



homeschool iowa

ENCOURAGING | EQUIPPING | PROTECTING | PROMOTING

SPRING/SUMMER 2020

Inside:

Four Tips for Determining
High School Credit

Creative Kids' Corner!

Curriculum Talk: Science

Help Your Kids Manage
Technology

You Want Them to
LOVE Learning?

and More!



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Montezuma, IA
Permit No. 30



faith baptist bible college
and theological seminary

Don't Settle For Just A Business Degree!

The next generation of men and women deserve an upgrade to the traditional business management degree. The Organizational Leadership Degree at Faith is a four-year bachelor's degree that crushes workplace expectations. Enroll now in this leading-edge degree and become part of the next generation of leaders!

Blend of business academics and real-world skills like critical thinking, team-building, and conflict resolution

40 credits of core Bible and counseling

Prepares graduates to work in sales, marketing, office administration, management, churches, camps, and more!

For more information visit faith.edu.



JARED BALDWIN
CHAIR, ORGANIZATIONAL
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Top Reasons to Join Homeschool Iowa

- Support the promotion and protection of homeschooling in Iowa
- Receive a bi-monthly members-only update
- Receive access to our website member portal with helpful resources and materials for our members only
- Have access to our Special Needs Advisors for help with your special needs students.
- Receive \$15 discount on HSLDA membership
- Receive a free 3-month trial subscription to SchoolhouseTeachers.com
- Receive member discount at our annual conference
- Be eligible to participate in our statewide homeschool graduation ceremony
- Be eligible to apply as a volunteer for our conference
- Be eligible for membership in the Homeschool Iowa chapter of the ESA National Home School Honor Society

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO JOIN HOMESCHOOL IOWA TODAY!
www.homeschooliowa.org

Your support helps provide an informative website, response services for homeschool questions, homeschool publications, a team of homeschool regional representatives, a statewide graduation, an annual conference with nationally-known speakers and Iowa's largest homeschool curriculum hall, legislative liaisons, Homeschool Day at the Capitol, assistance for homeschool groups and leaders, a statewide chapter of the Homeschool National Honor Society, and support for national homeschool research.

It's EASY to Join!

Scan the QR Code or register online at homeschooliowa.org. Your \$35 membership helps Homeschool Iowa serve Iowa's homeschooling families!



More about the HSLDA Discount

Homeschool Iowa members are eligible for a \$15 discount on Home School Legal Defense Association membership (new or renewal). When you join Homeschool Iowa, simply write the Homeschool Iowa Group Discount Number (available by emailing niche@homeschooliowa.org) on your HSLDA application or renewal form or sign up online: www.hsllda.org.

contents

SPRING 2020 | VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1

in every issue

- 4 Advertiser Index
- 6 Across the Street and Around the State
- 21 Homeschool Options

features

- 5 The Strength of Homeschooling in the Midst of a Pandemic
By Joe Bailey
- 8 You Want Them to LOVE Learning?
By Todd Wilson
- 10 Back Before I Knew Better
By Emily Barber
- 13 Four Tips for Determining High School Credit
By Lee Binz
- 14 Help Your Kids Manage Technology
By Leah Nieman
- 16 Creative Kids' Corner
- 18 Surviving and Thriving in Marriage
By Kim Stilwell
- 21 Finding A Curriculum That's Effective and Fun
By Lee Binz
- 24 Homeschool Teen Serve
By Phyllis Titus
- 26 More Than the Lillies of the Fields
By Lauren Johnson

advertiser index

Caitlin Hodenfield (caitlinhodnefieldauthor.squarespace.com) 19
 Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC.edu)..... 20
 Driver’s Education 101 (www.iowa.driverseducation101.com) 12
 Educational Resources (www.thekidfixer.net) 11
 Faith Baptist Bible College (www.faith.edu) 2
 Highlands Latin School (HighlandLatinsDSM.org) 22
 Monarch (discovermonarch.com) 27
 Reid Law Firm (www.treidlawfirm.com)..... 28
 Simply Fun (facebook.com/FunSchoolingFusion) 25

**Interested in advertising in Homeschool Iowa?
 Contact us at ads@homeschooliowa.org.**

what’s the point?

The Homeschool Iowa Board believes that even more important than quality academics is eternal salvation from the penalty and power of sin. While we come from different church backgrounds, we, with all true Christians, agree on the fundamentals of salvation:

1. All people are in rebellion against the God who created them and deserve eternal punishment for that rebellion (sin).
2. God, in love, sent His sinless Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross as payment for the sins of sinful humanity, rising again from the dead.
3. Jesus’ death and resurrection provide forgiveness of all sin and reconciliation with God to any who repent and believe in Him.
4. Salvation cannot be earned by any act on our part; it must be received as a free gift by faith in Jesus Christ alone.

If you’d like to talk more with someone about your relationship with Jesus Christ, we invite you to write niche@homeschooliowa.org for a confidential and biblical response.

Magazine

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Jenn Warren
EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS Sarah Dittmer and Julie Naberhaus
PRINCIPAL DESIGNER Jenn Warren
COVER PHOTO bigstockphoto.com
PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTRIBUTORS Bigstockphoto.com, Homeschool Teen Serve, Elizabeth Bailey
ADVERTISING COORDINATOR Joe Desaulniers
PRINTER Sutherland Printing, Montezuma, Iowa

Homeschool Iowa Officers

President Joe Bailey
Vice President Robert Sorensen
Treasurer Ivette Shover
Recording Secretary Julie Naberhaus

Board Members

Joe and Elizabeth Bailey
 Cathy and Robert Sorensen
 Darren and Jill Oppman
 Dan and Erin Watkins
 George and Kim Blom

Administrative Assistant

Julie Naberhaus

Contact Homeschool Iowa

EMAIL contact@homeschooliowa.org
VOICE MAIL (515) 478-5454
MAILING ADDRESS
 PO Box 158
 Dexter IA 50070
WEBSITE
www.homeschooliowa.org

Our Mission

Homeschool Iowa exists to:

- equip homeschooling families
- encourage home educators
- promote home education, and
- protect homeschooling freedom



Helping you homeschool with confidence since 1992!

**Your support helps us continue our work!
 Donate Today: homeschooliowa.org/donate**

Volume 10 Issue 3 *Homeschool Iowa* is a quarterly publication of Homeschool Iowa, a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the needs of home educators in Iowa. Contents of *Homeschool Iowa* are the property of Homeschool Iowa unless noted. Copyright 2019. The opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Homeschool Iowa. Advertisements and/or reviews do not indicate Homeschool Iowa endorsement. Homeschool Iowa reserves the right to refuse any article or ad deemed inappropriate for our publication. Advertising questions may be directed to ads@homeschooliowa.org. Submissions and letters addressed to *Homeschool Iowa* become the property of Homeschool Iowa with full publication rights unless otherwise requested. Homeschool Iowa membership information may be found on our website: www.homeschooliowa.org. Requests for permission to reprint contents of this magazine, or any other correspondence directed to *Homeschool Iowa*, should be addressed to *Homeschool Iowa* Editor, Box 158, Dexter, IA 50070 or editor@homeschooliowa.org.

The Strength of Homeschooling in the Midst of a Pandemic

JOE BAILEY, PRESIDENT



Church has been canceled, people are wearing masks, public school is on pause, the kids are getting cabin fever, the world has stopped and is trying to figure out how to start turning again. A lot has changed in the past couple months. On New Year's Eve, who could have predicted that 2020 would bring such panic and change?

Fortunately for us in the homeschool movement, we are in the best position of any demographic to thrive in the midst of this pandemic. We already train our children at home. Sure, it might be inconvenient that our favorite co-op or support group isn't meeting in person, but we already know how to keep our kids busy, happy, growing, and learning at home. Most of us have already figured out how to live on one income or how to work from home so that one parent can dedicate large amounts of time to teaching our children. To most families around us, this is a new reality that they are trying to grapple with. For us, we simply get to keep doing what we do well!

And even better, we can show the way for those around us. Every family is getting a taste of facilitating their child's education at home; unfortunately, not by choice, but, rather, by necessity! What a way to start! I have been so excited to see my homeschooling friends help provide answers to questions about how to parent children when they are with them all day long. Many are offering tips on low-cost and free education resources. And, best of all, we can encourage those who have been considering homeschooling and now may be deciding that this is the time to make the intentional switch to educating their children at home.

As an organization, Homeschool Iowa is excited about the opportunities out there. Sure, we are disappointed about needing to cancel or delay our main events, but this also opens up exciting opportunities for now and in the future. As a volunteer-run, work-from-home organization, our doors are still wide open to equip and encourage homeschooling families and promote and protect homeschool freedoms!

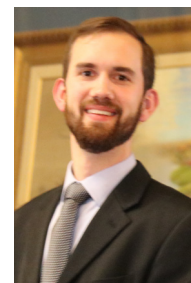
Our website and social media platforms are continuing to grow and improve. This pause in the action of in-person events has given us time and energy to focus on building more online resources. We are still writing and mailing our magazines to provide encouragement to families across the state. We have worked with Governor Reynold's office to help bring clarifications and waivers for homeschool filing deadlines, in-person meetings for supervising teachers, and testing requirements

that cannot be met due to school closures.

