The Biblical Classical Approach Homeschool Experience™

Module 2

The Biblical Classical Approach

Philosophy

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Providence in Your Life

The Big Picture

(Module 2 Overview)

First Things First...

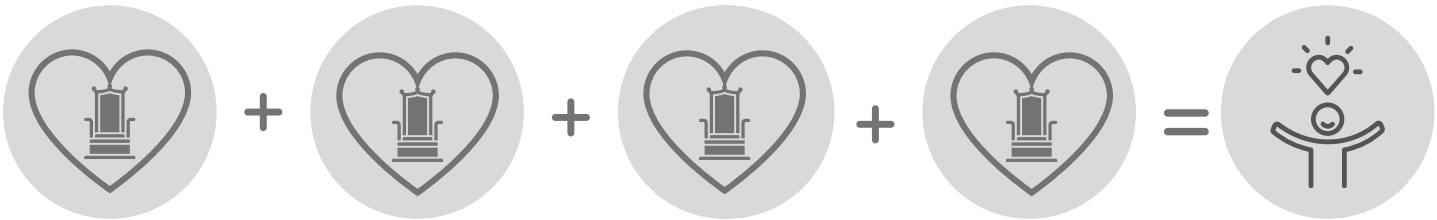
Define the word *providence for a clear understanding.*

Understanding God's Ability and the abilities He gives to us.

Internalizing God's Providence.

Going Deeper...

Seeing how God's Providence fits within His sovereignty over all areas of life.



Acknowledge, recognize, and note God's Providence in your life.

Acknowledge, recognize, and note God's Providence in your child's life.

Acknowledge, recognize, and note God's Providence in home and homeschool.

Acknowledge, recognize, and note God's Providence in history (His Story).

Reflecting on the dichotomies of Providence, internalizing, and forming convictions about it.

Providence in Your Life

Let's begin by getting clear on what *providence* means.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary: providence

PROV'IDENCE, noun

2. "Foresight; timely care; particularly, active foresight, or foresight accompanied with the procurement of what is necessary for future use, or with suitable preparation."

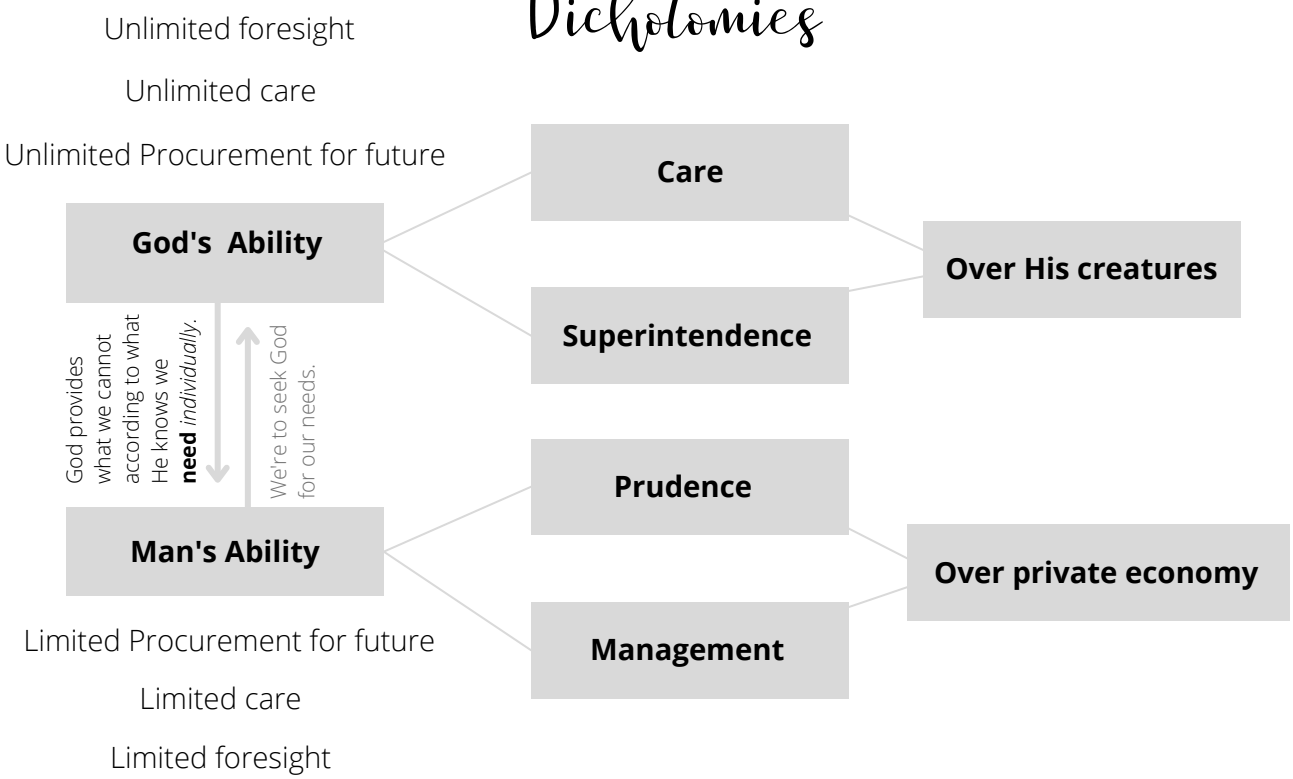
3. "In theology, the care and superintendence which God exercises over his creatures."

