$100 to \$120 for four hours a month. The fee is about \$100 to \$120 for four hours a month.

A study by the Singapore Education Research Institute (SEI) found that the average earnings of private tutors in Singapore are around \$1 million a year.



Education Extraordinary: Mr. Yang, 32, has about 200 students and 40 tutors on his waiting list. Some even come from abroad. ST PHOTO: ALICE CHAN FOR THE STRAITS TIMES



Award-winner

When the first teacher in a private tuition centre, Mr. Yang, started his pupils and was earning less than \$100,000 a year.

Today, the number of pupils in his centre has grown to over 200, and he is now earning more than \$1 million a year. The tuition fees are around \$100 to \$120 for four hours a month.

Mr. Yang has about 200 students and 40 tutors on his waiting list. Some are even from overseas.

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Ex-MOE official now a physics expert

TOUGH JOB

Top tutors put in a lot of hard work to help students. It's not an easy industry to be in, fuelled by demanding parents and many competitive tutors.

Education aligned with *God's* definition of success



- Exciting imagination and creativity?
- Teaching genuine love for God's people and for God's world?
- Helping students discover their God-given talents?
- *Following God's KPI's?*

“The Christian shoemaker does his duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making *good shoes*, because God is interested in good craftsmanship.”



Christian students
have the best answer to the question
“WHY STUDY?”...

And it has everything to do with
God, His people and His Kingdom.

Education equips the next generation to establish the Lordship of Christ in ALL parts of His kingdom:

Architecture	Media & Communications	Schools	IT	Cooking	Sports	
Accounting	Marketing	Dentistry	Math	Sales	Teaching	Shopping
Film-making	Fitness	Civil service	Physics	Hotel	Agriculture	
Church	Editing	Missions	Defense	Geography	Entertainment	Media
Politics	Carpentry	Business	Taxes	Economics	History	Hospitality
Therapy	Geriatrics	Banking	Admin	The arts	Experience design	
Social work	Investing	Gynecology		Languages	Investment banking	
Artificial intelligence	Ethics	Bitcoin		Computing	Technology	Philosophy
Gardening	Medicine	Manufacturing		Psychology	Fashion- design	Eating
				Engineering	Government & law	

What is our role as parents?

- Education is *your* primary duty.
 - Deut. 6:4-9; Prov. 22:6
- Disciple *your* kids to love the Lord with their heart, soul, mind and strength.
- Stop saying “bo pian” or “no choice”!
- Make it a point to ask better questions!

What is our role as teachers?

- Be encouraged – there *is* a purpose beyond the marking and the grades!
- Remember God's KPIs, not the school's!
- All education is a religious endeavor.
 - Understand your subject from God's point of view, and inspire awe through your subject.
- Pray for revelation, wisdom and *courage*.

What is our role as students?

- Get off your phones and make the most of your time in school!
- Use your schooling years to discover the talents God has put into you and to grow in *all* aspects – it's not just about the grades!
- Want to know your calling? Be faithful in the small things

“The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as ‘Christians’ will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, **steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence.**”

~ Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission*