

“Uncomplicated Homeschooling”

A Christian Perspective on Simplifying the Approach to Home Education

It is not uncommon to feel pressure from the demands of family responsibilities. Whether it is a commitment to church, a sports league or various other activities, you may begin to feel overwhelmed. However, there comes a time when we must truly assess the value of our busyness. When it comes to training and educating our children, we can avoid a lot of stress by making things simple. As you read further we will explore a few ways to uncomplicate your homeschooling endeavors ---

May you enjoy the journey!

Building the Foundation

It is critical to develop a firm foundation in which we can help our children build their future. Obviously a house cannot stand on unstable ground, and we can apply the same principle to our family. I encourage you to be prayerful as you establish a foundation rooted in your relationship with the Lord and His unchanging word shared in the Bible.

As a devoted wife and homeschooling mother of 6 children, I am often asked “How do you do it?” The basic truth is that there are four areas that I consider to be extremely necessary.

- God as our Source
- A Fathers Leadership and Family Vision
- Freedom from Standards in Society
- Nurturing the Gifts of our Children

These areas are the foundation for our family concerning homeschooling. Let me share more:

God as our Source

Above all, we must nurture our relationship with the Lord. He is truly the source of love, joy, peace, patience, and all other good fruit that we may bear. And before coming to the Father we must establish a relationship with Jesus. This will be our strength and direction as we pursue all endeavors in life such as homeschooling.

As it pertains to children, we must acknowledge that they are indeed blessings that are entrusted to us. It is very well written in Psalms 127:3-4; “Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.”

God tells us that as parents we are able to prepare and aim our children to fulfill His purpose for their lives. Isn't it a privilege to partake in such a rewarding calling? Even with this privilege, it can truly be exhaustive and challenging! However, we are called to trust in the Lord and ultimately He will direct us. It is only through our relationship and dependence on the Lord that we can successfully raise our children for His glory.

A Fathers Leadership and Family Vision

It is refreshing to understand that God has set a special order of authority concerning the life of a family. As shared in 1Corinthians 11:3: “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.” Therefore as the called by the Lord, the fathers are encouraged to take an active role by leading their families. They are expected to establish and uphold a vision for their family. This does not negate the importance of a womans role within the family, it simply outlines the manner by which we should function within our home.

God originally created the woman (Eve) to be a help to her husband (Adam). In doing so, the husband has great need of his wife in order to fulfill the purpose God has ordained. Many families have chosen to disregard God's model for family, therefore many children, and subsequent generations, are greatly suffering. May we all examine the model of leadership in your family.

Now as parents, part of our fundamental vision should be to train and direct our children in the path that God has set for their lives. Beyond that, you may find that your family may have a heart for the lost, be gifted in music or have great business skills. Whatever the vision for your family may be, it then becomes part of the foundation by which you build upon. This vision will certainly simplify many aspects of homeschooling and reduce activities that do not line up with the established vision.

May we rejoice in the divine responsibility for men to lead their families and women to help uphold the vision that will prepare the children for their future!

Freedom from Standards in Society

Initially, when we began homeschooling in 2002, we easily got caught up in the 'rat race' of life. If we didn't measure up to society's standards concerning our children, then we were a failure and our children were doomed. I tried to emulate my experience from public schools such as regimented scheduling, age appropriate learning expectations, and multiple organized extracurricular activities. After continuing to juggle these expectations and responsibilities for a few years I finally got worn out.

The time had come for us to reassess our approach to homeschooling. Was it really benefiting my family to be an irritated drill sergeant that loaded them up on fast food as we jumped from one activity to the next? Or did God have a different set of plans for our family? Gradually I really began to receive my family as a gift rather than a duty and it became easier for me to allow God to lead us and our priorities. The simple decision to avoid the model of society concerning our schooling experience has really freed us from our "rat race" and opened many doors of opportunity.

Nurturing the Gifts in our Children

Now that we rely on the Lord as our source, the Fathers are leading, the family is upholding their vision and we don't feel pressured to follow the ways of society, we can step onto another building block. It is important to realize the inherent gifts that God poured into our children. Most all parents recognize that each child has different personalities and interests. This is part of God's great design! Just like He made some leaders, and others are followers, we all possess a different gift to contribute to the Body of Believers.

I have learned that although general academic knowledge is important, it is our God given responsibility to direct our children in the ways of the Lord. In doing so, we must realize the giftings (talents for Gods Glory) that God has instilled within each of them individually. This awareness eliminates areas that may oppose their calling in Gods Kingdom. Therefore, as we see the gifts in our children we can nurture them and experience wonderful rewards.

Joyful Results

If you feel even the slightest bit encouraged by these insights, I suggest that you prayerfully seek the Lord for direction. Do not feel burdened by carrying the weight of teaching your children on your own. Instead allow the Lord to lead and guide your family so that you will have a fulfilled and joyful homeschooling experience. May you choose to simplify and uncomplicate your life as you begin another phase in the journey!