



MAKING DISCIPLES AT HOME

A Mother's Guide

DISCIPLESHIP IS IMPORTANT!

Yeshua said, "Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).



WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

To understand Yeshua's words about making disciples, we have to understand what the word "disciple" meant in the context of first-century Judaism, practiced by Yeshua and his disciples.

Discipleship was a well-established tradition. A *talmid* (plural, *talmidim*) was a student, and the job of a *talmid* was to learn everything his master could teach him. In fact, his goal was to become just like his master!

As Yeshua said in Luke 6:40, "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher."

Discipleship wasn't schooling like we think of it – a formal class, college, or seminary. Rather, it was more like apprenticeship, or even more, a parent-child relationship. Discipleship was the art of imitation.

FOUR JOBS OF A DISCIPLE:

- To memorize his teacher's words
- To learn his teacher's views, traditions, and interpretations
- To imitate his teacher's actions
- To raise up disciples



Just like a first-century teacher with his disciples, a mother can disciple her children. In fact, it's almost easier as a mother!

She can concentrate on her own children, who can be in her home for their entire growing-up years!

First, she puts the Torah on her own heart, and then she talks about it with her children, all day, every day.

“HEAR, O ISRAEL: YHVH OUR ELOHIM. YHVH IS ONE! YOU SHALL LOVE YHVH YOUR ELOHIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART. WITH ALL YOUR SOUL. AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.

AND THESE WORDS WHICH I COMMAND YOU TODAY SHALL BE IN YOUR HEART. YOU SHALL TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY TO YOUR CHILDREN. AND SHALL TALK OF THEM WHEN YOU SIT IN YOUR HOUSE. WHEN YOU WALK BY THE WAY. WHEN YOU LIE DOWN. AND WHEN YOU RISE UP. YOU SHALL BIND THEM AS A SIGN ON YOUR HAND. AND THEY SHALL BE AS FRONTLETS BETWEEN YOUR EYES. YOU SHALL WRITE THEM ON THE DOORPOSTS OF YOUR HOUSE AND ON YOUR GATES.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9

“*Bad company
corrupts good
character.*”

1 CORINTHIANS 15:33



TIME

Time is the most priceless possession we have. As we spend time with our children, they become what we are.

Our children imitate our actions! This happens whether we intend for it or not, although we can strengthen the outcome by holding everyone in the house to the same standard – righteousness according to the Torah.

As His words change and reform our character into the image of our Rabbi Yeshua, our children also become made in our image.

"You may fear YHVH your Elohim, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life...

"These words which I command you today shall be in *your* heart" (Deuteronomy 6:6).

You can also guard your children, carefully monitoring the company you let your children keep. From movies and books to teachers and friends, do not let any bad teachers disciple your children.

Time is our most powerful weapon to stop the cycle of sin, to overcome generational curses and the iniquity of our ancestors.

Prayer and worship and words alone won't do it. Actions speak louder than words!

INTENTION

We are to "teach them diligently," which is only one word, *shanan*, in the Hebrew. What does it mean to teach our children diligently?

YADA

This word is used in Deuteronomy 4:9, and it means to know, to indicate, to announce, or to narrate.

LAMAD

This word is used in Deuteronomy 4:10 and 6:1, and it means to exercise in, to accustom to, and to practice.

SHANAN

This is the word used in Deuteronomy 6:7, and it means to sharpen, to whet, to intensely teach, to pierce, and to contend.

Rashi said that "the words of Torah should be sharp in your mouth, so that if a person asks you anything about them, you will not need to stammer or hesitate about it, but tell him the answer immediately."



We must use our time wisely, being very intentional and careful to teach our children about our Rabbi Yeshua and His commands.

Paul wrote, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16).

This implies that we should be very thoughtful, planning out what needs to be taught and exactly how we will accomplish those lessons.

“
*Lo, I am with
you always...*

MATTHEW 28:20

As good teachers, we must be skillful and literate in the Word of God.

Even though we might not know the Word as well as we want to, we have time on our side!



We prepare to teach by reading our Bibles every day, taking notes and deeply studying various topics. We memorize verses to help us avoid temptation, and to be ready to teach our children.

Since we have 6,570 days from the time our children are born until they turn 18, we certainly have enough time to learn our Bibles well. Of course, if we are starting late, we need to be more intense about it -- intensely intentional!

