

# HOMESCHOOL

Spring 2024

# *Indiana*





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**1000**   
**DAYS**<sup>TM</sup>  
GROW BOLDER. WISER.  
CLOSER TO CHRIST.

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# Welcome

*Spring is here!*

What an exciting time of year! Not only is this season a time to put the winter blues to rest, but it's also a time when most families are wrapping up their school year, completing their curriculum, and accomplishing individual goals. As families count down the number of days left in their academic year, learning doesn't have to come to an end.

The summer is a season of endless possibilities for making education a joyous adventure beyond the classroom. Whether it's the simple pleasure of reading under a shady tree or embarking on a family road trip to explore historical sites, learning can be a part of our everyday lives.

As the academic year draws to a close, it's a valuable time for parents to reflect on the past year. What strategies worked well, and what could be improved? This is your chance to think anew and set fresh goals for the upcoming school year.

And we want to hear from you! Do you have feedback about the thoughts above? Is there anything you would like to see covered in upcoming issues of the magazine? Be sure to let us know.

#homeschoolstrong  
#homeschoolindiana



Tara Bentley  
Executive Director, IAHE

## Issue 27, Volume 3

### MAGAZINE TEAM

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To be Christ-focused  
To be Indiana-focused  
To be encouraging  
To be a resource

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**The Indiana Association of Home Educators** (IAHE) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1983 for the purpose of serving the Lord Jesus Christ by supporting and encouraging families interested in home education. We define home education as parent-directed, home-based, privately-funded education.

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# REMEMBER

## Walt Whitman is Born | 1819

One of the most prominent American poets, Walt Whitman, was born on this day in 1819. *Leaves of Grass*, published in 1855, may be his most popular work, though not his only.

- ★ How many Walt Whitman poems do you know?
- ★ Find a piece of work written by Walt Whitman. What do you like about it?

## Treaty of Versailles | 1919

On this date, the Treaty of Versailles, a peace treaty, was signed. This treaty, signed at the Palace of Versailles, ended the state of war between Germany and most of the Allied Powers. It is arguably one of the most important treaties of WWI.

- ★ What did this treaty really mean?
- ★ What are some other famous treaties in our history?

## Anne Frank Arrested | 1944

Anne Frank was a young Jewish girl who hid in a secret annex of her father's place of employment for over two years during the Nazi raid. Anne received a diary for her 13th birthday and began writing in it often. Unfortunately, this witty girl did not survive after being captured on this day and forced into a concentration camp (Germany's Bergen-Belsen). Her last diary entry was written three days prior to her arrest. Her father had her diary published in 1947.

- ★ Read Anne Frank's diary. What are your thoughts on her entries?
- ★ How many places was Anne's diary published? Research all of the languages it has been published in.

May  
31<sup>st</sup>

June  
18<sup>th</sup>

June  
28<sup>th</sup>

July  
16<sup>th</sup>

August  
4<sup>th</sup>

## Sally Ride's First Mission | 1983

Sally Ride was a graduate of Stanford University. She was also the first American woman to fly in space and the third woman overall. She flew on the shuttle CHALLENGER. While on this mission, she operated a robotic arm. In total, she spent more than 343 hours in space.

- ★ What are some of Sally Ride's other accomplishments?
- ★ What do you know about NASA? Research it and find some facts about the different shuttle launches.

## Testing of Atomic Bomb | 1945

Before the atomic bomb could be called a success, it had to be tested. On this day, the first detonation of a nuclear weapon was conducted in the U.S. with the code name of Trinity. This was the prerequisite to the bombings in Japan.

- ★ Some supported the development of the atomic bomb, while others didn't. Research the opposing viewpoints.
- ★ What were the repercussions of using this type of bomb?



# — Unlocking Potential —

## The Importance of Teaching Entrepreneurship Skills

— Dr. Cindy Briggs

In the dynamic landscape of education, the concept of homeschooling has gained substantial traction over the years. Families are increasingly turning to homeschooling not only for the flexibility it offers but also for the opportunity to customize their child's education. As a retired college professor, entrepreneur, author, and speaker, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of homeschooling. However, beyond traditional academics, there lies an invaluable realm awaiting exploration: entrepreneurship education for homeschool children.

Entrepreneurship skills are not just about starting a business; they encompass a mindset, a set of attitudes, and a toolkit that equips individuals with the ability to identify opportunities, take calculated risks, innovate, and adapt to changing circumstances. In today's rapidly evolving global economy, these skills are more vital than ever. Here, I delve into the significance of integrating entrepreneurship education into the homeschool curriculum.

### **Fostering Creativity and Innovation**

One of the fundamental aspects of entrepreneurship is the cultivation of creativity and innovation. Homeschooling provides a nurturing environment where children are encouraged to think outside the box and pursue their interests passionately.

By incorporating entrepreneurship education into their curriculum, parents can further fuel this creativity by challenging their children to identify problems in their communities or areas of interest and develop innovative solutions. Through hands-on projects, such as designing a product or creating a service, homeschool children can unleash their imagination and bring their ideas to life.

### **Empowering Self-Reliance and Initiative**

Entrepreneurship education instills a sense of self-reliance and initiative in children from a young age. Rather than merely following instructions or memorizing facts, homeschool children are encouraged to take ownership of their learning journey. They learn to set goals, plan strategies, and take proactive steps towards achieving their objectives.

This empowerment fosters a strong sense of self-confidence and resilience, traits that are invaluable in both personal and professional realms. By encouraging children to pursue their interests and passions, entrepreneurship education nurtures a sense of purpose and motivation, driving them to pursue their dreams with determination and perseverance.

### **Cultivating Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills**

In the entrepreneurial world, challenges are inevitable, but so are opportunities. Homeschooling provides an ideal platform for cultivating critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for navigating these challenges. Through entrepreneurship education, children learn to analyze situations, identify patterns, and devise creative solutions.

Whether it's overcoming setbacks in a business venture or tackling complex academic problems, these skills equip homeschool children with the ability to approach challenges with confidence and resilience. By encouraging children to think critically and solve problems independently, entrepreneurship education prepares them to face the uncertainties of the future with resilience and adaptability.