4. "Prudence in the management of one's concerns or in private economy."

Webster's 1828 Dictionary: superintendence

SUPERINTEND'ENCY, noun
"The act of superintending; care and oversight for the purpose of direction and with authority to direct."

Dichotomies



Providence in Your Life

Acknowledging, Recognizing, and Noting Providence in Your Life

Have you ever made a personal timeline to keep God's providence in your life before your eyes?

Even if some of us have had less than ideal circumstances when growing up, we can still look for God's Hand—His care and provision in our lives.

The personal timeline works within the framework of the timing of your life for restoration of the family, the church, your local community, your state, and the nation.

Let's break this down into a word study by first defining the word *restore.*

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines restore, v.t. as:

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"1. To return to a person, as a specific thing which he has lost, or which has been taken from him unjustly detained. We restore lost or stolen goods to the owner." 3. [B]ring back or recover from lapse, degeneracy, declension or ruin to its former state. 5. [R]epair; to rebuild. 9. [R]evive; to resuscitate; to bring back to life. 13. [R]ecover or renew, as passages of an author obscured or corrupted; as, to restore the true reading."

Education has been the primary vessel in which the degradation of the individual, family, church, and nation has been taking place. Before that, it was the primary vessel for teaching principles and morals.

Your role as a parent is important for many reasons. One of those reasons is to guide your children into a genuine, right relationship with God.

Secondly, couples become a family and they have children that are incorporated into their family (whether by birth or by adoption). This is how nations are built. In our day, this is how our nation will be restored. As an individual and as a parent, you can help restore America to her first Biblical principles—which were the original intent at the founding of our nation. However, keep in mind that this is the **result** of internal qualities that are in accord with God's principles and morals. Living rightly is the goal. The fruit of that is reflected in one's life and that effects a nation.

You can help to recover America from lapse, degeneracy, declension or ruin by learning and applying God's principles and morals for life. Additionally, this work is done by teaching them to your children diligently. Living rightly brings God glory!

Assignment 1: Use the personal timeline on the next page to recognize God's providence in your life.