I am excited to share that we have not given up on in-person events! We have rescheduled our 2020 Homeschool Iowa Graduation service for August 1st. Instead of our annual conference, we are hosting an all-new event called Homeschool Iowa Connect the weekend of August 8th. We are also excitedly awaiting the opportunity to schedule more Homeschool 101 events across the state once meeting size restrictions start to lift. Of course, we realize that there is risk that even these later events could be canceled, but we are hopeful that they won't! I am incredibly proud of our volunteers who have helped pivot to these new and exciting opportunities in the face of this pandemic. "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28, NKJV)

Indeed, there is much to be thankful for, but there is also a lot to do. Would you join us? Would you please consider taking additional steps to support the Iowa homeschool cause? Become a member today. Membership is the primary way we fund our ministry. Consider volunteering. We are constantly in need of help in sustaining and growing our events and services. Most importantly, please pray for families educating their children at home and our efforts to support and encourage them. God has uniquely equipped us as Christian home educators to thrive and minister in the midst of this Coronavirus pandemic.

Joe and Elizabeth Bailey have been married since 2012 and have five children. Joe was homeschooled K-12 and was involved with his local homeschool choir, volunteering for Homeschool Iowa, 4-H, First Lego League, and running his own lawn care business. Joe went on to receive his B.S. degree in Mechanical and Welding Engineering from LeTourneau University. Joe now works as a weld engineer at Vermeer Corp. is currently serving as Homeschool Iowa President. Joe & Elizabeth are both passionate about securing homeschooling freedoms for their own children and for future generations.



... we already know how to keep our kids busy, happy, growing, and learning at home.



Across the Street & Around the State

with the Homeschool Iowa Facebook Discussion Group

Curriculum Talk: Science

Science is a topic that has come up on our Facebook Discussion Board several times over the past few months. One member asked for science recommendations for her elementary-aged student who she was starting to homeschool this year. Her son really enjoyed the experiments and other hands-on science activities that his public school teacher had done, so she wanted to be sure to find a science curriculum that would help her to offer those same things.

Jennifer C. responded, and recommended asking the child what he wanted to study, and then building out from there, including field trips, science experiments to compliment the study, and assigning a couple of fun projects, such as a poster or a video report to summarize what he was learning. She also reassured this new-to-homeschooling mom by telling her, "I don't think it will take much for your homeschool science to be super cool!" For textbooks, Jennifer recommended the Berean Builders Science texts, which incorporate easy experiments that only call for common household things into the lesson plans.

Elementary Science:

The science discussions continued, evolving into discussions of how our younger kids have learned science the best, and which curricula and supplemental resources have been the most valuable for our various families.

Laura E. and Angela L. contributed to the discussion by recommending the science subscription boxes, Magic School Bus, and Steve Spangler Science. They also mentioned that YouTube has several channels dedicated to easy science experiments for kids that are very helpful when you are planning out a series of lessons. Laura also mentioned that her library and the local science museums often offer fun classes and activities that she will enroll her kids in. Jenn W. mentioned that a couple of the YouTube channels her kids enjoy are "Absolute Genius" and "Junior Vets."

Natalie S. said that her family has enjoyed "Science in the Beginning." She went on to say that "Every lesson has a simple 5-minute-or-less experiment with materials that can be found around the home or are really easy to get your hands on. The whole thing costs \$35, and it's scaled with review questions and assignments, so I can do the same curriculum with my Kindergartener, 4th grader, and 5th grader, and they all love it."

Nicole M. Uses an interactive science curriculum from Pearson because "It has easy fun experiments, good explanations for the ages, colorful, and keeps the kids engaged."

Nicole H recommended Easy Peasy, who offers all of their sciences online. She said, "We're doing physics/chemistry this year for 5th,

and will restart the cycle next year with earth science. We really enjoy the classes. My son is fully engaged and enjoys the experiments and projects offered each year, and I love that the course is free and the materials are inexpensive and are often already here at home. Plus, everything is presented from a Christian point of view."

Jenn W. said that she is supplementing her normal science curriculum with CrossWired Science because her kids "like a LOT of science, so we always supplement our primary science curriculum." CrossWired Science is an online, creation-based science curriculum with quizzes after each video and printable workbooks.

Sarah M's family enjoys the "Answers in Genesis" science series because it is "adaptable to different age levels and for families to use together." She also said that the experiments are usually things that the kids can do themselves with things that are already around the house.



Jill O., one of our Homeschool Iowa Regional Representatives, encourages moms to "take advantage of just going outside and exploring! The warmer weather of summer and fall is a great time to study anything outdoors, like birds and their calls, butterflies, bugs, the night sky, constellations, trees and leaves, flowers, etc. You could even learn about how things work by building a treehouse or fort, how about a trebuchet!" She goes on to say, "Think outside the box and follow through with more things that peaks the interest of your child. Remember to have fun, and that the beauty of homeschooling is that we can do what works best for our family dynamics and personalities! Give your children a strong foundation and a love for learning - the rest will fall into place nicely!"

Bev U. said that her kids enjoyed a science-in-a-bottle kit that she bought at a local bookstore. The kit included several weather experiments along with some other hands-on topics.

Jennifer J. said that her family has a book called "How Does God Do That?" which covers earth science, space, basic biology, and basic anatomy. She said, "It's fun, interesting, has easy projects and I go through it and pair Magic School Bus episodes that correlate with the lessons. I've used it for five of my kiddos so far, and they've all enjoyed it."



Teresa O., our Dubuque area Homeschool Iowa Regional Representative, said that science is one of the subjects that she preferred to teach by experience instead of a textbook. She goes on to say "I LOVED crazy, messy science, but there are plenty of things to do without trashing your kitchen. Or you can do experiments outside. If you want some sort of curricula to follow, check out TOPS Science." Teresa also recommended trying the Charlotte-Mason method of learning science, especially for young students, "Read, observe, and keep an informal notebook."



Upper Grades:

Science in the upper grades is another frequent topic of discussion. In response to a question about what other families use for general high school science, Jennifer J. said they had started using Master Books with her oldest studying life science and her younger child studying astronomy. Jennifer said that both of her kids appreciated the mix of books and videos to learn from, and that her daughter “especially loves that it makes her think deeper and ask better questions.” Aaron B. said that his family also uses Master Books and appreciates the Christian worldview of the curriculum.

Melissa L. recommends Schoolhouseteachers.com because of their wide variety of options. (Bonus! You get 3 months of Schoolhouse Teachers FREE with a Homeschool Iowa membership!)

Kae M. said “We are liking the ‘Friendly’ series. We’re currently making our way through ‘Friendly Biology.’ We subscribe to the videos as well as use the textbook and workbook. There are labs with more basic materials as well.” Kristyn Y. also recommends the Friendly courses.

Brooke L. has been pleased with the DIVE science classes, an online option with an online textbook, video lecture, and labs. She said that her son is planning to do chemistry with Dr. Wile through the Berean Builders curriculum next year.

Pro Tip One of our Regional Representatives, Shellie A., said that she and her kids enjoyed studying forensics one year. Shellie developed a unit study using Forensic science books from Rainbow Resources, Christian Book Distributors, and other sources.

Penny S. and Annie N. said that they use the BJU Press distance learning science classes with Annie saying “It’s a bit labor intensive, but it’s SO amazing! Once you beat the learning curve to get it organized, it’s seriously wonderful because it has everything you need in one place! It’s super colorful, and the teachers are great.”

Pro Tip Teresa O. reminded us that the local collage is a great source for science classes when your kids are in high school. They could take Biology 101, Chemistry 101, or other basic science classes there.

Biology:

Andrea V. is in the researching stage of building out the biology curricula for her 10th grader. She shared the list of options that she is considering “in hopes that it gives you some ideas too.” She also said, “I’m leaning toward something that has a video component to it but also uses a textbook. I’m considering Devotional Biology (Compass Classroom), Friendly Biology (and maybe adding in the Biology 101 DVDs), Science Shepherd, DIVE Biology, and Guest Hollow Biology.”

Pro Tip For Biology, Cathy S., our Regional Representatives Coordinator, said that her family was very happy with Abeka saying, “The textbook is so well written, much like the living books we were used to, and the lab portion was fun and fit in with our hands-on style. We invited three other students to join us for the labs, and it was a great experience. We included a few field trips as well (one to the animal lab in Ames). It was one of the few textbooks that included the Human Body, which, for me, as a nurse, was important too.”

Chemistry:

For Chemistry, Lisa C., Anne C., and Aaron B. all recommend the older editions of the Apologia curriculum. Teresa O. said that Dr. Wile republished that older text as “Discovering Design with Chemistry.” Lauren J. is a homeschool graduate who says “I’m a homeschool alumni who was not wired for chemistry, but LOVED Apologia.”

Friendly Chemistry was also recommended by several people including Cindy W., who said, “I finally understand chemistry!”

Each Monday in the Homeschool Iowa Discussion Group on Facebook we have a feature we call “Across the Street & Around the State.” We ask questions and seek to learn more about each other. We know that not everyone sees those posts on Facebook, so we decided to bring that discussion to the magazine, choosing some of our most popular topics to share and expand on. For this issue, we’re talking about science curriculum! In the next couple of issues, we will talk about math, language arts, history, and other electives. If you have resources to recommend please email them to us at editor@homeschooliowa.org so that we can include your recommendations in the discussion.

We have highlighted recommendations from our team of Regional Representatives with a “Pro Tip” icon. These ladies are experienced homeschooling moms who are available to help you. Find them on our website at homeschooliowa.org/resources/regional-representatives/.

Recommended Curricula & Resources:

So many great options were mentioned in our online science discussions that we thought it would be easiest for you to do some of your own research if we simply listed the options mentioned here!