### **Nurturing Financial Literacy and Resourcefulness**

Financial literacy is a cornerstone of entrepreneurship education. By teaching homeschool children about budgeting, saving, investing, and managing finances, parents empower them to make informed financial decisions from an early age.

Moreover, entrepreneurship encourages resourcefulness – the ability to make the most out of limited resources. Whether it's bootstrapping a business or finding creative ways to fund a project, homeschool children learn to leverage their skills and assets effectively. By instilling financial literacy and resourcefulness, entrepreneurship education equips children with the tools they need to make sound financial decisions and achieve their goals.

### **Fostering Collaboration and Networking**

Contrary to popular belief, entrepreneurship is not solely about individual achievement; it thrives on collaboration and networking. Homeschooling offers ample opportunities for children to engage with peers, mentors, and experts from diverse backgrounds. Through entrepreneurship education, homeschool children learn the importance of building strong relationships, seeking feedback, and collaborating with others to achieve common goals.



These interpersonal skills are invaluable in both personal and professional endeavors. By fostering collaboration and networking, entrepreneurship education prepares homeschool children to thrive in a interconnected world, where success often hinges on the ability to work effectively with others and build meaningful relationships.

### Preparing for an Uncertain Future

The world is changing at an unprecedented pace, and the future is characterized by uncertainty. In such a landscape, traditional education models may fall short in preparing children for the challenges that lie ahead. Entrepreneurship education offers a forward-thinking approach that equips homeschool children with the skills, mindset, and adaptability needed to thrive in an ever-changing world.

By fostering creativity, initiative, critical thinking, financial literacy, collaboration, and networking, entrepreneurship education empowers homeschool children to not only navigate the complexities of the modern world but also to carve out their own path to success.

Integrating entrepreneurship education into the homeschool curriculum is not just about preparing children for future careers; it's about equipping them with the skills and mindset needed to

excel in life. As parents and educators, let us seize the opportunity to unlock the entrepreneurial potential within our homeschool children, empowering them to dream big, think creatively, and make a meaningful impact on the world.

### Looking Forward

With the integration of entrepreneurship education into homeschooling, children can develop a holistic skill set that prepares them for the challenges and opportunities of the future. By fostering creativity, self-reliance, critical thinking, financial literacy, collaboration, and adaptability, homeschool children can unlock their full potential and become innovative leaders and problem solvers in their communities and beyond.

As parents and educators, let us embrace the transformative power of entrepreneurship education and equip our homeschool children with the tools they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world. ■



**Dr. Cindy Briggs** is a dynamic entrepreneur, speaker, author, and homeschool mom. With two decades of experience as a business college professor, she brings a wealth of knowledge to her diverse roles. Cindy, alongside her husband Dr. Scott Briggs, passionately homeschools their son Jackson. Her engaging presentations and practical writing inspire others to pursue their passions and embrace lifelong learning.

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# 2024 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

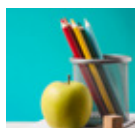
The 124th General Assembly came to a close at approximately 8:30 pm on Mar 8, 2024.

As an even-numbered year, this was a short session, and it was considered an “emergency” session. As such, **“An emergency is declared for this act”** was listed at the bottom of every bill. For such a session, there was no lack of bills.

IAHE Action processed 3,620 documents throughout the session. Our all-volunteer team continued to monitor updates, communicate with legislators, and testify on bills impacting home education. Just under 50 bills were continuously tracked during the first half of the session. That number decreased to 20 bills when legislation crossed over to the other chamber.

We continue to work with the Indiana legislature dutifully and respectfully to preserve the parental right to educate our children free of government interference. Below, you’ll find some of the bills we tracked.

## Bills that impacted Indiana homeschoolers and their outcomes:



**Education & Higher Education Matters**  
**HB 1001**  
**(Reps. Chuck Goodrich, Robert Behning, Bob Heaton)**  
*Final Status: Passed*

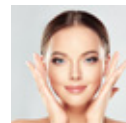
HB 1001 initially allowed Career Scholarship Account (CSA) participants to utilize funds to obtain a driver’s license.

In the Senate, the bill was modified to include language related to the Educational Scholarship Account (ESA). Siblings of current ESA students will be permitted to join the ESA program and curricular materials will be purchasable through the ESA.



**Employment of Minors**  
**HB 1093**  
**(Rep. Kendall Culp)**  
*Final Status: Passed*

HB 1093 made sweeping changes to Indiana youth employment law.



**Cosmetology**  
**Apprenticeships**  
**HB 1135**  
**(Rep. Timothy Wesco)**  
*Final Status: Signed into Law*

HB 1135 added registered apprenticeships to practice cosmetology to acceptable education qualifying someone as a cosmetologist.



**Various Education**  
**Matters**  
**HB 1219 (Rep. Jake Teshka)**  
*Final Status: Failed*

HB 1219 removed annual days of instruction requirements and added annual instructional time requirements measured in minutes. This would have created an undue burden on those students in nonaccredited nonpublic schools with less than one employee.



### Various Education Matters HB 1243 (Rep. Robert Behning)

*Final Status: Passed*

HB 1243 made several changes to the education code. Regarding those enrolled in nonaccredited nonpublic schools with less than one employee, parents will now have the ability to give written permission for their child to take the high school equivalency exam. Previously, parents were required to seek permission from their local public school superintendent or principal.



### Indiana Education Scholarship Account Program

HB 1408 : (Rep. Zach Payne)

*Final Status: Failed*

HB 1408 sought to remove all Education Scholarship Account (ESA) qualification requirements thus making ESAs available to all Indiana students.



### Education Matters SB 143 (Sen. Brian Buchanan)

*Final Status: Failed*

SB 143 required the Indiana Department of Education to partner with the Indiana Office of the Treasurer to detail out Indiana education law and academic themes and content that should be covered for ESA students. All eligibility requirements would be removed, funding for curricular materials and technology would be available, and any other expense the Treasurer approved would be funded. This would have removed any application deadlines.



### Education Matters SB 165 (Sen. Michael Young)

*Final Status: Failed*

SB 165 removed annual days of instruction requirements and added annual instructional time requirements measured in minutes. This would have created an undue burden on those students in nonaccredited nonpublic schools with less than one employee.



