

*Start*  
**THE NEW  
YEAR**

— RIGHT —

ADVICE FOR A NEW  
HOMESCHOOLING YEAR

*By Anne Elliott*

# Biblical Homeschooling Methods



As I've studied the Scriptures, I've noted that the book of Deuteronomy seems to suggest specific methods for not only what and why we should teach our children, but how we should teach them.

I've also noticed that each chapter or group of chapters seems to follow a specific theme. I've been wondering if it was just my imagination or not, because I didn't have time to really study it out. I've also been wondering if the "themes" might have

anything to do with teaching children.

One day, I took the time to study it out officially. It was wonderful! I'm sure official Bible scholars over the centuries have many more profound things to say about the purpose of the book of Deuteronomy, but for me, I'm now absolutely convinced that one of the primary reasons YHWH gave us this book was to give us a guide for *how* to teach our children.

Note: [You can download my full-length study of the book of Deuteronomy here](#), to be used as a guide to your own thorough reading of the entire book.

Therefore, it is with complete confidence in the Word of God that I call this post "**Biblical Homeschooling Methods.**" The Bible probably has much more to say about parenting and homeschooling outside the book of Deuteronomy, but for now, I am confident that the following homeschooling methods are **biblical** and **pleasing to God**.

(Isn't the Word of God such a comfort when we're uncertain, filling us with confidence that "we can do this"!?)

Biblical Homeschooling Methods (in order as they appear in Deuteronomy):

### *1. Teach by a Variety of Methods.*

Since the book of Deuteronomy is arranged by topic and it was given by YHWH to Moses as an instructional book for the children of Israel, I see that YHWH uses the topical method when teaching mankind.

Of course, we also know He teaches by chronological history (a.k.a. stories), as well as by poetry, lists, and logical arguments in His Word.

This tells me that *many* different teaching methods are used by God, and all have their purpose and use. Variety is good. Repetition is essential. The “spice of life” originated with our Creator, and it certainly adds good taste to homeschooling.

The “topical” method used in Deuteronomy means that there is a good deal of repetition in the book. It seems YHWH avoids “gaps in education” by saying the same thing over and over again, in a variety of ways.

Deuteronomy is the original “unit study,” but rather than going broad with too much information, YHWH keeps it trimmed down and narrow, preferring repetition for solid learning.

### *2. Start with a Good Story.*

The first three chapters of Deuteronomy start with a story, hooking the reader with a thorough review of the history behind the subject of obeying YHWH. The key verse to this first section ([3:21-22](#)) says, “Your eyes have seen all that YHWH your God has done.”

The key to telling a good story is to help the listener “see it with his own eyes.” Stories are a great way to pique interest in a topic and to remind the listener *why* you’re studying this topic.

The “story” in chapters 1-3 ends with, “Hear now... what I am about to teach you. Follow them...” ([4:1](#)). Our stories should also end with, “This is why you’ve heard the story. Now get ready for what I’m going to teach you. Today we’re going to learn... then you’ll have a homework assignment so you can ‘practice’ what we’ve learned.”

### *3. Carefully Review So It Isn’t Forgotten.*

The theme of [Deuteronomy 4](#) is to not “add to what I command you and do not subtract from it.” YHWH warned that the children of Israel would immediately begin making idols in the shape of created things, being enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping them ([4:16, 19, 23, 25, 28](#)).

Rather, YHWH warned them to “be careful” and “watch closely” so that they would not “forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart.” Moses was told to assemble the people, so they could hear YHWH’s words and then teach them to their children ([4:9-10](#)).

I see that we should *begin* with stories, but without careful repetition and review, we will forget! Children don’t outgrow this. The oldest senior citizen needs the same review. It’s a lifelong process.

Repetition needs to be intentional. It needs to happen often. Your homeschooling method *must* include repetition and review, or it simply won’t be effective.

#### *4. Teach with the “Hear, Learn, Follow” Method.*

The theme of [Deuteronomy 5](#) is “hear, learn, and follow” the commands of YHWH. In this chapter, YHWH gave a specific body of information to be taught (known to us as the “Ten Commandments”), but He used three ways to ensure that this information would be mastered.

1. To teach a body of facts, first help your child “**hear.**” This word means to “hear intelligently,” meaning that the first step is to teach the information in a way that the child can understand what it means.
2. Secondly, help your child “**learn**” the information well. The Hebrew word for learn is similar to our word, “to goad or prod.” You keep poking at your child, day after day, until the information is mastered extremely well.
3. Thirdly, help your child “**follow,**” which is the Hebrew word for “guard.” You want the child to protect or “attend to” the information you’ve taught, which again means plenty of review, maybe writing it down in a form that can be well preserved.