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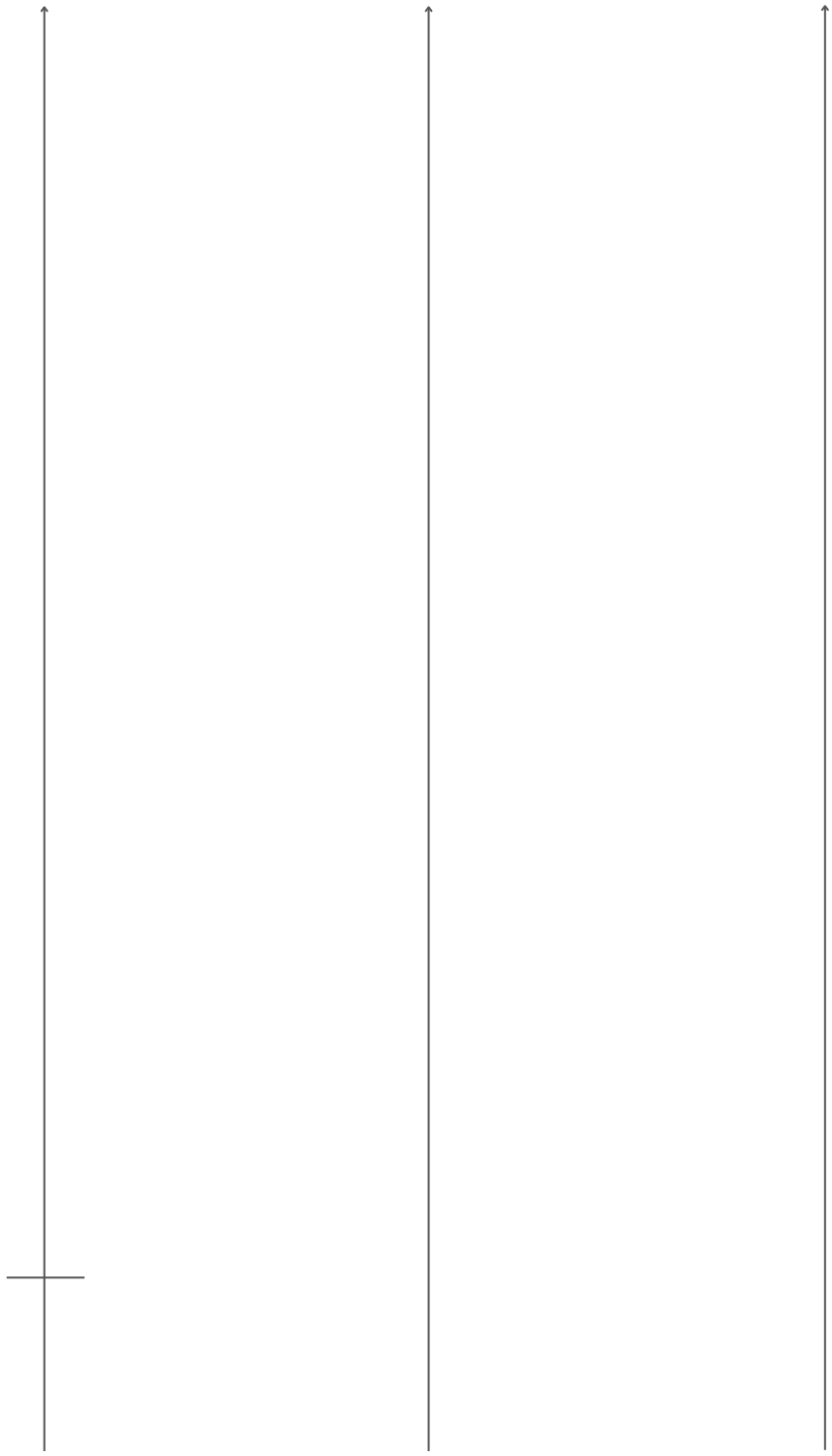
Providence in Your Life

Personal Providential Timeline

My Providential History Timeline



Providence in Your Life

Recognizing and Noting Providence in Your Life

A secondary tool to use is a *Providential Setting and Sphere of Influence Chart.* This chart can help you to see God's providence by—where He has seen it fit for you to live and who He has seen fit to be a godly influence in your life while growing up.

Additionally, it can be a tool to help you evaluate your current choices of settings you choose to be in and the company you choose to keep.

Lastly, it can help you to consider how you're intentionally living your life. How did God equip you with life lessons?

- How did God equip you with life lessons?
- How did He nurture you through the love and care of people in your life?
- How did He use your parents' gifts, talents, interests, and skills to shape you?
- In what ways did He provide for you through adults in your life (short-term or long-term relationships)?

Assignment 2: Use the *Providential Setting and Sphere of Influence Chart* on the next page to help you see God's providence in your life.

*Please note that both of these charts and exercises help to equip you for use in subjects that you study. It also helps you to develop this practice in everyday life.

Providence in Your Life

Providential Setting and Sphere of Influence Chart

The Effect- How God Uses These in My Life & What I'm Doing with My LIfe

Key Individuals in My Life- Lead Me To Christ & Spiritual Family

Settings Growing Up & as an Adult

Providence and Your Child

Let's talk about some feelings of doubt that can come around to us mothers.