### Age for Compulsory School Attendance SB 195 (Sen. Greg Taylor)

*Final Status: Failed*

SB 195 proposed decreasing the compulsory age from the date the child turns 7 years of age to 5 years of age by August 1st.



### Agriculture Pesticides SB 261 (Sens. Kyle Walker, Chris Garten, & Rick Niemeyer)

*Final Status: Passed*

The Office of the State Chemist proposed language in SB 216 to ban the use of pesticides on school premises. Nonaccredited nonpublic schools with less than one employee were excluded from this.



### School Funding SB 224 (Sen. Fady Qaddoura)

*Final Status: Failed*

SB 224 proposed sweeping changes to funding for pre-K students and sought to lower the compulsory age from the date the child turns 7 years of age to 5 years old on or before August 1st.



### Education Accounts SB 255 (Sen. Ryan Mishler)

*Final Status: Failed*

SB 255 proposed to combine all current state education funding options (CSA, Choice Scholarship, and ESA) into one program by creating the Indiana Funding Students First grant.

This bill would have removed all eligibility requirements to receive state education funding thus moving all education under the purview of the State.

For the first time, “homeschooled” appears in a bill digest.



### Absenteeism & School Attendance SB 282 (Sens. Stacey Donato, Linda Rogers, & Jeff Raatz)

*Final Status: Passed*

SB 282 created truancy prevention measures for every education option except for nonaccredited nonpublic schools with less than one employee. All nonpublic schools were eventually removed from the language and only public schools remained in the language.

The bill requires that all parents of habitual truants be referred to the prosecutor’s office, affidavits filed, and parents be prosecuted thusly. Attendance officers will be required to meet at least one team a year with DCS and intake officers of the juvenile court to discuss the effectiveness of truancy prevention measures being utilized in that attendance officer’s jurisdiction and to review data, policies, and procedures.

### We are free of the regulation that comes with government funding.

IAHE and IAHE Action would like to thank our state legislators for their continued support of Indiana homeschoolers and actively defending our rights and freedoms.

We are grateful to our Government Affairs team. Countless hours were spent pouring over legislation with pain-staking detail.

We are thankful for people like you who made calls to legislators. Your voices were heard and are instrumental in our legislative process. Building relationships with your state Senators and Representatives is vital! With the help of volunteers like you, IAHE and IAHE Action continue to defend homeschool and parental freedoms.

### Wanting to make a difference next session?

Join our IAHE Action mailing list to stay informed!  
[iaheaction.net/stay-informed](http://iaheaction.net/stay-informed) ■



## Your Kids are Watching You

— Lynn McCarty

You know that as a parent you are constantly aware of your actions—because your children are watching you. They watch your social skills, your manners, your honesty. And believe it or not, they are also watching your financial habits. They copy your habits, good ones as well as bad ones; habits you know of and those you don't.

Saving money and frugal shopping are good financial habits that show your children good money management. You hope they copy those habits as they grow up.

Impulse shopping and need-based shopping are two bad financial habits you do not want your children to copy. Those habits are so easy to start and hard to kick. Help your children avoid that path by setting a good example. It could change the direction of their lives. Here are a few tips to get you started.

### The Problem: Impulse Shopping

Absent-minded shopping or buying something on a whim is impulse shopping. Impulsive purchases are unplanned. We all do it occasionally, especially since it is so easy nowadays with online shopping. Impulse purchases may bring momentary pleasure, but once those moments pass, a lot of times people realize they could have lived with the stuff.



## How To Change

**Allowance:** If you want to curb your impulse spending, and teach your children good money management, give yourself a set amount of money every month for impulse spending—like an allowance. After using up that allowance, you must wait until the next month to make any more impulsive purchases. Having a limited allowance each month will force you to become more aware of your unplanned decisions to buy on a whim.

This change will take a personal commitment on your part. The key is to make the monthly allowance amount within reason. If you make it too high of an amount, you defeat the purpose of limiting your impulse spending.

**Cookie Jar:** Another way to curb your allowance spending is to use the cookie jar approach. Every time you make an impulse buy, put that same amount of cash into a cookie jar. If you spend \$7 on a mid-day iced coffee, put \$7 into a cookie jar. This will help you see how fast your allowance money disappears. If you spend your entire monthly allowance within the first week of the month, three weeks without your mid-day iced tea may just teach you to watch your impulse spending more carefully.

By involving your children and doing the allowance and cookie jar exercise as a family you will be teaching financial discipline and money management.

## The Problem: Wants vs Needs

The dictionary defines a want as a desire, wish or convenience, and a need as a necessity. Unfortunately, nowadays, we have mixed up those two. Letting your wishes and desires drive what you buy can create a financial nightmare.

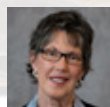
We get needs and wants mixed up because it is hard for us to deny ourselves anything. We want immediate gratification and cannot force ourselves to deny or delay happiness or enjoyment. We see something we want, and we do not stop to ask if we need it or just want it—we just buy it with no questions asked. Children are great at copying this habit. They are great at convincing you that their want is a need.

## How To Change

**Cool-off Period:** When you or your child are tempted to make a want purchase, give it 24 hours. The item will still be there tomorrow. Waiting can sometimes dilute the urgency.

**Tax The Want:** Feel the pain. For every want purchase you make, charge yourself tax. Feed your cookie jar a \$5 want tax every time you make a want purchase. This tax could start getting expensive and might help you avoid want shopping temptations.

Young people are bombarded everywhere with temptations to buy stuff. If you make this a family exercise, your children can learn a valuable lesson about differentiating between want spending and need spending. When they start making their own buying decisions someday, they will surely thank you. ■



**Lynn McCarty** is an author who empowers others to focus on how to change their financial habits. During her 30-year career in the financial business, she observed that clients often felt adrift in a lifeboat—the kind with financial leaks. Lynn has a straightforward and effective method to assist individuals in achieving financial freedom. For more examples you can set for your children, see [mccartyfinancial.com](http://mccartyfinancial.com).



## IAHE introduces the new Homeschool Indiana Podcast

*It's your go-to podcast for all things  
homeschooling in the Hoosier state!*

Join us as we explore the ins and outs of homeschooling in Indiana. From teaching tips to legal requirements and local resources, we've got you covered. Tune in to hear interviews with experienced homeschoolers, discussions on current education trends, and practical advice for navigating the homeschool journey. Whether you're seeking inspiration, information, or community, Homeschool Indiana is here to support you every step of the way.