- Abeka Science
- Answers in Genesis
- Apologia
- Berean Builders Science
- BJU Press Science
- Compass Classroom
- CrossWired Science
- DIVE Science
- Easy Peasy (All-In-One Homeschool)
- Friendly Science
- Guest Hollow Science
- How Does God Do That?
- Magic School Bus kits
- MasterBooks
- Pearson Science
- Science in the Beginning
- Science Shepherd
- SchoolhouseTeachers.com
- Spangler Science kits
- TOPS Science

Online Catalogs with a wide variety of options:

- Christian Book Distributors
- Home Science Tools
- Nature’s Workshop (also has a store)
- Rainbow Resources

Additional places to look for inspiration and study tools:

- Local Library
- NASA website & YouTube channel
- Science Museums, in person and check their websites. Many of these museums have online demonstrations, or supplemental study information designed for students.
- Science kits at retail stores - Hobby Lobby, bookstores, WalMart, etc...
- STEM Fairs
- YouTube kids’ science channels
- Zoo websites



You Want Them to *Love* Learning?

BY TODD WILSON, HOMESCHOOL IOWA CONNECT 2020 SPEAKER

As I write this, the world is trying to figure out how to get back to normal after the COVID-19 pandemic. To tell you the truth, I'm ready for normal; at the same time, knowing that once we get back to normal, I'll be wishing we were back in the not-normal days of staying home, not running from place to place, and enjoying undiluted family time.

It feels like a LONG spring break as schools are shut down and even our homeschool has suffered from the lack of motivation. (I keep telling my wife to quit for the year, but she's still plugging away.)

I know that many homeschooling moms struggle through these wonderful times because they feel the guilt of shirking school responsibilities. I read their posts and hear their hearts. They press on at times where they should rest because they fear... EVERYTHING.

These moms are afraid their kids will get behind; afraid that they'll forget what they learned; afraid that they won't ever lead productive lives, get into college, or land successful careers. That fear drives parents to push, cram, and stuff as much school into their lives and heads as humanly possible. They're susceptible to every "expert" and philosophy that shows up in homeschool conventions and social media posts.

The homeschool movement coined and promoted the idea of fostering a love of learning; yet, most homeschooling moms have fostered a "hate" of learning. Instead of inspiring their children to love exploration, discovery, and learning, all of which

homeschool SHOULD foster, moms find their children fighting them tooth and nail to "do school."

Let me just say from the start that I BELIEVE homeschooling should foster the love of learning in our children. Its very design enables learning to be experienced in a way NO public or private school can provide. So why is it not the case in most homeschools?

I think the answer is simple. We've believed and adopted some ideas that are not true and that *kill inspiration* and the *love of learning*

Here they are:

- Longer is better
- More is better
- Earlier is better
- Harder is better
- Classics are better
- Busy is better
- Textbooks are better
- Standard courses are better
- A's are better

Now, I'm not going to give away the whole farm (*you'll need to come to the Homeschool Iowa Connect event this year to hear the full blown thoughts on this topics*) but let's just look at a couple of those "wrong ideas."

Longer is Better

We've been taught wrongly that if our kids spend more time doing something they'll learn more. That's just not true. And even if they did learn more, they often end up hating the very thing they spent so much time doing. I'd even go as far as to say

There is nothing noble about beating everyone to the end of the race.

SHORTER is better.

Think about all the articles, posts, and YouTube videos out there. They're short, brief, and cut away all the fat. That's because more learning takes place in smaller chunks. Your mind (and the minds of your children) starts to cloud over after a while until learning stops, along with the enjoyment.

So practically, that means spending a shorter day of homeschooling is better than spending a longer day. Yes, you can be done with the "book learning" by noon, even in higher grades. It also means your individual subjects and lessons are shorter. An hour of math, science, or anything else is too long. Don't tell me why I'm wrong and that your kids have to spend more time to get it. It's an excuse, and it kills learning.

More is better

I'll just say right off: More is worse and less is better, especially at the beginning. I'd rather my children know that dolphins can jump high, swim fast, and do a lot of other cool things than to tell me what kingdom, class, phylum, whatever they're in. That stuff is boring and only used if your child becomes a biologist or textbook writer.

Keep the subjects shallow at first so that your kids can get a taste of what they might like to learn more about later. Don't sweat the technical stuff. Expose them to the engaging parts. I often wonder how many kids who liked plants got turned off on plants because all the textbooks talk about is the pistils and stamens, forgetting the cool plants that eat insects, close up at a human touch, or live to be 5,000 years old.

Earlier is better

What is with homeschoolers trying to get a jump on the rest of the world in learning? I can't tell you how many parents come up and say, "I'm burnt out on homeschooling, and my child is four." Then I learn they're doing five hours of school each day, and they're reading chapter books.

Yes, I know some kids get it early. But maybe even then, EARLY isn't better. Maybe it's better to have young children who play instead of do school, middle schoolers who still work on multiplication instead of Algebra, and kids who graduate at 18 instead of 15.

There is nothing noble about beating everyone to the end of the race. In fact, I believe if we start too early and push too hard, it kills the love of learning. Just relax, and let your kids move at their own pace. If you have a child who you think is a school whiz, you might even apply the brakes slightly so they can enjoy being a child just a little bit longer, because some of those kids who can handle the "upper courses" can't handle the emotional pressure that comes with it.

Are you starting to get the idea? To inspire your children, keep school short, make the topics broad, give them lots of time to explore and discover, and keep video games to a bare minimum.* And if you aren't smiling and your kids aren't smiling, there is no love of learning taking place.

We'll talk more about this topic when I see you in August!! Mark your calendars and save the date! August 8 at Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny for the Homeschool Iowa Connect event!

Todd

**You decide what's too much. For my family, an hour a day is too much. Maybe it's different for you, just don't fall into the trap that "free time = video time."*



AUGUST 8, 2020

In this year of cancellations and changed plans, Homeschool Iowa is still here to help homeschooling parents! Plan to attend the first-ever Homeschool Iowa Connect event for a dose of encouragement and fellowship!

BONUS:

Homeschool 101 Session especially for brand-new homeschoolers



FEATURED SPEAKER: Todd Wilson

Familyman, father of eight, grandpa, author, and speaker, Todd Wilson is passionate about what matters, offering his own special blend of laughter, realness, and practical Biblical encouragement.

familymanweb.com
and thesmilinghomeschooler.com

Do some SHOPPING!



Heppner's Legacy
Homeschool Resources
www.legacyhomeschool.com

Plan to Join Us!

homeschooliowa.org/events-page/connect/

Faith Baptist Bible College, Nettleson Center
1900 NW 4th Street, Ankeny, Iowa



Back Before I Knew Better

BY EMILY BARBER

Growing up I was raised in a family where my parents didn't have much debt and didn't use credit cards. We didn't get everything that we wanted, but we certainly didn't go without. My brother and I were taught that you worked hard and saved up your money for what you wanted. Credit cards weren't even discussed as it wasn't a way of life.

I remember shopping for my first car. I had driven a few hand-me-downs that were on their last leg, but now it was time for me to look at a "new to me" car. My parents had already advised against getting a new car or even a fancy one. I needed one that was reliable and solid. My car needed to be practical and get me through college. We finally found a 1989 Buick Regal that met all the requirements, and I bought it. I can tell you now, over 20 years later, I still talk about what a great car that was. I would have kept it until it didn't run anymore, but I got hit about a month before I graduated from radiography school, totaling my car. My parents had an old Ford Ranger that they loaned me to get around until everything was settled from the accident and I could get a different car.

Fast forward a couple of months, and I had graduated and landed my first "real" job. I had worked my way through school, but now I was making more money than I had ever made before! If I remember correctly, I was making just under \$14/hour. If you asked me, I had hit the lottery. I had been sent to ultrasound training, so I would be looking at another raise, plus call once I was trained. This "hit the lottery" mindset, along with a belief that I had worked hard and deserved a nice car laid the foundation for a series of decisions I would later come to regret.

Since I was looking for a car again, I turned to my dad for advice, who advised me to proceed carefully and resist the urge to get into car payments. I had often depended on the wise counsel of my

parents, but this advice directly contradicted my desire! You see, I had found the car that I wanted. It was a Mitsubishi Galant, and the payments were only going to be \$284/month. I justified that first debt because I had a great job and the payment wouldn't be hard to make on my current salary.

My parents came down and looked at the car. They agreed it was a nice car, but challenged me to consider if I really needed to spend that much money and take on the burden of car payments. Well, I can tell you that my answer then is different than what I would answer today. I got the car. I LOVED that car. It was sporty, had a sunroof (my first one EVER) and was a beautiful dark green. I swear, when I looked at that car, it sparkled, just like in the commercials. It was a great car. Do I regret getting the car? Not necessarily, but I do regret the wheels of motion that were put in place by that one decision.

Because I was now comfortable with having debt, it was easy to begin adding to that debt. The summer that my husband and I got married, we took a trip to Michigan for a NASCAR race with some friends who had gotten us the tickets as a wedding present. We needed a vehicle that would comfortably fit us all in there. Neither my small sporty car nor my husband's Jeep were big enough, so we decided that we both had good jobs and could afford it, so we traded in the Jeep and got a brand-new Dodge Dakota and more debt.

Soon we also had a house and a Lowe's card. Then we wanted new furniture, so we financed some from Furniture Row. Then we had another card, this one for our glasses and contacts. We had a baby, and I needed new clothes. So that added a Maurice's card and other store cards to my wallet.

Can you see the trend? I woke up one day, 27 years old, with a toddler and a baby on the way, perplexed because although both

my husband and I had good jobs, we didn't have much money in the bank. It didn't make sense. I thought I was good at handling money because we could make all of our payments, and we didn't have any "credit card" debt.

The reason I have "credit card" in quotes is that I didn't consider it credit card debt because I wasn't writing a check to Visa, Mastercard, or Discover. The bulk of our debt was in vehicle payments, but we had also bought a house, and then there were all of those store cards I mentioned earlier. In my mind, none of those were "credit cards," but that's exactly what they were. The payments were draining us. When we sat down and added it up, we had accumulated \$64,000 in debt. I am embarrassed to say, we did it unknowingly. We had no idea how much debt we had gotten into because we were only looking at the payments.