Sometimes we can question if we are the right person to teach our own child. If you sometimes go through these thoughts, I'd like for you to consider the following thought from Psalm 139:13-16:

> **13) For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.**
>
> **14) I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.**
>
> **15) My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.**
>
> **16) Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.**
>
> **KJV**

Most often, when we read this verse, we think of the individual being formed. But, I want you to consider the womb. Undoubtedly, the womb is the Providential setting for life. And, for your life it was your mother's womb that was the Providential setting to welcome you into God's beautiful earth. If you've given birth, it's the same for you. Providentially, your womb is the setting in which your child has been brought to life. **You are the mother for your child.**

For those of you who are adopted/who have adopted, Psalm 68: 5-6 teaches us that your family is the Providential setting for you/your adopted child.

Providence and Your Child

> **5) A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows,
> Is God in His holy dwelling.**
>
> **6) God makes a home for the lonely;
> He leads out the prisoners into prosperity,
> Only the rebellious live in parched lands.**
>
> **NASB**

You are who God has brought together to form a family through adoption to be a family to the lonely.

He is a good Heavenly Father!

God has providentially placed your children under your provision and care. Additionally, He has given ***you*** gifts, talents, and interests that are suited for serving your family. Sometimes it can be hard to keep mind that God has equipped us to serve our own families. God's Principle of Individuality for the family is made up of each individual He places together. It's important to be able to walk confidently in His plan for your family.

Assignment 1: Use the *Providential Individuality Chart* to help you identify the gifts, talents, interests, and skills you have that can help nurture your child's gifts, talents, and interests.

Providence in Your Life

Providential Individuality Chart

I am equipped to nurture my child's individuality. I can do that in the following ways:

My child's God-given gifts, talents, and interests.

My God-given gifts, talents, interest, and skills.

Providence and Your Child

As life gets busy, we can forget or overlook God's care and provision for each individual child. However, it's important to see through this lens because it draws us closer to our Heavenly Father. It can also help your child to see—and keep before his or her eyes—God's care and provision throughout his or her life. What a faith-building gift this is to our children.

Filling out the *My Personal Providential Timeline* also helps to keep the future in the forefront of our minds. It may also help our children to see that they do have value and purpose in God's sight. It helps them to own living their lives intentionally to bring God glory by serving Him.

You can fill out the *My Child's Providential History Timeline* on your own. At whatever time you determine it to be best, you can also help your child to fill one out for his or her keeping.

Assignment 2: Fill out the *My Child's Providential History Timeline*.

Providence in Your Life

Personal Providential Timeline

My Child's Providential History Timeline

My Birth

Providence in Your Home and Homeschool

Home

Within the sphere of government known as Home, we create an experience for our children. The question is, what kind of experience do we want them to grow up with?

While it's true that the internal progress of individuals doesn't come about by altering the external environment, memories of home can greatly impact a child—for better or for worse.

How do you make your home a nurturing environment?

How do you govern your home?

Is there more room for the people in your home than there is 'stuff"?

Remember, the internal gives rise to the external. What does your home environment reveal to you about the internal? How you govern your home matters in the sense of care and provision that is spiritual, emotional, and physical.

This interview by Focus on the Family with Kathi Lipp may be a blessing to you.

This interview by Focus on the Family with Joshua Becker may also be a blessing to you.

Home

Assignment 1: Survey your home and see what you may need to organize, donate, or sell. What surfaces need to be clutter-free?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Providence in Your Home and Homeschool

Homeschool

We know from the government school experiment that more money, the more offerings, and the bigger the size of the learning environment **does not** make for a well-educated, well-schooled individual.

There are a lot of shiny things out there being marketed to us. And it can be terribly easy to desire them for our children. But here's the deal, they always cost something . . . even if it's disguised as "free."

I'm reminded of the following quote by Elizabeth Eliot:

"The Desires Of My Heart"

"I had been praying for something I wanted very badly. It seemed a good thing to have, a thing that would make life even more pleasant than it was and would not in any way hinder my work. God did not give it to me. Why? I do not know all of His reasons, of course. The God who orchestrates the universe has a good many things to consider that have not occurred to me, and it is well that I leave them to Him. But one thing I do understand: He offers me holiness at the price of relinquishing my own will.