### Recent podcast highlights:

Getting to Know Zan Tyler

Resources in YOUR area:  
*An Interview with Kelly Cox*

Homeschooling & Special Needs Learners:  
*A Conversation with Staci Morgan*

Legislative Wrap-Up with Kylene Varner

Discover Resource Centers  
*with Courtney Nalin*

[iahe.net/podcast](http://iahe.net/podcast)



# The New Journey

— Jillian Hicks

**The educational options** for high school graduates makes quite the long list. From the four-degree college route, to the learn-while-working apprenticeship road, to the one- or two-year certification process, the horizons are broad. And for your junior or senior student, they may be seemingly endless.

If you're honest, they may look just as overwhelming to you. The thought of trying to navigate through this maze of opportunities may leave you longing for the days when your student was still in second grade. This becomes all the more complicated when your student expresses interest in the apprenticeship, certification, or other non-college route. Where do you even begin before your student lands on a decision?

Thankfully, I've been blessed with the opportunity to journey with my parents down the road that includes a different approach to higher education than a four-year degree.

I've learned about researching an alternative program, researching the careers for which that program trains, navigating the online vs. in person question, and figuring out financial aid options. Having at least a rough plan of how to walk down this road can make the process less stressful. With that in mind, I pray that these steps and topics will help you and your student make that plan.



### Step #1: Researching the Options

Of course, this step begins with a step in and of itself: talk with your student about the many different post-high school options. Once your student has an idea of what career he wants

to pursue, the list of educational options will grow much more narrow. Still, it needs to be shorter.

So get to researching. What options are available? For the college path, this will probably just be a matter of taking the time to pour over a university's website. For the non-college route, this will be a bit harder to track down, but I promise you, they are out there. Ask around or go to community events where a program may have a booth set up. Once you've pinpointed a few, scour their websites. Attend any Q & A's they offer. Find someone who's in the program. This step may require no small amount of digging for you and your student, but it is the foundation for the other steps. Don't skip it!



### Step #2: Researching the Careers

Hopefully, your student has already researched some careers in the field in which she's interested. If so, this step will be more focused: looking at the job connections or job placements that spring from the training a higher education pathway offers.

To figure this out, you will need to look at what the careers in the field of interest require. For example, your student will need a cosmetology certificate if she wants to be a hairstylist.

Once that's done, look at what the alternatives of interest offer upon completion. If one doesn't offer the credentials your student will need for the job she wants, then take it off the list. Compare programs that give the same credentials. One may be more expensive, or closer to home, or any number of differences.

Really dive deep. And encourage your student to dive deep for herself. The more work both of you put into making these decisions, the more reward will be on the other side. As you work, however, there will be some concerns that pop up.



### Step #3: The Online Question

After the pandemic and the rise of e-learning, the world of virtual schooling has become an option for some and a scary monster for others. This is definitely true of post-high school education.

Colleges and in-person alternatives definitely offer built-in socialization, giving plenty of opportunities to make friends. Online students, however, are pictured as shriveled computer hermits, staying inside all day and never talking to anyone. But becoming a shriveled computer hermit is a choice. There are plenty of ways your student can still make friends in person; he just has to put in extra effort. Whether your student is willing to do so will influence your decisions, so make sure this discussion is part of your planning.

Also, online options can seem like a cheap, easy way out of a true higher education. And yes, an online program to teach agriculture without any hands-on experience would not be the wisest option. But there are careers, such as professional editing and coding, that could be very easily taught online with fantastic results. Use discretion.



### Step #4: Financial Aid

While there is an extremely wide scale of pricing in the post-high school education world, none of the options are twenty dollars. Even if your student has a job, they can be difficult to afford, especially for families with lower incomes. And is financial aid even available for certification courses or other non-college programs?

The answer is both simple and complicated: it depends.

The programs that are certified by the state have a larger chance of being listed on scholarship websites. Some offer their own scholarships. And some, unfortunately, have no financial aid tied to them at all.

Once again, research is the key. A great way to see what financial aid is available for an alternative is to get in contact with someone in charge of the program. Usually, that person will have an idea of some aid options.

Above all, though, keep praying that God will provide in His timing. These decisions are important, and He is more than able to open and close doors when needed.

### What now?

All the research and planning can be overwhelming, especially when neither of those things come naturally to you or your student. But as was mentioned before, neither of you will regret the work you put into finding the right fit. Thankfully, there isn't just one way to research, and every tip I've given you can be customized to whatever you may need.

Because above all, the key is to be creative. As homeschoolers, we have the great benefit of being able to practice creativity, and choosing post-high school education is no different. Think outside the box. Evaluate all the options. And don't just take my word for it; continue learning about how to start on this journey. Trust me, the hard work is worth it.

Happy travels! ■



**Jillian Hicks** is an IAHE intern and homeschool senior. She enjoys the gift of being able to pursue her passions and interests through her home education. In her spare time, she loves to read, play the piano, sing (only when no one else is home, of course), and develop story concepts. This coming year, she plans to enroll in the Author Conservatory to learn how to write Christian YA and middle-grade fiction for publication.

# 2024 IAHE C



When homeschoolers gather together, great things happen. The 2024 Homeschool Conference was no exception. We covered everything from planning, special learners, and high school transition to much more. Parents were equipped and encouraged. They spent hours exploring curriculum, resources, and more.

The annual IAHE Conference is the homeschooler's chance for high schoolers alike to be blessed, encouraged, and inspired. Something very special happens when you spend time together and realize how big the homeschool world is. You





# Conference Recap!

things happen! The 2024 IAHE Parenting and Workshops covered all the topics from strategic transcripts to parenting tips, raising boys, and so much more! With a packed Exhibit Hall, attendees enjoyed networking and educational opportunities.

It was a great event of the year for parents of toddlers and young children, and everyone was well equipped. We hope you'll join us next year! Spend a couple days with fellow homeschoolers and find the support you need all around you!



A watercolor palette with various colors (yellow, red, orange, purple, green) and several brushes are arranged on a dark wooden surface. The palette is in the top left, and brushes are scattered around it. The background is a dark, textured wood.