We got on a plan, got embarrassed and mad, and went to work about getting out of debt. We figured out the correct way to create a budget, or spending plan. This was one of the most instrumental things we did in gaining control back. I didn't realize you had to make a plan BEFORE the month started. What a concept!

I wish I could say that we were committed and intentional about our get-out-of-debt journey, but we wandered for a while. We didn't take on any new debt during this time, but we took vacations and still did a lot of unnecessary spending. We have now been out of debt for 5 years. We drive a 2007 Chevy Impala and a 2010 Chevy Traverse, both with over 170,000 miles on them. I can tell you that I wish we would have been more intentional about getting out of debt. Actually, I wish I would have listened to my parents in the beginning. Getting out of debt has changed our lives, our marriage, and our outlook on life!

I find that many people are in the same boat. We wander into debt because, in all honesty, that's what society tells us to do. We aren't looking at the big picture, just the small bite-sized snapshots advertisers tell us to look at. We are trained not to ask about how much it costs, but instead, how much is the payment. We are told that of course we deserve the big house, the nice car, and all the things our hearts desire. I am not here to tell you that you don't deserve them. I think you do. I

AM here to encourage you to approach these purchasing decisions with patience.

My parents modeled fiscal responsibility and patience, but those are two lessons I had to learn on my own. Patience is one of the best lessons we can learn when it comes to

managing our money well: Patience to save up for what we want, patience to know that where we are spending our money is where we truly wanted it to go. Learning patience as a principle of money management helps us avoid buyer's remorse the day after a shopping spree or the next month when that first payment rolls around.

Patience is easier to learn when we are shown why it is valuable. Looking back, it would have been so helpful for me to have had some intentional training in money management to show me this before college, a course that

would have prepared me for the decisions that I would have to face, a course that would have shown me the consequences of making those decisions, decisions that seemed harmless at the time, but ended up having long-term consequences. My parents were great examples and they talked with me about money, but I still entered adulthood ill-equipped to deal with the sales pitches I encountered every time I shopped, to sign up for a store card in order to get a discount, to go ahead and finance that car that's a little more than I should spend and lock myself into a 6-year payment plan, or to "buy now, pay later" to get the living room set I wanted.

The older we get, the harder it is to make changes. The deeper in debt that we get, the longer it takes to dig ourselves out. I challenge parents to not only take control of their own finances and model good financial management, but to also make sure that their kids are taught financial management in an intentional way. Teach your kids to shop for groceries with a list and a budget. Teach them about utilities, and explore ways to reduce your utility usage. Talk about how much time and money interest adds to a loan. Look for money management courses for your teens that teach them about the value of budgeting. Help set your kids on a path for financial success in the long term by being as intentional about their financial education as you are about teaching them to read.

*Emily Barber, Financial Coach with Take Control Financial.
Learn more at www.takecontrolfinancial.com*

Patience is one of the best lessons we can learn when it comes to managing our money well...



**EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCE
ASSOCIATES**



Frustrated with the education your child is receiving?

Afraid to homeschool?

We can give you the confidence you deserve!

Testing

Teaching Assistance

**Clinical Programs
designed to catch-up skills
Quickly!**

Judy Hintz, M.S.E.

*Licensed as a Iowa Special
Education Consultant
(Dyslexia), Trained
Diagnostician*

educationalresource@thekidfixer.com

(515) 225-8513

www.thekidfixer.com



Perfect for Homeschoolers

Teach Your Students How To Drive!



Driver's Education 101™

O n l i n e D r i v e r ' s E d

Parent Taught. Student Tested. DOT Approved.

Approved By



Iowa DOT



Get the driver's education you need to meet Iowa DOT requirements!



Easy-to-understand driving activities for parents and students.



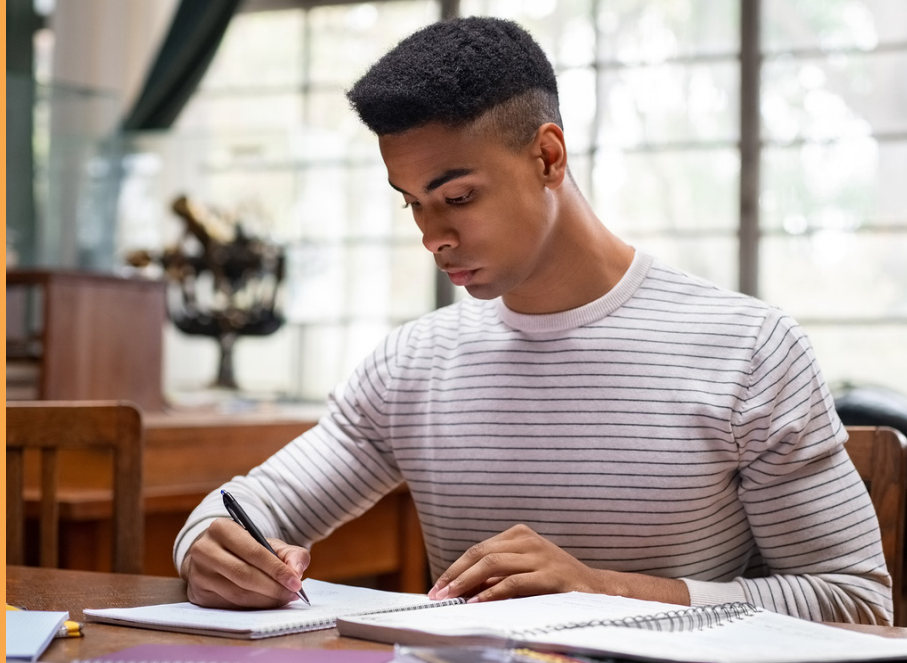
Online lessons with audio narration, 3D driving videos, and practice quizzes.

Sign Up Now!

Call: **1 (800) 430-5922** Or Go To: **<http://Iowa.DriversEducation101.com/>**

Four Tips for Determining High School Credit

BY LEE BINZ, THE HOMESCHOLAR



Some things about homeschooling high school are really not hard. Scary words like “grades” and “credits” can be simple when you know the easy way to do it! Let me take away that worry for you and show you the easy way to calculate high school credits. You’ll be amazed at how simple it is.

Tip 1: Credit for high school level work at any age

High school credit can be awarded at any age. If your child is younger than high school age but is doing high school level work, you can include that work on their high school transcript. Once they have completed something that is high school level, include it on their transcript. This tip is particularly helpful for gifted young children.

The big question is, how do you know something is high school level?

You’ll know because someone will tell you. The textbook publisher can be helpful. When Saxon says Algebra 1 is a high school freshman course, then you record it as such. If Apologia labels their Biology text as high school level, then you can feel confident doing the same. You can also determine high school level curriculum according to its catalog listing. A Rainbow Resource or Sunlight catalog might say something is appropriate for a 9th through 12th grader, for example.

If an accrediting agency identifies a course as high school level, then the course is high school level for your student as well. For example, Rainbow Science is often considered high school level general science if you complete it in one year. Sometimes the parent will simply know best. If you supplement a curriculum heavily, perhaps you will know it is high school level, even if the textbook wasn’t designed as a one-year course.

Tip 2: Credit for work completed at high school age

Give high school credit for every class your student completes at high school age. Whether a high school student takes a class at home, in a co-op, or in a school setting, it goes on their transcript if they are high school age. This tip is particularly helpful if you have a student that struggles in one area or more.

It may seem obvious enough if your child is working at grade level and doing typical high school classes, but what about other situations? If your child was in public school and was not quite

up to grade level in English, it would still be included on their transcript. Each class would be labeled accurately – “Remedial English” or “Basic English Composition” – but the class would still be on the transcript. Whether your child is above or below grade level when they are doing work at high school age, it should be included on their transcript.

This does *not* mean, however, that you have to graduate every student when they reach a certain number of high school credits. You determine graduation requirements for your child. You can decide if they will graduate in five years instead of four, for example.

Tip 3: Credit for college level work at any age

If your child does any college level work, include it on their transcript. This works for public schooled children as well, so don’t think for a minute that you’re cheating. When a child is enrolled in a public school and in a community college at the same time, it’s called “Dual Enrollment.” The student can receive high school credit and college credit at the same time.

You will know it’s college level material when your child can pass a college level test, like a CLEP or AP exam. Students attending community college while in high school are doing college level work. Your transcript should include all college level courses, including dual enrollment in community college, AP exams, CLEP tests, and any college credit earned with correspondence school or distance learning.

Tip 4: Credit based on demonstrated expertise

If a student is working with adult level expertise, you can give them high school credit. For example, if your child has their work published in a magazine, they are functioning on an adult level in their area of specialization. I know a homeschooled student who was published in National Geographic. He wrote an article on the migratory patterns of birds and sketched all the artwork himself. This certainly demonstrates expertise! Feel confident about including that level of expertise on your transcript.

Lee Binz, The HomeScholar is a dynamic homeschool speaker and author. She understands what it takes to graduate homeschool students who are fully prepared for college and for life. Lee’s mission is to encourage and equip parents to homeschool through high school. Sign up for her free homeschool e-newsletter, The HomeScholar Record, at www.HomeHighSchoolHelp.com. You can also find her at [Facebook.com/TheHomeScholar](https://www.facebook.com/TheHomeScholar).

Help Your Kids *Manage* Technology

BY LEAH NIEMAN



Step out into a group of people and look around. It's clear we are looking at our smartphones more than we are looking at each other. It's clear many adults are struggling to manage technology. Should we be more proactive in making sure we take steps to ensure we help our kids manage technology?