"Do you honestly want to know Me?" He asks. I answer yes. "Then do what I say," He replies. "Do it when you understand it; do it when you don't understand it. Take what I give you; be willing not to have what I do not give you. The very relinquishment of this thing that you so urgently desire is a true demonstration of the sincerity of your lifelong prayer: 'Thy will be done.'"

So instead of hammering on heaven's door for something that it is now quite clear God does not want me to have, I make my desire an offering. The longed-for thing is material for sacrifice. "Here, Lord, it's yours."

He will, I believe, accept the offering. He will transform it into something redemptive. He may perhaps give it back as He did Isaac to Abraham, but he will know that I fully intend to obey Him."

Excerpt from A Lamp Unto My Feet: The Bible's Light for Your Daily Walk, by Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids: Revell, 1985).

This is also included in the devotional, A GENTLE SPIRIT, compiled by Ashleigh Clayton. Ordering info for the devotional is in the post below.

Providence in Your Home and Homeschool

Isn't it true that there are many things that you or I have wanted and hoped for regarding our home or homeschool and God said, 'No'?

Our family could have turned to the government to accept a "stipend," but I had learned the concerns for doing that and that it's contrary to God's principles. So, I learned to accept when God says 'No' and to trust Him. God's sovereignty and God's providence reign higher than our *wants*.

Sometimes, those wants (vs. needs) were never allowed. However, sometimes in His own timing and in His own way God provided.

God knows what each child and family needs for true education. He can see what we cannot see. Sometimes, He's not making a way for something because:

- Maybe something will be a distraction from what truly matters.
- He's guarding us against being exposed to something that can harm our child or us—spiritually, physically, emotionally/mentally.
- He wants to equip an individual family member or the whole family or work on our character.
- He's preventing us from being distracted so that we remain busy about the work He has given us to do.
- He's preparing us for something He has in His plans for us later.

We must remember that He is Omniscient and we are not. Trust, patience, and obedience are required of us.

I do know and believe and trust that if God wills it for our family, He will provide it through:

- extra employment/a pay raise
- creativity and wisdom to save for that something
- a gift through someone responding to Him
- a service trade
- Dave Ramsey's method of "sell every personal item until the kids think they're next" . . .

Patience can be hard, but it isn't impossible. It's a character trait of love. Do I love God to where I trust Him and am patient? Do I accept His Sovereignty in the way that He designed the institutions of the individual, family, church/volunteer organizations, and limited civil government? Do I trust God's Providence and to where I will honor His principles and design of institutions and their functions?

Call to Action: Let us know in the community about how this message challenges and impacts you.

Providence in Your Home and Homeschool

Homeschool

Is it time to examine some internal issues? As homeschoolers, many of us have tight and limited budgets. We aren't a 'school' and yet we want much of what 'schools' offer and dictate that our children need. But, what is the Holy Spirit leading you in for *your* child? Will you trust God's sovereignty, timing, and provision? Will you trust when He says 'no'?

Assignment 2: Make a list of your wants for your home and homeschool. Just because it's a want it doesn't mean that God won't give it to us (in His timing and via His ways). As you make your list, decide if you will let it go instead of holding onto it tightly. Decide if you'll trust God and practice patience. Jot your commitment down at the end of your list.

Providence in History

His Story

So what we've been looking at are the *internal qualities* of ourselves and our children. These make up the internal qualities *of our families*. And, it's the same when it comes to history. The character of the people determines the character of a nation; we each need to develop and keep a character for Liberty. If we and our children can keep our own characters in mind in relation to our personal families, then it helps us to keep that association in mind as we study men and nations.

As we focus on God's sovereignty and providence in our lives, it helps us to keep both in mind throughout History— His Story. So, we're training our thinking this way in regard to ourselves, our children, and our family units. This helps our minds to be trained to think this way as we study men and nations.

We may not understand the '*whys*' behind God's timing for things—especially when some things are clearly opposite of what He says is righteous living. But we have to remember that God is One God working. **He** is good and **He** is patient. Will we choose patience?