You shall *talk* of them when you sit in your house,
when you walk by the way,
when you lie down,
and when you rise up. (Deuteronomy 6:7)

Finally, we need to be intentional in our discussions. Keep your children with you as much as possible, doing all the activities of life together.

And while you're learning, cooking, cleaning, and getting ready for bed, you can be talking. Point to the Creator at every opportunity, and let your love for the Creator and His commands fill your conversations.

P.S. You might need to teach your children how to pay attention to you, to *shema* or listen with intention. Show them how to look at you when you speak. Ask them questions, and invite them to ask you questions, too!

LOVE

Yeshua said that the greatest commandment is, "You shall love YHVH your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."

Instruction that comes from a gentle tongue, accompanied by loving actions, is always better received.

Rashi said, "You are to obey His words or commands because of your love for Him. There is no comparison between one who obeys out of love and one who obeys out of fear. He who obeys his master out of fear, should the master over burden him, he will leave him and go away."

Pleasant
words promote instruction.
(Proverbs 16:21)

On the other hand, the Proverbs 31 woman is described as one who "opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the Torah of kindness" (verse 26).

The word *Torah* is very similar to the word for a drizzle of rain, where the water falls straight down to the earth, gently preparing the ground for new growth. Just as information passes directly from a teacher to a student, the direct and gentle words of a mother can soften the ground of a child's heart, preparing the soil for a good harvest.



Let my teaching drop as the rain,
my speech distill as the dew,
like *gentle* rain upon the tender grass,
and like showers upon the herb. (Deuteronomy 32:2)

MOTHERS IN PROVERBS

Proverbs 1:8-9

My son, hear the instruction of your father,
And do not forsake the law of your mother;
For they will be a graceful ornament on your head,
And chains about your neck.

Proverbs 4:1-10

Hear, my children, the instruction of a father,
And give attention to know understanding;
For I give you good doctrine:
Do not forsake my law.
When I was my father's son,
Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother,
He also taught me, and said to me:
"Let your heart retain my words;
Keep my commands, and live.
Get wisdom! Get understanding!
Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.
Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you;
Love her, and she will keep you.
Wisdom is the principal thing;
Therefore get wisdom.
And in all your getting, get understanding.
Exalt her, and she will promote you;
She will bring you honor, when you embrace her.
She will place on your head an ornament of grace;
A crown of glory she will deliver to you."
Hear, my son, and receive my sayings,
And the years of your life will be many.

Proverbs 6:20-23

My son, keep your father's command,
And do not forsake the law of your mother.
Bind them continually upon your heart;
Tie them around your neck.
When you roam, they will lead you;
When you sleep, they will keep you;
And when you awake, they will speak with you.
For the commandment is a lamp,
And the law a light;
Reproofs of instruction are the way of life

Proverbs 10:1

The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son is the grief of his mother.

Proverbs 15:20

A wise son makes a father glad,
But a foolish man despises his mother.

Proverbs 19:26

He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother
Is a son who causes shame and brings reproach.

Proverbs 20:20

Whoever curses his father or his mother,
His lamp will be put out in deep darkness.

Proverbs 23:22-25

Listen to your father who begot you,
And do not despise your mother when she is old.
Buy the truth, and do not sell it,
Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.
The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice,
And he who begets a wise child will delight in him.
Let your father and your mother be glad,
And let her who bore you rejoice.

Proverbs 28:24

Whoever robs his father or his mother,
And says, "It is no transgression,"
The same is companion to a destroyer.

Proverbs 29:15

The rod and rebuke give wisdom,
But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

Proverbs 30:11
There is a generation that curses its father,
And does not bless its mother.

Proverbs 30:17
The eye that mocks his father,
And scorns obedience to his mother,
The ravens of the valley will pick it out,
And the young eagles will eat it.

Proverbs 31:1,10
The words of King Lemuel,
The utterance which his mother taught him...
Who can find a virtuous woman?
For her worth is far above rubies.



My Goals

I WILL BE INTENTIONAL TO DISCIPLE WHEN:

We sit in the house...

We walk by the way...

We lie down...

We rise up...