The ability to manage our time wisely isn't a new problem. Before the digital age, there were plenty of ways to avoid unpleasant tasks or people. We've long used the term "veg out and watch TV." You can even ignore the real world by reading books. These activities aren't wrong, but when they hinder our ability to work and function, they become a problem.

What makes apps different is the makers are using techniques to deliberately draw us in and keep us engaged in the app. This means instead of just using the app when we have nothing better to do, we're enticed to interact with the app regularly.

So how do we teach kids to manage technology they use so all those apps they use don't end up managing them? By understanding the techniques and tricks developers use to keep all of us glued to our smartphone.

AUTOPLAY

The autoplay feature keeps video content served up in a never-ending supply. Your video ends and you don't even have to lift a finger to begin the next one. No decision needed. The next video is presented and played for you. Netflix, YouTube, Amazon, and Hulu all employ autoplay to keep users engaged on their service. Binging on a series is almost a bragging right.

Autoplay isn't a feature used on streaming services only. Both Snapchat and Instagram use the autoplay feature on their stories. Watch the story for one friend, and stories from everyone on your list autoplay with no effort on your part. Meaning a quick check-in on a friend's story can easily turn into a 30-minute block of your day as you watch story after story.

Be the Master: Autoplay is typically on by default. Be the master of your time by turning the feature off. Autoplay can usually be turned off by going into the settings for the app.

NOTIFICATIONS

Notifications are those little pokes from the apps we use. Developers let us know everything when it comes to our account on their app: when we receive a friend request, when someone "likes" our post, when we should watch a video from a friend. These notifications literally disrupt the flow of our day, and at times, dominate our schedule.

This sort of behavior would be viewed as invasive if there was a human face behind it. Imagine your boss or mother popping in your office every 20 minutes to let you know "your Instagram photo received a new like" or "it's time to enter your breakfast into your fitness app." However, these disruptions in our day from a faceless app developer are viewed as helpful. Virtually every app uses them.

TikTok is constantly telling kids to check out the daily video with a quick-witted message. Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram all send notifications unless you opt out of them.

Notifications are so powerful they've been called the "*Pavlovian bell of the 21st century*." Constant notifications urging us to check our apps enforce a habit. And these habits not only interrupt our day, they often cause us stress.

Be the Master: Turn off notifications for the apps you use. Instead, select the time each day you want to check notifications for your apps. Allot an amount of time for checking and responding to any requests. If you need to leave notifications on for certain apps, leave them on only for people, not businesses. And narrow it down to only friends, if possible.

COLORFUL SHINY SCREENS

Colors are carefully selected by developers for their apps. There is a reason app icons are so attractive and colorful. They act like digital candy, giving our brains a shiny reward every time we unlock the screen.

Be the Master: Imagine walking to the kitchen to check on a beautiful plate of cookies every 15 minutes. How many times would you go to the kitchen and not eat a cookie? Not only would you not be managing your time well, but your will power would be tested to the max. The same can be said for our colorful shiny screens. Set your phone to grayscale to remove that positive reinforcement your brain receives every time you open your device. This is a simple way to manage technology! Doing so helps many people check their phone less. Give it a try and see if it works for you.

FOMO

Fear of missing out is a real thing. In fact, the term was added to the Oxford English Dictionary in 2013. And, a study in 2013 stated: *"FOMO is characterized by the desire to stay continually connected with what others are doing."*

App developers have used this to encourage users to engage more with their platforms. We see this in fitness apps like Life-Sum, where users select a goal. The app then tracks progress and sends notifications throughout the day on progress, and sends encouragement to stay on target. You don't want to miss your goal. Or miss out on the reward of meeting the goal.

Be the Master: Carefully select apps you use to help you reach your goals. Focus on one or two goals at a time and decide when and how it's best to enter your goals so the notifications serve as encouraging reminders and don't interrupt the flow of your day.

VARIABLE RATIO SCHEDULE

This method isn't new to technology. In fact, it's been employed by casinos for years. The concept refers to the randomness at which a reward is given. It's exactly how slot machines work. A player pulls the lever. They immediately see a small reward, a big reward, or no reward at all, but, the wheel spins showing them the results are coming. Twitter using this exact methodology. Go to your feed. Pull down on the to see a result: a few new tweets, a large number of new tweets, or no new tweets from your friends.

Be the Master: Turn off notifications for the apps you use. You can do this in your phone's settings and in the apps' settings themselves, then select a time each day to check your feeds.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Many games offer a free version. Then they use an in-app purchase that allows you to level up or unlock additional features. The more you play, the more the companies learn about your preferences. Many games connect to Facebook so they access your friends list and gather additional data about you.

Be the Master: Be selective about the games you play. It's better to purchase a game from a developer who has a reputation of protecting their customer data.

SOCIAL RECIPROCITY

You do me a favor, and I'll do one for you. Our human nature is to reciprocate. We say "You're welcome" to a "Thank you." We acknowledge an email. And, we follow back on social media when followed. Developers know this. And they've skillfully tapped into our instincts by sending us notifications letting us know someone has sent us a friend request or liked something we've shared. We immediately feel a social obligation to reciprocate. It's why teens launch into SnapStreaks, and why adults feel the need to connect

with suggested new connections on LinkedIn.

Be the Master: Gut check why you follow someone or like a post. Is it out of obligation? If so, that like is just cluttering your social media feed. People and things we follow should offer real value and enrich our lives.

YOU CAN'T EAT JUST ONE

Some apps give you just a bite, then make you hungry for more. Chat fiction apps, like Hooked and Hoot, do this. So do many news organizations. They give readers a small taste of a story, then set a restriction or payment for immediate access to the full story.

Be the Master: If you want to read the content, pay for it. The drip method for obtaining the content you want will eat up valuable time. You'll be reading in 5-minute spots here and there throughout your day.

GAMIFICATION

Gamification isn't new. In fact, applying game-based activities to real world applications has been used throughout the course of history. However, we've had a rapid increase in the adoption of smartphone use and time spent on social media. Society spends more and more time online, so much so that the boundary between our online and real life increasingly blurs.

This means gamification for virtually any type of app works, and works well. We see gamification in map apps like Waze. We see gamification in apps that help keep us healthy and fit. And we see some of the most popular dating apps like Tinder and Bumble all using gamification. Some of the most challenging moments in life are a game.

Be the Master: Gut check the usefulness of apps that are highly gamified. Are there other options which accomplish the same job? If so select these apps instead. Use an app timer to keep track of how much time you are spending on apps that are highly gamified. Technology should help us be more productive. There is nothing wrong with an app that is gamified. Master and manage technology well by making wise choices about which apps increase your productivity and which are daily/weekly time wasters.

REPACKAGING YOUR PREFERENCES

Music and streaming apps know users need to find the app valuable; otherwise, they won't continue using the service. Or developers strive to move users to the paid subscription. So they carefully curate content based on what you watch/listen to and create additional lists for you. This can be a new "Good Morning" playlist or a list of sitcoms based off other shows you've recently viewed.

Be the Master: Stick with one streaming service for music and one for television/movies. It will keep your costs down and keep your recommendations more refined as the service gets more in tune with your preferences over time.

We're still learning much about the pitfalls and benefits of technology. Understanding these tricks and discussing them in our homes is the first step in helping our kids as they learn to manage technology. We are the primary role models for our kids. When we discuss and model how to manage technology wisely, we not only help ourselves, we build a generation of strong digital citizens.

*Leah is a wife and mom of 2 homeschool graduates. She's a popular speaker who encourages parents to walk with their kids through the world of social media and technology so we raise a generation of digitally responsible young adults. You can find her eBooks *Connected: Apps All Parents Should Know*, *Let's Get Social: A Straightforward Guide for Kids on Social Media*, and *Connected: A Parent's Guide to Snapchat*, as well as tips on technology and social media at leahnieman.com.*



Creative Kids' Corner

We want to feature YOU!

All homeschooled students, ages 18 and younger, are encouraged to submit for consideration original stories & poems, pictures of LEGO creations or other crafts, original drawings, photographs and MORE to: editor@homeschooliowa.org.

Please include your age and city/county with your submission. Any student with an item selected to be published in the *Homeschool Iowa Magazine* will be contacted via email prior to publication.

VALOR

We challenged kids in our last issue to be creative with "Valor" the theme for our theme for Kids Trek 2020 highlighting the soldiers and nurses of the great wars (now re-scheduled for 2021). We had some GREAT submissions!



Ezra, Age 7
Newton, Iowa



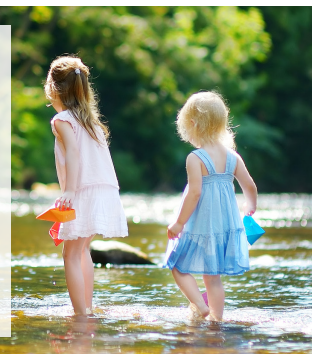
Titus, Age 6
Newton, Iowa



Brandt, Age 10
Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Next Issue's Theme: Nature

Take a picture, draw a picture, build a LEGO tree, grow a flower, catch a fish, make a hiking map, write a poem, carve a walking stick, or anything else creative and send your words or pictures of your creations to us!



Graduation Update

Our 2020 Graduation Ceremony has been postponed to August 1, 2020 at 2pm Faith Baptist Bible College, Nettleson Center homeschooliowa.org/events-page/graduation/

Valor

Please, remember with me the time
when our land was struck with war,

When soldiers and nurses
were asked for their best
and all of them gave more.

A soldier's job is to go and fight
and a nurse's job to heal,

Both were willing to
GIVE THEIR LIVES
so that our country would
be healed.