#### *5. Teach All the Time, at Every Opportunity. Use Visual Aids and Discussion.*

The classic parenting verses of [Deuteronomy 6](#) now appear:

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.”

First, the teacher has a firm grasp of the information herself. Then, discussion occurs all day long, at every possible opportunity, while going about normal daily activities. Visual aids are used liberally, on every possible surface.

This is classic stuff!

YHWH also says, “In the future, when your son asks you... tell him...” ([6:20-21](#)). Visual aids are useful because they are discussion starters. Again, we forget easily, even as parents! The visual aids will help both you and your children remember the topics being learned.

However, visual aids alone serve no purpose if the discussion doesn't happen, all day long, every day, throughout all your activities. “When your son asks you” assumes that your son would even feel free to ask you a question! Are you available for discussion, or is each member of your home preoccupied with his or her own activities and interests, uninterested or involved with each other? Obviously, Scripture assumes that members of a family are actually spending almost all their time **together**.

[Author John A. Stormer](#) notes that it takes **time** to effectively teach children:

- **Time to talk** (Note: Only humans can carry on two-way communication, so children can ask **why** or get further clarification if they don't understand. Television cannot fill this need!)
- Time to read
- **Time to teach** new information
- **Time to train** and apply information to life
- Time to play
- **Time to care** (Note: This kind of intense interaction shows a child that his parent cares enough to consider his lifelong needs over personal interests.)

## *6. Ruthlessly Rid the House of False Information.*

The theme of [Deuteronomy 7](#) is sobering, as YHWH tells the children of Israel to destroy the wicked nations around them **totally** ([7:2](#)). They were to make no treaty with them, show them no mercy, not intermarry with them, break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles, and burn their idols in the fire. **Total destruction.**

I think this is a weak area for most of us homeschoolers, myself included. Yet it cannot be! God devotes an entire chapter to this topic! He minces no words, even as He explains why.

Carefully check your home for false information (and even evil, from God's perspective). What good does it do to teach your children carefully, with the best methods, then allow false information an equal footing? Why allow truth and lies to co-exist? You are only dooming your children to failure, possibly even eternal destruction.

“...Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Don't be deceived, my dear brothers” ([James 1:14-16](#)).

“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Messiah” ([2 Corinthians 10:5](#)).

Evil and false information have a tendency of creeping into our homes, sneaking in when we’re not aware. I strongly suggest that you do “spring cleaning” of all your homeschooling supplies, books, and even companions every few months. Again, be ruthless in this area! Do a **total destruction** of all evil.

### *7. Test for Understanding.*

The theme of [Deuteronomy 8](#) is that YHWH “disciplines you, as a man disciplines his son” ([8:3 and 5](#)). YHWH states that His specific method of “discipline” is as follows:

1. He humbles you.
2. He tests you.
3. He teaches you.

Yes, you have to take your children down a notch or two, and often! They get “[wise in their own eyes](#).” You need to teach them to be humble, and the way YHWH did this with the children of Israel was to “test” them. As you check for total mastery of what you’ve taught them, obviously they will occasionally fail your tests. You finish the testing sessions by re-teaching the information, again checking that they can apply what you’re teaching to real-life situations (see [8:3](#)).

Testing should be fair. As YHWH says in [1 Corinthians 10:12-13](#),

“So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! No temptation [testing] has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

Testing is not a popular homeschooling concept, but it is **biblical**.

### *8. Teach Them to Think of Others - and Why!*

Pride can creep into a Christian home very easily, can’t it? We start to think, maybe just because we’re homeschooling, that we’re “all that and a bag of chips.” Yet YHWH quickly reminds the children of Israel,

“It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations... It is not because of your righteousness..., for you are a stiff-necked people” ([9:5-6](#)).

Yes, [as we've learned before](#), our hearts are naturally wicked and self-seeking. We provoke YHWH, and our children provoke their parents and siblings. We are "stiff-necked." (Just watch a two-year-old!)

How does YHWH fix this situation? He "shows no partiality and accepts no bribes" (10:19). In addition, and this is beautiful, He teaches them to love those who are foreigners to Israel.

We are not "special" because of any inherent goodness. Just the opposite! We are sinners!

We are not "better" than anyone else, of any nation, creed, race, gender, or status. Just the opposite! We are poor and needy!

We need to love others, showing it in tangible ways. (See [Isaiah 58](#) for a list of biblical ideas.) Doing acts of service, mercy, and goodness to those who cannot repay us teaches us to be humble and take our eyes off ourselves. These "acts of service" can start at home, with menial chores and sometimes-distasteful tasks performed out of love rather than payment, extending later to those in our communities and world.