WAYS I WILL INTENTIONALLY PREPARE TO DISCIPLE MY CHILDREN:

I WILL SHOW LOVE IN THESE WAYS:

1

2

3

4



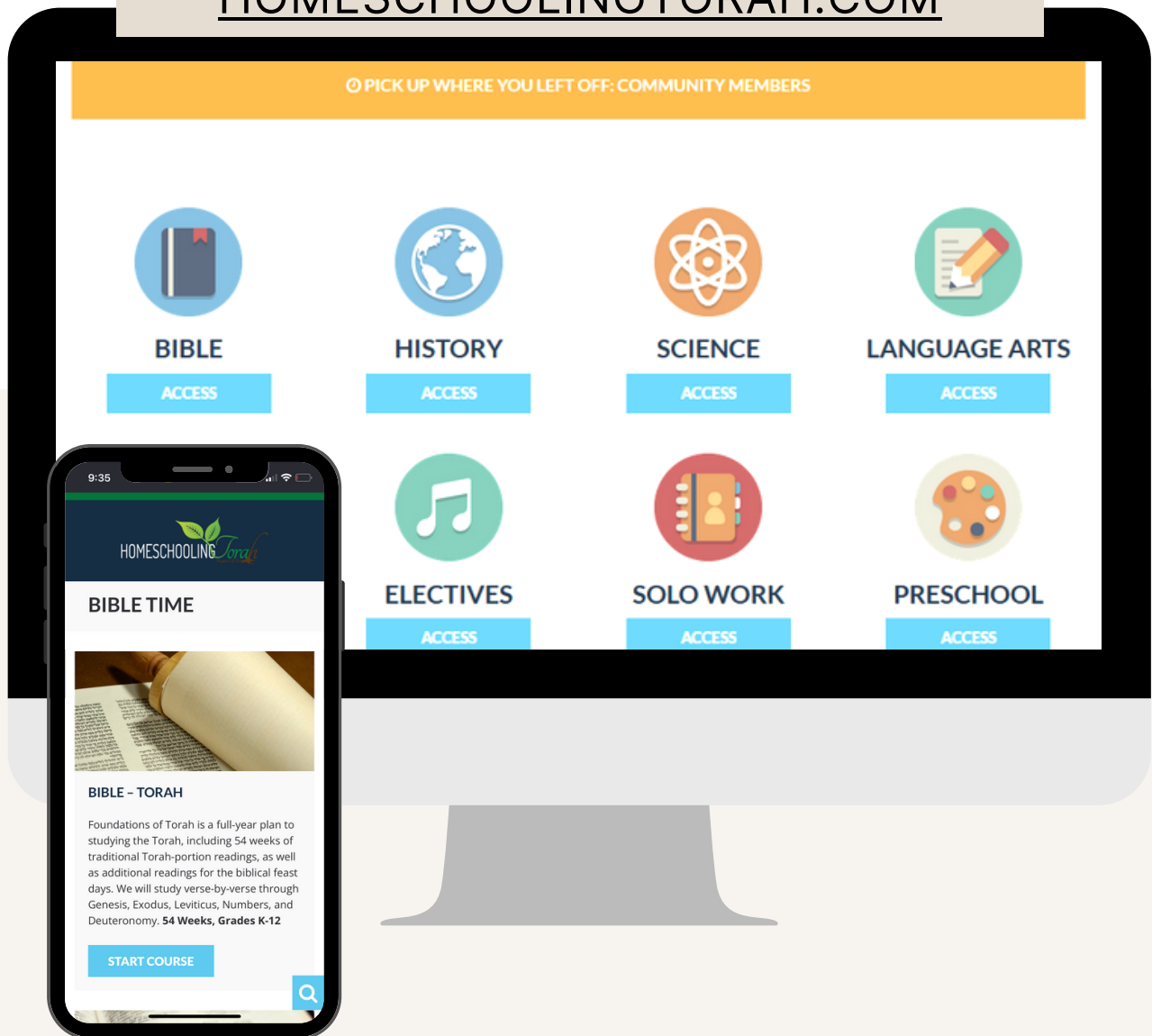
ABOUT ANNE ELLIOTT

Anne Elliott is the creator and founder of Homeschooling Torah, a full curriculum for every age, firmly based on the written Torah and pointing to Yeshua as Messiah.

She and Kraig have been married for almost 30 years and are the parents of 7 children, 4 of whom are now adults. They live in central Michigan, where Kraig is also a teaching elder in their local Sabbath fellowship.

They love good food, good books, and good music. They are passionate about lots of things, but their biggest desire is to get to the end of their lives and know that their lives made a difference for Yah's kingdom.

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