Freedom
is something that every day we enjoy,

But once it was challenged,
and when we had to fight,
soldiers - you, we employed

When wounds needed care and
our boys needed help
nurses - you, were employed

To our soldiers and nurses,
we salute you now,
you showed valor in our time of need.

We remember and thank you now
for in our hearts you planted a seed,

A seed of your valor to grow in us
and, one day, become our own.

You, who's valor has taught us much
to you our freedom we owe.

You, who in time of need were there,
will forever be in our prayers.

- Chantae, Age 12
Mount Pleasant, Iowa



Book Recommendations

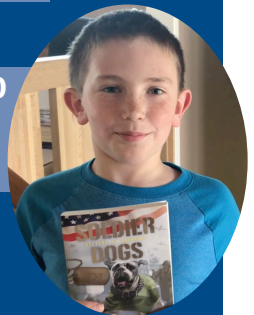
"Fill your house with stacks of books, in all the crannies and all the nooks."
- Dr. Seuss

Some of our Homeschool Iowa Volunteer's kids recorded short book recommendations for us to share on our YouTube channel. If you have a book to recommend or your kids would like to share a book they love, we would LOVE to highlight them too!



Kollins, Age 7
Moonbeam's Shadow

Brandt, Age 10
The Soldier Dogs Series



Ava, Age 10
Strawberry Hill



Kora, Age 12
The Trouble at Timpetill



Chantae, Age 12
The Circle C Books by Susan K. Marlow



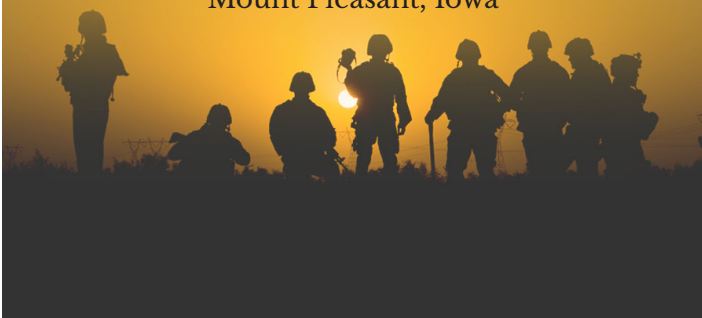
Isaiah, Age 13
Books by Tim Tebow



Kaden, Age 14
Seal of God



Check out the video reviews at
[YouTube.com/HomeschoolIowa](https://www.youtube.com/HomeschoolIowa)





Surviving & Thriving in *Marriage*

BY KIM STILWELL

Jeff and I have been married for thirty-three years. They have been mostly great years, and I would say wholeheartedly that we have a good marriage. But it would be dishonest to say that we have not had our ups and downs, as have most couples who have been married for any length of time.

I want to start by making one disclaimer. I am writing to wives who have husbands who are sinful, fallen creatures (as are we), but I am not pretending to have the answers for abusive situations. What I say applies to wives in a “normal” (which I am fully aware is a very broad term) Christian marriage. I’m writing to women whose husbands are imperfect, love Jesus and love their wives, albeit imperfectly. If your husband is physically or emotionally abusive, my heart aches so much for you! If that is your situation, please read no further and seek help beyond what I can give you.

Homeschooling moms are some of the busiest people in the world. Trying to homeschool multiple ages of children, caring for preschoolers, toddlers, and babies, helping teenagers work through their struggles, running a household, getting kids to the right place at the right time, all while trying to be an invested wife can be overwhelming. I understand! We can put into place certain practices that will help it be less overwhelming, such as being as organized as possible and scheduling our day, (I’m not pretending I do these things as well as I should) but it is never going to be easy to keep up on all these things and to be an invested, loving wife as well. But God has not called us to an easy life. That is why we must prayerfully rely on Him each moment of every day to guide us, to give us wisdom, and to lead and guide us.

It is vital to spend time in the Word and in prayer every day. This should be as important to us as eating. This will, however, look different at different seasons of life. I have much more time now for intentional Bible reading and prayer than when I had little ones. But there are ways to make this happen, even in the busiest seasons of our lives. I find that having an attitude of prayer all day is the key to keeping my relationship close to God. It helps my thought life tremendously if my focus is on talking to my Lord instead of thinking about hurts that may make me bitter or other thoughts that would feed my flesh instead of my spirit. It helps me to be others oriented as I focus on praying for my husband, my kids, and friends. I pray for my husband and my marriage. Satan would love nothing more than to see it fall apart.

We need to accept and understand that our husbands are not like us. Not only are men and women different from each other, God cre-

ated husbands and wives to be unique individuals. Honestly, Jeff and I could not be more opposite in most ways. (though we do share what is most vital, our values and our faith).

Jeff and I dated for several years, and we knew each other quite well, but I still didn’t know everything about him. On our honeymoon, I realized that I had married a man whose biggest nightmare was being bored.

While I wanted to rest and recover, especially after a busy wedding, he wanted to constantly be on the move and be doing things. Simple communication would have helped us to understand each other, but at that time, I couldn’t quite pinpoint what was bothering me, much less articulate it. I just knew I wasn’t fully enjoying our honeymoon. Since then, we have learned how the other functions and on family vacations, or time together as a couple, we have some down time to chat, play games and go for leisurely strolls, (my idea of a fun vacation) and we have some very active times of going on long hikes, canoeing and other very physically active activities (his idea of a fun vacation). Sometimes he goes off and does his active stuff and I stay back and read a book. That is perfectly okay, too. And we have actually rubbed off on each other over the years. We both enjoy doing what the other one likes a lot more than we used to.

Along those lines, if you haven’t figured it out by now, men and women think differently! While women tend to multitask, men tend to focus on one thing at a time. If we are cooking or working on a project and a child walks up and asks for something, we can easily drop what we are doing, help the child, and then go back to what we were doing. If we are in the middle of a conversation and need to veer off of it for a minute to talk to someone else about something, we can easily go back to the previous conversation. If our husbands are working on a project and we ask him a question or ask him to do something, we may feel that he is ignoring us or blowing us off. In reality, he is probably not trying to be hurtful, but is just very focused on what he is doing. (Of course I am speaking in generalities. There are women who are one-track minded and men who can multitask quite easily, but this is the general rule.) We need to respect this and wait until our husbands finish a particular project, task, or conversation before we veer them off course. Sometimes I tell Jeff, “When

Be quick to forgive.

*Our husbands
blow it sometimes.*

So do we.

you are finished with that, I'd like to talk to you about something." Then he knows I need his time and attention before he starts the next project.

Communication is key. Do not expect your husband to read your mind. If something is bothering you, tell him. Do it in love, kindness, and respect, of course. Having said this, it is wise not to come to him with every slight offense. If he speaks too bluntly once in awhile but doesn't make a regular habit of it, there is no need for confrontation. We all blow it sometimes. But definitely speak to him about ongoing actions or words that you find hurtful. (Of course, choose the time and place wisely.)

On the flip side, while communication is good, nagging is not. If you find that you are constantly correcting your husband, back off and see what is really important and what is not. We should not be the kind of wife who, when your husband says a place is half a mile away, we jump in to correct him that it is really three-fourths of a mile away. That kind of correction is unnecessary and can cause the husband to retreat into silence or become frustrated that he can't seem to say or do anything right as far as his wife is concerned. When I am tempted to correct or instruct my husband, (or anyone, including my young adult children) I often ask myself, "What is the worst-case scenario if he doesn't do this?" Most of the time, it is truly not a big deal. And even if it is a big deal, sometimes we still need to back off. Ultimately, our husbands are accountable to God for their choices. And even when the results are not good, we are not the Holy Spirit. It is not our job to fix him.

Do not be easily offended. As I said earlier, men and women usually think differently. If he seems distracted when you talk to him, give him grace and do not put the burden of perfection on him. (If he is harsh most of the time or rarely listens to you, that is another story and it should, as I said earlier, be addressed by someone with much more knowledge of how to deal with this kind of behavior than I am.)

"Comparison is the root of discontentment" is one of my favorite quotes. Do not compare your marriage to someone else's marriage. Every marriage looks a little different. That couple that appears to have the perfect marriage and the husband appears to be the perfect gentleman, trust me, their marriage is not perfect and he has his sin issues, too.

Be quick to forgive. Our husbands blow it sometimes. So do we. As Scripture commands us, forgive him seven times seventy. If you sin against him, be quick to ask forgiveness.

During a rough patch in our marriage, it helped me to write down all the good qualities I saw in Jeff and all the nice things he did for the kids and me. At that time, it was easy to just see what I didn't like. Journaling what I appreciated about him was very helpful. On the bad days, I could go back and read the list and be reminded that there were many qualities in Jeff that were wonderful.

Enjoy life with him. Pray together. Laugh with him. Listen to him. Smile at him. Cuddle with him. Work together. Play together. Accept his idiosyncrasies and love him anyway. Tease him. Do the things you enjoy doing together. Hug him. Kiss him. If he is telling you something, even if it seems unimportant or mundane, listen to him. (If it's important to him, it should be important to you.) Communicate. Most of all, point him to Christ.



It's Time for an Adventure...

CAITLIN HODNEFIELD

DAUGHTER OF THE WILDS

SEARCHING FOR HER FATHER

After her family is killed by goblins, Avana's search for her father takes her on a journey to discover her future and the future of the land of Arda.

NOW AVAILABLE ON AMAZON!

Paperback & e-Book available
Search for: Caitlin Hodnefield

About the Author: An Iowan native, Caitlin grew up writing fictional short stories as part of her homeschool curriculum and for fun. She's never stopped writing, drawing heavily from her outdoor experiences of hiking, hunting, and horses in her writing. Learn more at: caitlinhodnefieldauthor.squarespace.com

A Weekend of Encouragement!