# AN IMPRACTICAL APPROACH TO THE *Fine Arts*

— Mike Sager

**I've never been one** to let a lack of knowledge get in the way of a great idea. Following specific instructions was never a calling I felt. When given a choice between A or B, I would most usually choose orange. Granted, I have spent prodigious hours studying the ways of a crayon, and I was considered somewhat of an idiot savant in my early school years when it was noticed that I could turn all my watercolors brown faster than any of the other students. So, maybe I do have skills that far exceed my grasp, or maybe I just don't know any better.

I share this to let you know that I have not had any formal art study. I started out like most—making color wheels, drawing circles, and shading them to look like a sphere. I even dabbled in the rudimentary art of sculpting, creating unidentifiable works of art that my parents proudly displayed in prominent locations.

Therein lies the extent of my exhaustive art training and my exhausted art teachers.

## Inspiring the Beholder

I love art. I really do. I don't love all art, but there are some drawings and paintings that fascinate and inspire me. From the lines and crosshatching of Walt Kelly, the cartoonist, to the composition and brush strokes in the paintings of Winslow Homer. All of us are inspired from our own perspectives and tastes. It is a testament to our grand inspirer and Creator. God designed us to notice His creation, to see His beauty in it, and to be awestruck by what He has made because it is a reflection of Him. Creating art should be just another way that we worship God as we seek to imitate who He is and what He has done.

## Driving Out Fear

A lot of things changed once my wife and I started homeschooling. I was quickly promoted to principal, substitute teacher, and janitor. My wife Amy then told me, "You've always been good with crayons, why don't you teach the kids art?" I took her comment good-naturedly, secretly proud that she had noticed.

The idea of teaching, let alone teaching kids art, can be frightening. Most of the fear lives in your own head and is quickly driven out when you realize that kids don't really care what you are teaching them so long as you are beside them. Once they see that you are as invested and committed to learning as you expect them to be, they will follow you anywhere. Being "invested and committed" means both of YOUR hands covered in fingerpaint. Do it, they'll love it!

## Drawing on Yourself

Because there are many paths to learning art, and I definitely came in through a door marked orange, each of us can have a unique passion and approach. Use what inspires you to then inspire your children. As I followed my own artistic wanderings, I shared what I had seen and discovered with my children. They saw the excitement that was in my eyes, and it in turn excited them. Remember that God made you for your children. He wants you to teach and share from the unique gifts and talents that He gave you.

## Moving Past Crayons

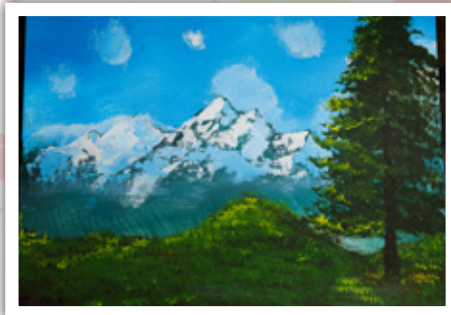
We didn't follow any one specific art textbook or curricula. We followed wherever the winds of art blew. We sketched with pencils, chalk, pastels, charcoal, markers, and pens. We painted with watercolor, acrylic, oil, and gouache.



Emma – 17 years old



Emma – 7 years old



Evelyn – 10 years old



Finn – 9 years old

We sketched on watercolor paper, watercolor painted on sketch paper, and oil painted on paper with a canvas texture made for acrylic. Explore as many art mediums and styles as you can, and enjoy the adventure! It can be a lot of fun when you don't know what you don't know.

## The Discipline of Art




For us, the discipline followed the experimentation. Some of the things we tried remained as just things that we had tried, but those that captured our imaginations also quickly showed us our limitations. We sought out books and videos that explained and guided us. There will always be a time and place for sitting at the feet of wisdom and learning. Everyone will come at some point. Learning with eagerness and hunger is what makes the difference.

## Who's Teaching Who?

Art isn't always constant. It ebbs and flows. As our children have grown, the adventure of creativity has taken them down their own unique paths. I watch them and still come alongside them to let them know I'm there, but mostly to watch in amazement as I see the gifts appear that God is working in each one.

Quite a few years ago, after a period where we hadn't done art for awhile, my oldest daughter Emma came and informed me that every Sunday from four until five o'clock was art time and she expected me to be there. What followed was a beautiful period where we learned from, inspired, and reminded each other that art, like all learning, is best enjoyed together.

Remember:

-  **Share with your children** the things that inspire you, and don't be afraid to try it all.
-  **Walk this journey beside them,** leading and teaching them from the gifts that God placed inside of you.
-  **When the time comes** that your children inspire you, tell them.

Keep your brushes wet! ■



**Mike Sager** is a homeschooling dad of five kids ages 12 to 20. His interest in art bloomed in school where, as a survival skill, he spent countless hours doodling in the margins of notebooks. Mike and his wife Amy serve on the IAHE Board of Directors.

In the next issue, we will explore the practical side of an impractical approach to the fine arts.

# IAHE Summer Reading Challenge



“SOME BOOKS SHOULD BE TASTED, SOME DEVoured, BUT ONLY A FEW SHOULD BE CHEWED AND DIGESTED THOROUGHLY.”

— Sir Francis Bacon

It's time for the 2024 Annual IAHE Summer Reading Challenge! Dive into adventures, biographies, picture books, and more. Create lasting memories as you bond over a story together this summer.

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Reading log

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Book ideas for all ages

A chance to win a prize

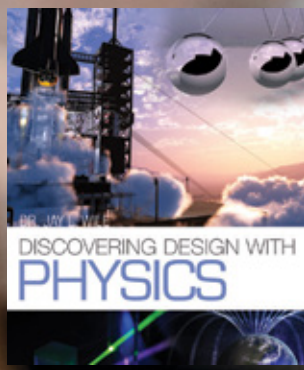


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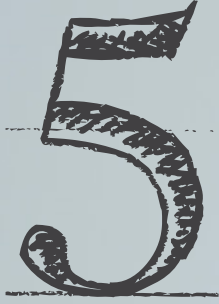


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# Transcript Tips for Home Schools

— Shellie Doub



## In my role as a university recruiter,

I have reviewed thousands of homeschool transcripts. Some are very, very well done. Many others contain errors, miscalculations, or unconventional formatting that leaves admissions officers with more questions than answers. When this happens, your student's application won't move forward in the review process, and your student's admission counselor may or may not contact you for clarification.