God gives us all instructions for life in His Word. It takes mankind a long time to learn. How many years was it from the time of Christ's ministry on earth to the Bible being placed in the hands of the individual? How long had it been from the Bible being placed in the hands of the individual to America's form of government being instituted?

As we study history, we eventually see the internal qualities of God-loving, God-fearing individuals who begin to apply His principles externally to civil government. It's the seven basic founding principles, identified in *Teaching and Learning America's Christian History* by Rosalie J. Slater, that are the key principles to liberty for any nation.

One of the primary things to look for when looking for God's Providence in History is identifying the character of the people in relation to the character of their nation. Internal-to-external, cause-to-effect.

Assignment 1: Read about the nation of Israel in 1 Samuel 8 (when they want a king) and fill out the Quality of Character Chart on page 16.

Assignment 2: Learn about the Prophet Samuel and use the Providential Individuality Chart on page 17.

These charts will be tools for you as you study Bible and History.

Providence in History

His Story

Quality of Character Chart

Character of the People (internal qualities)

Character of the Nation (external qualities expressed by the people)

Character of Key Institutions and Events

Who or What Is in Control?

Providence in History

EXAMPLE

I don't want to give answers because then I'd be telling you *what* to think vs. helping you see *how* to think. Therefore, I'm giving you reasoning questions. However, if you still need help with getting it, please let me know.

His Story

Quality of Character Chart

Character of the People (internal qualities)

The elders of Israel:
- Who did they reject?
- Who were they coveting? Why?

The answers are in this passage, and they speak to their character.

Character of the Nation (external qualities expressed by the people)

The nation of Israel:
- Who did they serve?
- Who did they want to be like and in what way?

The answers are in this passage, and they speak to their character.

Character of Key Institutions and Events

The Key Institution (a king/monarchy) :
- Would they be under a governmental institution of tyranny or liberty? Explain.
- Would they be under an economic institution of socialism or free-market? Explain.
- The events are laid out in verses 11-17. These are key events because they would lead the nation into misery. They'd cause the nation to call out to God, but He would not hear them because He warned them and they still rejected His loving-kindness, care, and provision toward them as their King.

Who or What Is in Control?

Who or what was behind the decision that the nation took? Who were they ultimately submitting themselves to?

Providence in History

Providential Individuality Chart

Key Individual's Name: Life Dates:

The effect of the Key Individual's Response to Holy God.

How the Key Individual used God-given gifts, talents, and interests.

Key Individual's God-given gifts, talents, interest, and skills.

Providence in History

Providential Individuality Chart

EXAMPLE

Key Individual's Name: The Prophet Samuel

Life Dates: 1071 BC – 1012 BC

Key Individual's God-given gifts, talents, interest, and skills.

God gave Samuel:

- the gift of prophecy
- an interest in people (caring/a heart for them)
- strong communication skills
- What else can you learn of him from the Bible?

How the Key Individual used God-given gifts, talents, and interests.

Samuel answered Holy God with his life by:

- obeying His commands to prophecy to the people
- not beating around the bush
- clearly articulating what God had commanded him to say to the people
- What else can you learn of him from the Bible?

The effect of the Key Individual's Response to Holy God.

- Samuel did as God said and left the results up to Him.
- What else can you reason from the Bible passages?

Module 2 Review

In this module, you learned or reinforced the importance of:

- God's providence (care and provision)
- the individual's providence—being prudent in the management of one's concerns or private economy
- within the dichotomies of providence, mankind is limited and reliant upon God for our needs
- within the dichotomies of providence, God is unlimited in omniscience, care, and provision—He gives us what we need when we need it and how we need it to be provided to us

In this module, you reflect on:

- God's providence within your own life
- God's providence within your child's life
- God's providence within your home life
- God's providence within your homeschool
- the value of offering a nurturing and self-governed home
- God's providence within history
- the importance of the internal giving rise to the external
- the character of the individual makes up the character of the family unit

the character of the people makes up the character of a state/nation

In this module, you learned how to graphically organize and show your students:

- dichotomies from Webster's 1828 definitions and how to reason Biblcially from them
- the value of using the *My Providential History Timeline Chart (pages 3, 10)*
- the value of using the *Providential Setting and Sphere of Influence Chart (page 5)*
- the value of using a *Character Chart (page 16)*
- *the value of using a Providential Individuality Chart (page 17)*