Teaching your children – and helping them to be all that they were created to be - is a challenging journey!
Plan to attend our 2021 Homeschool Iowa Conference to reap a harvest of encouragement and motivation!

SAVE THE DATE:
June 18-19, 2021

SPECIAL TRACKS *Topic-targeted workshops, presentations and exhibits:*

Special Needs Track

Beginning Homeschooling Track

High School & Beyond Track

Were you excited about our plans for the 2020 Conference? We were too! We are thankful that most of the programming we had planned for 2020 will be able to transfer directly to our 2021 Conference! Watch our website for updates: homeschooliowa.org/conference



DMACC is the **PERFECT** Choice for Homeschool Students

Maria, Homeschool Student

Elizabeth, Homeschool Student

Maria and Elizabeth are among many homeschool students who have discovered that DMACC is the perfect place to start their higher education.

Homeschool students and their families take their education seriously. In many cases, they are more independent and better prepared academically for college. With DMACC's emphasis on academic excellence, homeschool students feel right at home here.

Consider These DMACC Advantages:

- » Honors program for high-achieving students
- » Fully-accredited academic programs
- » 200 programs, degrees and certificates
- » Growing internship program to explore careers
- » Faculty who care about your future
- » Seamless transfer to major universities
- » Student housing on and near campus
- » Free application, free tutoring, free transcripts, free parking!

*All of this **PLUS** the most affordable tuition and fees in Iowa!*

DMACC.EDU

ANKENY • BOONE • CARROLL • NEWTON
URBAN/DES MOINES • WEST DES MOINES

AMES HUNZIKER CENTER CAREER ACADEMY | CAPITOL CENTER
EVELYN K. DAVIS CENTER FOR WORKING FAMILIES | PERRY VANKIRK CAREER
ACADEMY | SOUTHRIDGE CENTER | TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

DMACC

DES MOINES AREA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Life's Calling™

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) shall not engage in nor allow discrimination covered by law against any person, group or organization. This includes in its programs, activities, employment practices, hiring practices or the provision of services. The full DMACC Nondiscrimination policy is available online at <https://nd.dmacc.edu>. 12748-10-19-A

800-362-2127 |     



Finding a Curriculum That's *Effective & Fun*

BY LEE BINZ, THE HOMESCHOLAR

There are SO many curriculum choices available, it's hard to sift through them all and choose what you need. Your friends all recommend different ones, and they all look so good! How do you, choose and where do you start? Here are just a few tips to help you find a curriculum that's both effective and fun!

Use a Homeschool Curriculum

It might be tempting to pick up used school textbooks. You may even be able to get ahold of them free, but school textbooks assume you are an accredited teacher who knows the subject matter inside and out. You may look at the first lesson and not even understand what the textbook is talking about!

A homeschool curriculum assumes you know nothing and are learning along with your child or allowing your child to learn independently. I didn't know anything about Latin when I started teaching my children the language, and they learned very well (if I do say so myself) using a homeschool curriculum.

A curriculum designed for the school system also assumes there is a teacher standing at the front of a classroom full of kids, teaching and explaining concepts to them every day. As your child gets older, you want them to start being able to teach themselves. A self-teaching homeschool curriculum is an excellent choice for teens. This will prepare them well for learning and excelling in college – taking notes on their own and researching topics.

Focus on Tried and True

Watch for curriculum that is proven to be successful. You can't beat a tried-and-true curriculum that has been used and reviewed by many homeschoolers over the years. Don't get caught up in the shiny new curriculum trap that may not be ready for broad distribution. Homeschool curriculum that's been around awhile has a better chance of working for your child. It's already been tested, reviewed, and revised. Your child doesn't have to be the guinea pig who discovers all the errors and glitches. Stick with what works so you don't end up with a bookcase full of costly, unused curriculum. You can avoid your own "hall of shame" by sticking to the tried and true.

If you are looking at a newer curriculum, do your research. Ask homeschoolers what their favorite curriculum is and why. Read reviews online. My favorite source of good reviews is Cathy Duffy's book "102 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum."

Invest in Your Weaknesses

What subject is your weak area? Maybe it's the subject you dread or put off teaching. What subject is your child's weak area? It could be the subject area your child whines about the most. Put those weak areas first every day. The weak areas should be the subjects you start with every morning. This way you won't put

them off or run out of time to get to them before the homeschool day is over. If you don't do this, you and your child could be panicking in a few months because you're behind!

Put your weaknesses first when shopping for curriculum. Buy curriculum for yours and your child's weak areas first. If math is one of your weaknesses, put it first in your budget and buy a math curriculum first. Make it your priority. If you end up with a curriculum mismatch and that math curriculum isn't working, give yourself permission to re-purchase curriculum in that weak area. You need a curriculum that works well for you and your child, especially in those weak areas. If your weak area is fear of high school, invest in a supportive book that will help you do that job with confidence.

Find a Technology Balance

In this day and age, it's all too easy to pick up a DVD or online curriculum for every subject. This kind of curriculum can be a lot of fun for the kids, but there has to be a limit. It's important to find a balance between old-fashioned book work with hands-on learning and the newer resources using technology. According to a technology use guidelines chart from the American Academy of Pediatrics, daily use of technology needs to be limited for children. Children ages 6 to 12 should only spend up to two hours per day with watching non-violent technology, but shouldn't be using handheld devices at all. These are the school years: no handheld devices, and only two hours a day, including schoolwork. And for teenagers ages 13 to 18, their technology should be limited as well. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends they spend no more than two hours per day on personal technology use.

Excessive use of technology in the homeschool can add up far more technology exposure than is recommended. The solution is simple: use as many real paper books in your homeschool as you can. Add hands-on projects, move during educational time, and go outside to study. Judicious use of technology for homeschool work is important so that overall daily use can stay within these guidelines.

Enjoy curriculum shopping for the coming year! I hope you find these tips helpful. Wishing you could attend a convention? Grab the book from Amazon! "Homeschool Curriculum That's Effective and Fun: Avoid the Crummy Curriculum Hall of Shame!" (The HomeScholar Coffee Break Book Series #25)

Lee Binz, The HomeScholar is a dynamic homeschool speaker and author. She understands what it takes to graduate homeschool students who are fully prepared for college and for life. Lee's mission is to encourage and equip parents to homeschool through high school. Sign up for her free homeschool e-newsletter, The HomeScholar Record, at www.HomeHighSchoolHelp.com. You can also find her at [Facebook.com/TheHomeScholar](https://www.facebook.com/TheHomeScholar).



HIGHLANDS LATIN SCHOOL

Now Enrolling Kindergarten – Grade 12: Opening Fall 2020

HLS’s Cottage School is a homeschool support program that meets on Mondays from August to May. Our classical Christian approach to education aims to teach wisdom and virtue while being rooted in the Christian faith. In addition, we take a traditional teacher-guided classroom approach, with lessons that focus on content mastery.

HLS utilizes Memoria Press’ Accelerated Classical Core Curriculum. All instruction is provided in-class, with parents providing individual assistance on assignments throughout the week. At HLS you and your child will experience a unique schedule, atmosphere, and curriculum that exceed expectations.

2020-21 Academic Year Weekly Schedule: Mondays beginning August 31st

**Highlands Latin School
First Church Campus
2200 Beaver Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa**

Questions?

**We would love to hear
from you!**

**Send us an email:
Dana@Highlandslatin.org**

or call 515-418-9106



“Highlands Latin School’s students are truly set apart. The academic rigor and unique culture has been just what our children needed.”



“We love Highlands Latin School. Our sons have excelled in their studies and continue to grow in their love of learning. The staff truly love their students. What an amazing culture that is supportive, encouraging, and enthusiastic while holding the bar high for success. Thank you!”



“HLS exceeds every expectation I had for my child’s education. Such a great community to be a part of.”

For more information or to enroll: HighlandsLatinDSM.org



Homeschool Options in Iowa

An Overview Chart

Options with no initial reporting and no public school services

Independent Private Instruction or Competent Private Instruction Option 2 with Opt-Out Reporting

Similarities

Differences

IPI

- No initial filing requirements.
- Can receive free testing at their resident public school.
- Eligible for Parent Taught Driver Education.

- Home educators operating under the IPI guidelines may instruct up to four unrelated students, although no payment may be received for the instruction. The instruction of unrelated students is not addressed under CPI.
- IPI: Parents must provide instruction in these 5 subjects: reading, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies, but there is no legally defined minimal number of instructional days.

CPI

Option 2 with Opt-Out Reporting

- Access to public school driver education without dual-enrollment.
- Access to one specific component of Senior Year Plus: concurrent enrollment classes at Iowa Community colleges.
- No AEA or public school services available for special needs students.

- CPI Option 2 with Opt-Out: Has no required subjects but does require parents to provide at least 148 days of instruction per school year, with 37 days per school quarter.
- Follow-up Reporting: IPI parents are required to respond to a written request for information about IPI programs from the Iowa Department of Education or local school district superintendent. (*Visit our website for a form to help you respond to a request for this information.*) CPI Option 2 with Opt-Out has no initial or follow-up reporting requirements.

Options with reporting and access to public school services

Competent Private Instruction Option 1 (with your chosen teacher or a HSAP* teacher) or Option 2 with Opt-In Reporting

Similarities

Differences

CPI

Option 1 w/ Teacher of your choice

- CPI Report Form A must be filed with your resident school district by Sept 1st or within 2 weeks of removing your child from school.
- Dual enrollment is permitted allowing students access to public school services, activities, classes, and materials as available from the school district and as the student meets the eligibility requirements. Dual enrolled CPI students must receive at least 1/4 of their instruction via Competent Private Instruction.
- AEA and public school services are available to special needs students educated under CPI guidelines through dual enrollment.
- Eligible for Parent Taught Driver Education.
- Parents must provide at least 148 days of instruction per school year, with 37 days per school quarter.