Colleges don't require that you use a transcript service, and online templates may not be flexible enough to meet your needs, so parents often choose to create their own transcripts. Whichever method you choose, keep in mind that colleges appreciate when home schools follow these five traditional transcript conventions.

### Keep it simple.

We all love Canva and creative designs, but colleges prefer transcripts that are simple and easy to read. School logos, official seals, and fun colors are not needed or helpful.

### Use Homeschool Transcript in your header.

Colleges track and report the number of applicants who attend public, private, or home schools, so use Homeschool Transcript as your header. Even if you choose to name your homeschool, colleges still want to know what type of school your student attended.

### Verify accuracy of the student information section.

If you use a template or repurpose a transcript from an older sibling, make sure the information you provide is accurate. Colleges identify students by these important pieces of information: student full name, preferred name, date of birth, address, phone, email, anticipated graduation date, and freshman year start date. Social security numbers are no longer recommended for security reasons.

### Include semester grades.

One of the most common errors that parents make is to assign a final grade and full year of credit for a course that has not yet been completed. Instead, add a column for semester grades and assign half credit if a year-long course is still in progress. If no semester grade has been earned, you can assign a grade of IP for "in progress."

### Sign and date your transcript.

The transcript is an official document, so in addition to signing and dating your transcript, it is important that your signature block contains contact information for the parent in charge of keeping academic records for your homeschool so that colleges can contact you with questions.

Remember, your goal is to create a clear, concise, and accurate transcript, and if your student's academic journey doesn't fit easily into a transcript template, don't be afraid to create one that represents their unique academic experience. ■



**Shellie Doub** is a homeschool veteran, a Dual Enrollment recruiter for Cedarville University, and the owner of Blue Sky Coaching, LLC. Download a transcript template at [ShellieDoub.com](http://ShellieDoub.com) or follow Shellie Doub, Speaker and Educational Consultant, on Facebook for more transcript tips!



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# Hey Dad!

## ARE YOU RAISING YOUR SON WITH INTENTION?

— Woody Youngs

Carol and I have been working with kids for forty-four years—longer than we’ve been married! When our son was in 2nd grade, I became a Cubmaster. Three months later we had sixty-five boys. Twenty-three years and a thousand boys later, I left Scouting to volunteer with a new Christ-centered ministry to boys (Trail Life USA) and have had the pleasure of working with a thousand more boys over the past ten years. Teaching Sunday School with kids of all ages, working with several other youth ministries for nearly forty years, and huge lessons learned leading countless camping trips and a dozen or so epic national high adventure treks—that all brings a certain perspective. Here’s mine...

### Three Observations about Dads

**Observation #1:** The Good and Bad of Dads! Most dads I’ve met love their sons. The bad news: MANY boys don’t have a dad in their lives (separated, divorced, deployed, deceased, or working long hours). It has been rare that I’ve met those missing dads. How do those boys grow up? Who speaks the truths men need to hear into the lives of those boys as their character develops?

More frustration... Even when dads are present, many are not engaged. They work long hours to provide for their families, and they’re drained at the end of the day. They come home and land in the recliner. TV lulls them to sleep. Minutes they could spend with their sons tick by. Before you can blink, those little guys are in middle school—and they’re struggling. Who influenced that boy’s choices during those years while dad was too tired to engage?

**Observation #2:** Most dads don’t study their sons. Dads believe they know their boy because, hey, “He is my boy!” (Do you hear the “duh?”) But do they? If they did, would we see the prevalence of drugs and alcohol abuse, addiction to porn, truancy, and a lack of respect?

Studying your son starts when he’s young, and never stops. Boys are unique. They require individual attention. They have different interests, learning styles, and goals. In Proverbs 22:6, the NKJV says, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Dads, Scripture admonishes you to be engaged and give intentional instruction. To do that effectively, you must discover the “bent” of your son; what makes him tick. Are you listening? Watching? Engaging? Come alongside your son and begin to study him closely!

**Observation #3:** “Extreme Parenting Perils” We’ve talked about the uninvolved dad. He’s at one end of the spectrum. As damaging as that guy is to boys, the man at the other extreme can



do even more damage; he's the hyper-protective dad. You might think this is more likely to be a mom—and there are moms in this category—but many dads are equally hyper-protective. I can't count the hikes and camping trips when the weather forecast showed a 30% chance of rain, and these hyper-protective dads didn't show up with their sons, or they bailed out when it started to sprinkle. Those boys missed the opportunity to face legitimate life challenges because well-intentioned dads didn't want Billy to get his new shoes muddy. I'm not suggesting that we allow boys to do things that threaten life and limb, but we do need to teach them to cope with obstacles they will undoubtedly encounter as an adult. Get out there and challenge your boys! Show them real adventure—not a manicured soccer field.

This hyper-protective dad also shows up when Billy is given work assignments too. He intervenes to make it easier for Billy. He wants to be sure Billy gets every advantage. More than a helicopter parent, he wants to do the work for Billy, and he demands special treatment. And Billy stands by watching...

I see you smiling! You've met these dads; names and situations have already popped into your mind. Knowing we have to deal with this spectrum of dad behaviors, how can we help boys navigate being 8 years old...or 12...or 16 years old? How can we help them face real-world challenges?

**My Conclusion:** Dads Need to Raise their Sons with Intention. If you were to raise your sons with intention, what would that look like? Intentional foundations would include discussions

to discover unchangeable truths and values. God's Word shows example upon example of essential life lessons: the tools boys need to make wise choices. There would be a deep, ongoing discussion of leadership. What does great leadership look like at your age/stage/place in life? I recently led a youth leadership seminar and asked a group of 14-year-old boys to list the characteristics of great leaders. They included words like integrity, knowledge, skills, humility, willingness to serve others, wisdom, and perseverance. Wow! Dads, are we having conversations with our sons about this stuff? Are we giving our sons opportunities to develop experience in these areas? The final item on my wish list for boys is that they be mentored to understand what it means to behave as gentlemen. More than just presenting himself with appropriate social graces, this teaches a young man to think before he acts and to understand the impact of his choices.