### 9. Fill "Blank Slates" with Life Experiences.

When I use the term "*blank slates*" in this educational context, I **do not mean** the same thing that St. Thomas Aquinas, John Locke, or Sigmund Freud meant, that children are born basically good and need to simply be nurtured with an excellent environment. Rather, I mean it in the original sense of *tabula rasa*, that "individuals are born without built-in mental content and that their knowledge comes from experience and perception" ([source](#)).

This is exactly how YHWH words it:

"Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of YHWH your God: his majesty, his mighty hand, his outstretched arm... It was not your children who saw what he did for you in the desert until you arrived at this place... But it was your own eyes that saw all these great things YHWH has done" ([11:2, 5, 7](#)).

Your children were born without the "mental content" that you now have. They can only learn when you tell them what "your own eyes" have seen. They need to experience it, preferably not by the "school of hard knocks" but rather by hearing about **your** experiences.

One of the reasons that you teach your children to honor you is because you **do** know things they don't! You've lived life, and you have experience to back your knowledge. They haven't! They need to listen to you.

I find it very instructive that it is within this context that YHWH repeats almost word-for-word His teaching method:

“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates...” (11:18-20).

One of the main topics of discussion in your home should be the free sharing of your own life experiences and stories, so that your children will learn and not repeat your mistakes.

### *10. Teach Them “Cultural Literacy” with Discernment. Teach Them How to Purge the Bad.*

Chapter 13 of Deuteronomy shares three scenarios of interacting with the culture around us.

- If a prophet appears and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder... ([13:1-5](#))
- If your very own brother, or your son or daughter, or the wife you love, or your closest friend secretly entices you... ([13:6-11](#))
- If you hear it said... that wicked men have arisen among you and have led the people of their town astray... ([13:12-18](#))

In each of these scenarios, YHWH’s advice is the same.

- You must not listen ([13:3](#)).
- You must purge the evil from among you ([13:5](#)).

First, YHWH told them not to listen, and He says that this is a “test.” Maybe your “test” could be a newspaper current-events article, in which your children are told to evaluate what they read and compare it to Scripture, telling if the reaction of the people in the story is biblical or not. Essay writing, logical arguments, position papers, and speeches are all excellent opportunities of learning to “not listen” to the sinful advice so rampant in our culture. Quietly, you can even include discussions of the actions of acquaintances and other Christians you know, evaluating whether people’s actions match the Scripture’s words.

Home is the place to **practice** for life. Teach your children how to live observe culture and differentiate between right and wrong. Most importantly, train them how to “purge” evil from their own lives. Be especially vigilant with the close friendships your children form and the opportunities for peer pressure that they face.

## 11. Master God's Curriculum.

Chapters 14-26 give an extensive overview of YHWH's curriculum, his commands and laws. These laws are **specific, extensive**, and occasionally **arbitrary** (in our view). We don't always know why YHWH wants us to do something, but we know we are to obey anyway. Often, He does tell us why, however. Either way, there is a specific "curriculum," and we are expected to know and do it.

School feels like this to our children, too. They don't always understand why they must learn so much, but as their parents, we do know why. They have to learn to trust us, by obeying us and learning it. Their job is to hunker down and get it learned.

I note one passage in this large section that gives an excellent method for mastering a large body of seemingly unrelated facts:

"When he takes the throne of his kingdom, **he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law... It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days** of his life so that he may learn... and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees and not consider himself better than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left" (17:18-20).

"Copywork," as it is popularly called in homeschooling circles today, is a **biblical** method of homeschooling, as well as profoundly effective when carried with the student and **reviewed every day**.

Don't be shy about requiring your children to memorize huge amounts of information, reviewing it constantly, writing and copying it. Your children will most likely fuss, but it's your job to teach!

## 12. Prepare to Teach, Write Down Your Plans, and Communicate Your Plans to Your Children.

In [Deuteronomy 27](#), Moses was told to write the entire "curriculum" (YHWH's laws, as reiterated in chapters 5 and 14-26) on "large stones" ([27:2, 4, 8](#)). He was then to "recite" the curriculum (in a "loud voice," no less) to all the people.

Children and kings aren't the only ones who should write and recite. The teacher also needs to do a fair bit of writing, and that means she needs to completely understand the curriculum, going over it thoroughly and writing out what is to be taught. The curriculum needs to be written in a way that can be then easily communicated daily to the students.

I don't see that "flying by the seat of our pants" is biblical, do you? "Natural" methods that let life happen as it comes don't appear in Deuteronomy. Yes, the discussions "just happen." But the visual aids and most especially, the specific body of information to be learned, are "set down in stone" ahead of time. Are we better than Moses, not needing to

write it all out and to communicate it to our students? Do we think we can be effective without a plan?