- CPI Option 1 with Teacher of Your Choice: You must retain a teacher with a valid Iowa teaching certificate or practitioner license appropriate to the grade level of your student and include that teacher's name and folder number on the CPI Report Form A. Teachers must meet with the student and parents at least twice ever 45 days of instruction and one out of every two visits must be face-to-face.

CPI

Option 1 w/ HSAP* Teacher

- CPI Option 1 with HSAP* Teacher: Students must be enrolled in the HSAP then the public school will assign a HSAP supervising teacher. The HSAP teacher must meet with the student and parent at least four times every 45 days of instruction and one out of every two visits must be face-to-face.

CPI

Option 2 with Opt-In Reporting

- CPI Option 2, with Opt-In Reporting: Annual assessment must be completed by May 1 and the results filed by June 30th. Acceptable assessments are listed on our website.

*Public School Home School Assistance Program





Voter Voice

PROTECTING HOMESCHOOL FREEDOM IN IOWA

Sign up today

- Receive legislative updates regarding homeschooling issues in Iowa
- Easily connect with, and send messages to, your elected officials

Learn more here:

homeschooliowa.org/iowa-law/legislative-updates/

Homeschool Iowa is on YouTube!



Subscribe to our channel TODAY!

Tips & Tricks from past Homeschool Iowa Conference Exhibitors

Updates from the Homeschool Iowa Advocacy Team

Interviews with Homeschool Iowa volunteers

Book recommendations from homeschoolers

FUN Science Experiments conducted by Iowa Homeschooling Families

**And MORE! Subscribe today!
[YouTube.com/HomeschoolIowa](https://www.youtube.com/HomeschoolIowa)**

Serving Our Community

BY PHYLLIS TITUS, HOMESCHOOL TEEN SERVE PRESIDENT



The three simple words of the re-scheduled 2021 Homeschool Iowa Conference theme, “We Will Reap,” are a powerful reminder of the common goal uniting all homeschoolers: We all want the best for our children, and we want each of them to reach the full potential for which God created them. We all chose homeschooling because we believed it was the best way to prepare them for life beyond high school, and we want to know that all our efforts will one day pay off, and that “at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

That goal keeps us going through all the seasons of homeschooling, and it’s the reason why we pour ourselves into building a homeschool program that balances academics, spiritual training, and extracurricular activities tailored to each child’s individual needs. And when they find that something is lacking in that program, homeschooling parents make it happen, especially if they believe it to be important in helping each child reach his or her God-given potential. Even when it stretches them beyond comprehension and requires a level of sacrifice they never thought possible, they step out in faith and make it happen.

That’s where two other homeschooling moms and I were in the summer of 2006. Our teens were doing well, balancing academics with various church and extracurricular activities, but we were concerned that they could become self-focused, and we wanted to open their eyes to the needs of others in our community. We wanted them to become “others centered” as they grew into adults, and we wanted them to experience the joy of being the hands and feet of Jesus for others less fortunate. But when we found nothing in the Omaha area that fit with these specific goals, we decided to pool our efforts and start planning community service projects for our teens. We shared our plans with friends, and by the time we gathered for our first project in September, sixteen other homeschool families with 28 teens were on board.

We loved seeing our homeschooled teens serving together at our monthly projects, and so did they. The joy of serv-



ing together was contagious. Word spread quickly, and by September of 2007, our group had doubled in size. Homeschooling parents saw the value in what we were doing and got their teens involved. As our group continued to grow, we realized that God was doing something special with homeschooled teens, and not just in Omaha. With 170 teens participating by the spring of 2012, Homeschool Teen Serve (HTS) obtained non-profit status in Nebraska, formed an executive board, and began the process of applying for Federal tax exempt status. That fall, our original group split into three when two new HTS chapters opened in the nearby communities of Louisville and Bellevue. In October 2014, HTS was awarded a 501(c)3 group exemption by the Internal Revenue Service. Now in its fourteenth year, there are currently over 190 teens serving in eight active HTS chapters in Nebraska and Iowa, and each has its own leadership, teens, and clients.

Community service is nothing new to homeschool families. They're known for being servant-minded people who instinctively know it's important to give back, because they are so blessed. They also know that serving is one of the most effective ways to spread the love of Jesus. Homeschoolers aren't sitting at home with curtains drawn. They're out in their communities quietly giving of themselves in countless ways, being the hands and feet of Jesus, and making such a difference.

Some may ask, "Our family already serves. Why do we need Homeschool Teen Serve?" HTS provides the opportunity for groups of homeschoolers to pool their efforts, energy, and talents and form local

chapters where teens can serve their communities alongside their peers. HTS enables homeschool families to divide the time and work of planning community service projects, while sharing the joy and multiplying the impact of those projects. As a 501(c)3 group exempt organization, HTS is free to welcome new chapters under its tax-exempt umbrella and provide them with the template for starting and operating their own chapters, including training, ongoing support, and liability insurance coverage.

The HTS model is simple. Registered families receive a monthly reminder and are asked to R.S.V.P. for the project. Then, participating teens are divided into parent-supervised teams and sent out on project morning to homes, apartments, and various locations to complete jobs requested by clients. It's inspiring to see groups of teens in their red t-shirts serving together, getting their hands dirty, and sowing seeds for the Kingdom. On the back of their shirts are the words from Colossians 3:23-24: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." They continually remind us that if we are faithful and do not give up, He WILL reap the harvest we all desire.

Homeschool Teen Serve, Inc. is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization created for the purpose of providing homeschooled teens an opportunity to serve individuals in the community in various ways and build relationships with one another based on their common goal of modeling the life of Jesus Christ. For more information, visit our website at www.homeschoolteenserve.org or stop by our booth at the next Homeschool Iowa Conference.



Educational games that provide play-based learning



Award Winning

Engaging, award winning games that teach useful, real world skills.

Time Saving

30-minute game play times explicitly designed for busy families.

Thoughtful

Thoughtfully designed to adapt to a family's unique needs.

Personalized

Personalized support to identify games that are a perfect fit.

Replacement

Lost pieces are replaced for FREE!

Our promise to the world:

To share the joy of learning through play in everything we do.



www.facebook.com/Fun-SchoolingFusion/

jamie.ind.simplyfunplayologist@gmail.com

Tell your story!

Do you serve the homeschool community? Send us an article about your organization or business, we'll choose one story to share in our next issue! Article length 750-1250 words, include pictures too! Email your submission to: editor@homeschooliowa.org

More Than the Lilies of the Fields

BY LAUREN JOHNSON



A couple nights ago, my 6-year-old was weepy and worried about growing up. She wanted to stay a kid and live with Mommy forever. As much as I could sympathize with her desires, I found myself quoting Matthew 6 to her: "Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?... Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?" My daughter turned to me and tearily asked, "You mean God loves me more than the flowers?" The simplicity but profoundness of her question struck me. "Yes, He does," I replied. Soon after, she fell asleep – happily believing in the love of her Father. Inwardly, I wondered if I really believed in the love of my Father. Like anyone else, I wrestle with anxious thoughts and downright bluey blues. It's in times like those that my life doesn't reflect my faith. It's in times like those that I am part of the crowd Jesus rebuked when He said, "Oh you of little faith!"

Considering the paranoia of today's society, it is obvious that lack of faith in a loving God is quite prevalent. You may be struggling with this very thing. Perhaps you or your spouse have been laid off work. Perhaps you're concerned about the health of your family. Perhaps you're out of toilet paper. Whatever the worry, no matter how big or how small, remember the loving kindness of your Father. Don't you know that God loves you more than the flowers? Don't you know that He cares for you more than the birds? Oh you of little faith! Corrie ten Boom said, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." He has made Himself known to you, and He commands you to have faith.

What then do we do with our anxious thoughts and restless souls? How do we walk in faith? In Elisabeth Elliot's words, "Do the next thing." Go prepare dinner for your family, giving thanks for food. Go wash the dishes, giving thanks for running water. Go read to your children, giving thanks they are home with you. This is your faith in action; and that is what God desires. Your feelings may still be anxious and your heart may still be worried, but I think you'll find that, in time, the anxiety is less and the worries are fewer.

So have courage, Dear Heart. The sun will rise again. The panic will be gone. The worries will be past. And toilet paper will be restocked. But until then, get off your phone and go live out your faith, for you have a loving Father.

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21



A homeschool curriculum
designed for busy, beautiful lives.

Don't miss another moment.



Start a no-risk, 30-day free trial of Monarch today with
code **MON30NICHE** at **DiscoverMonarch.com**.



LAW FIRM



Strong Relationships & Personal Legal Advice for Iowans Across the State

We strive to provide honest conversations, skilled representation and quality service from someone who knows you.

01 | **Competent**
Decades of personal injury trial experience.

02 | **Caring**
Thoughtful representation for the injured and grieving.

03 | **Counsel**
Strong reputation for achieving positive results.



Timm Reid is caring and has your best interest in mind. He was easy to work with and always listened to my concerns. I was very pleased with the results of my personal injury case.

Joann M.
Client

Request a Free Consultation

TIMM REID, TRIAL LAWYER

515-381-9842 | tim@treidlawnfirm.com

Personal Injury & Wrongful Death | Motor Vehicle Accidents | Medical Negligence | Mediation Services
Work Accidents & Injuries | Local Counsel | Nursing Home Abuse | Premises Liability

treidlawnfirm.com