Dad, if you can honestly say you are raising your sons with great intention, congratulations! For those who aren't so sure, why not make this a subject to discuss regularly with other dads? I suspect they're struggling too! We could all learn to hone our parenting skills! Scripture says, "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend" (Proverbs 27:17, NKJV).

Now go have fun studying your son! ■



**Woody Youngs** wears several hats in Trail Life (Chairman of the National Advisory Council, Area Point Man, Troopmaster), has served as camp director for six National Summer Adventures and numerous regional and area events, and is actively involved with training leaders for the ministry of Trail Life USA.



**What if this summer**

**was a turning point in your life?**

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# TOP REASONS

10

## to launch a Trail Life Troop in your community

› **Adventure Awaits!** Give yourself a break from your boy's pent-up boundless energy. Send him outside camping, hiking, and exploring the outdoors with dad and/or a community of dad-likes, who are focused on developing the next generation.

› **Hands-On Homeschooling:** Forget boring textbooks! Trailmen learn by doing, giving a whole new meaning to "homework" that involves more than just staring at screens or pages.

› **Real Social Networking:** Boys can't help but like and share about their time at Troop meetings and campouts. But not in a digital way! A Trail Life Troop is where homechoolors like adventure, share new experiences, and build a squad that's more family than friends.

› **Trail Map to Manhood:** Trail Life isn't just a club; it's a boy's treasure map to manhood. Boys have a clear path marked by rites of passage, and complete with awards and ceremonies that make growing up an adventure.

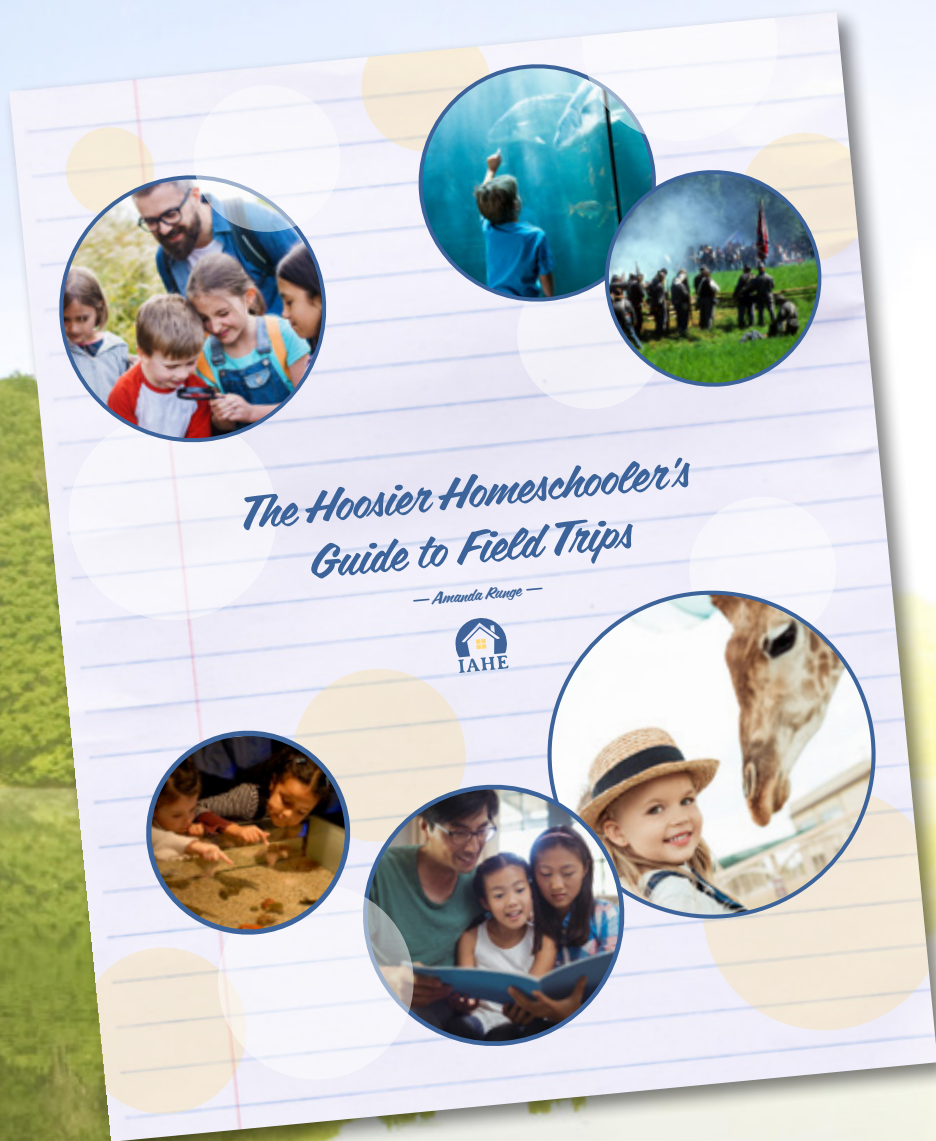
› **Epic Proportions:** If Trail Life were a movie, it'd be an epic tale where scriptural roots set the stage for boundless adventure, and unexpected challenges grow courage and camaraderie, forging legendary men of character and conviction.



**Join the Adventure!** Scan the code to see the rest of the Top 10 and to chat with a Trail Life chartering expert who can help kickstart the journey with your church today!  
<https://www.traillifeusa.com/Top-10>



# Looking for something fun to do this summer?



*The Hoosier Homeschooler's Guide to Field Trips* is a great resource with destination suggestions for every county in Indiana, as well as additional tips that are easy to implement near home during the school year.

**iahe.net**  
**field-trip-guide**

Check out our ebook collection on the IAHE Shop for other great educational resources!



# Make Summer Learning Fun — *With Contests* —



For those who have been homeschooling for more than a year, you know that summer brain drain is a real thing. But the need for a routine change, breaks, and some refreshment is real too. What if there was a way to keep the brain active while still enjoying a change of routine? This summer, check out some contest opportunities.

Contests can provide a healthy opportunity to motivate your student to do his best work. With their varied topics, they offer your student a chance to explore and learn about a subject, person, part of history, or field they may not be as familiar with. Winning is not everything, and the knowledge and confidence gained from trying something new can benefit him throughout his lifetime.

Here are some tips to help make entering contests an enjoyable experience:

- Let your student choose the contest that most interests them, even if you like a certain contest better.
- Choose contests with deadlines that work in your family's schedule. Stress and time pressure will not make this enjoyable.
- Make research a family affair. Look up articles and documentaries together. Model a love of learning. You may even find a person to interview as you collect information.
- Assure your student that winning is not the ultimate goal. The journey is the goal, and if they win in the process, hooray! Praise them for their hard work.

Here are some exciting contests your student could enter this summer.

### **Write the World Poetry and Spoken Word Competition**

*Deadline: May 27, 2024*

[writetheworld.org/#/competition-page/5256](http://writetheworld.org/#/competition-page/5256)

### **Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) SGT. Moses Adams Memorial Brochure contest** | *Deadline: June 1, 2024*

[sar.org/sgt-moses-adams-memorial-middle-school-brochure-contest](http://sar.org/sgt-moses-adams-memorial-middle-school-brochure-contest)

### **Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Elementary Poster contest**

*Deadline: June 1, 2024*

[sar.org/americanism-elementary-school-poster-contest-2](http://sar.org/americanism-elementary-school-poster-contest-2)

### **Ocean Awareness contest** | *Deadline: June 10, 2024*

[bowseat.org/programs/ocean-awareness-contest/contest-overview](http://bowseat.org/programs/ocean-awareness-contest/contest-overview)

### **Write the World Personal Essay Competition**

*Deadline: June 24, 2024*

[writetheworld.org/#/competition-page/5258](http://writetheworld.org/#/competition-page/5258)

### **ISDA Photo contest** | *Deadline: June 30, 2024*

[in.gov/isda/programs-and-initiatives/indiana-state-department-of-agriculture-photo-contest](http://in.gov/isda/programs-and-initiatives/indiana-state-department-of-agriculture-photo-contest)

### **Embracing our Differences Art Competition**

*Deadline: July 1, 2024*

[embracingourdifferences.org/submit-art-2023-exhibit](http://embracingourdifferences.org/submit-art-2023-exhibit)

### **PSI Annual Poetry Contest** | *Deadline: July 1, 2024*

[poetrysocietyofindiana.org/psi-annual-poetry-contest.html](http://poetrysocietyofindiana.org/psi-annual-poetry-contest.html)

### **Write the World Journalism Competition** | *Deadline: July 22, 2024*

[writetheworld.org/#/competition-page/5259](http://writetheworld.org/#/competition-page/5259)

### **Write the World Flash Fiction Competition**

*Deadline: August 26, 2024*

[writetheworld.org/#/competition-page/5260](http://writetheworld.org/#/competition-page/5260)

### **Young Writers Awards** | *Deadline: September 1, 2024*

[bennington.edu/events/young-writers-awards](http://bennington.edu/events/young-writers-awards)

Also – don't forget the annual IAHE Reading Challenge (page 20)! It also has a contest for those who complete the reading challenge, to win a gift card for some homeschool swag from the IAHE Shop online! ■

# Choosing the Good Portion

— Kerry Tittle



Single parenting is an equal opportunity employer.

My husband and I had nine beautiful children, he loved the Lord, and he worked for a marriage ministry. Being a single parent was not in either of our plans.

April 27, 2014, all of that changed. Our home took a direct hit from an F4 tornado that destroyed my life, literally and figuratively. The Lord took my husband Rob and two of my nine children, Tori and Rebekah, home in a matter of seconds. The rest of us were left in a devastated countryside full of rubble that looked like a war-torn territory. Even the sun left us to fend with our wits.

That event left me dumbfounded. I felt nothing, and I was left in a daze for nearly two years. How does one walk away from everything with only the clothes on their back, missing a quarter of their family members?

Being a single parent has also been a pride crusher for me. The once healthy “month ahead cooking” mom has forgotten dinner altogether more times than I want to admit. My kids love it when mom must resort to a drive-through or PB&J with smashed Sarah Lee for dinner (smashed because I was prideful and slid the bread under something else in my grocery cart in case I ran into my healthy friends). Even my insurance agent will call to let me know if my premiums are coming up, because I have a pretty good track record of forgetting.

I have been and still am committed to homeschooling, but again I haven't been able to do it all. It can be very hard for single parents to admit they can't do it all. I have sweet teachers coming alongside me teaching Latin, music, physics and such to my kids. I feel like the bottom of my bucket is just a strainer. I do all I can to keep it together, but my attempts on my own are futile.

This often results in me collapsing in a crying heap on my floor at the end of the day. The hardest part is the toll it takes on my relationship with Christ. Busyness can be the adversary's best tool to wrecking my walk with Jesus. My husband had a flippant saying: “The Devil will either make you bad or busy.” Though I have always heard Luke 10:38 in context towards women, I truly believe there is something here for all of us. Martha was distracted with much serving. Look at what happens when she meets Jesus.

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:38-42, ESV)

I am also anxious and troubled about many things. Like Martha I can easily be driven by works and let Jesus fall to the back burner. But it's clear Jesus is showing us that as important as some of these things are, they pale in comparison to sitting and worshipping at the feet of our Savior. As counterintuitive as this sounds, this portion is what helps us to roll up our sleeves and get the work done; it gives us strength to endure life's challenges. Next time you are overwhelmed, stop and be still. Share your anxieties with the only One you can release this burden to. He promises to hear, and He will never leave you in this.

Ten years later, the million-dollar question is, “How did you do it?” Here is a simple but life changing strategy; My life turned around when I learned to give grace to myself, accept I couldn't do it all, and chose the good portion. It's ok to say no. It's ok (actually encouraged) to put Jesus on your calendar and let your time with him be a priority over all else. This good portion is offered to you. Take it, even if you are in a heap on your floor, and be blessed. ■



**Kerry Tittle** is a 25-year homeschool veteran, and was the owner of *ReformationKidz* with her husband Rob until his death in 2014. Kerry is the founder of *Refined Family*, which is created to encourage others to find hope in the gospel in the midst of trials. She is also president of *Christian Home Educators Summit of Arkansas*, as well as a children's author.



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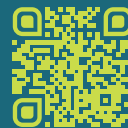
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