### *13. Give Rewards and Consequences.*

Chapter 28 is a long chapter, with much proof that YHWH uses both **rewards** and **consequences** in His teaching methods. It is **biblical** for us to give both rewards and consequences to our students as well. (I especially love the ideas produced by [Doorposts.net](http://Doorposts.net), such as the **If-Then Chart**, the **Blessing Chart**, and the book **For Instruction in Righteousness**.)

I also note that YHWH gives four times as many consequences for wrong behavior in this chapter as he does for good behavior! Mom, don't feel badly if some days go like that for you, too. Are you above YHWH? If that's how much He has to discipline His children, you'll probably have to apply a lot of consequences in your home, too. It's normal — and **biblical**.

“Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying”  
([Proverbs 19:18, KJV](#)).

### *14. Hold Yourself Accountable to Your Children and to Others.*

In chapters 29-30, the children of Israel enter into a covenant with YHWH their God, sealed with an oath ([29:12-14](#)). Their children were witnesses to this covenant, as well as the nations around them ([29:22, 24](#)).

Accountability is a bad word in many homeschooling circles. We want the right to homeschool, without any responsibility to **prove** that we are being effective, in the eyes of our children or the society that is watching us.

I propose that, without giving up our homeschooling freedoms, we should embrace our local homeschooling laws, carefully abiding by them and being accountable to those whom YHWH has set over us.

“Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities

are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor" ([Romans 13:1-7](#)).

### *15. End Your Teaching with Read-Alouds and Singing.*

The book of Deuteronomy closes (chapters 31-34) with the theme of "Do not be afraid." Don't be overwhelmed by everything that is required of a teacher. Even God says,

"YHWH himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged" (31:8).

You have an excellent plan. You are to:

- "Read this law before them in their hearing"
- So they can "listen"
- So they will "learn"
- So they will "follow carefully." ([31:10-12](#))

YHWH reminds us that our children "do not know this law," so that's why we carefully teach it.

Finally, He tells us that we'll have days that we fail, and our children will, too. I love that He concludes by asking Moses to write down a song. Music is a useful and highly effective learning tool, to say nothing of fun! Isn't YHWH great?

Reading, listening, learning, and singing. These are **biblical homeschooling methods**, given to us by our Creator God. Now don't you have a lot to feel confident about as you begin your homeschooling?

~Anne

# Why Use Curriculum?



Here's a practical question: Why even buy curriculum? Do I need it?

One of my goals is to teach every single subject [using the Bible as my primary textbook](#). Even though we've laid out some practical ways to do that [here on our website](#), it's still a very difficult proposition. I don't find much curriculum on the market that has this exact goal. So much of my time over the years has been spent

trying to “reinvent the wheel,” making up a lot as I go — and it's been a lot of work! On many mornings, I woke up with no plan whatsoever — and that's rather disconcerting.

No, I don't *need* to buy packaged curriculum. I can just use my Bible as the “spine” for all subjects, then use other books and resources to supplement and add variety.

But practically speaking, when Monday morning comes around, sometimes I am very unsure what to do that day with my children. I honestly wish I had a full curriculum laid out for me, so I could just pick it up and use it. I'm not trying to be lazy! I'm just trying to be practical, as the busy (and sometimes worn out) mother of seven children.

So, while some mothers might not need a packaged curriculum, I decided to list some reasons why I like having one.

- ✓ Because I don't know everything — and sometimes I don't even know I don't know it!

I did pretty good in school, and I love to learn and read. But come on... I slept through my share of history classes, and I stink at geography. I can't remember algebra without a good review, and I've forgotten the proofs of why I need to study Geometry. I still goof up time zones. Phonics frustrates me when it gives me no good reason “why.” I often forget how to make capital Qs in cursive. And I *love* the Word of God, but I can't honestly remember what the book of Zephaniah is about at this exact second because it's been awhile since I read it.

Curriculum authors are very familiar with their particular subjects. And as a curriculum author myself, I know that these real human beings are “very familiar with their particular subjects” only on the exact date that they wrote that exact lesson plan... and even *they* struggle with all the trivial details later.

Because we are humans made in the image of God yet without His perfection, God gives us language and words because *we forget things*. Writing things down and reading them later *helps us remember important truths*.

Do I have to teach *everything* to my children? No, that would be impossible. I do have opinions about specific things that must be taught, though, so I'm glad for curriculum. It will help me keep my good intentions, and it will instruct me in my own weak areas as it does.

- ✓ Because I want to be intentional in my parenting, not emotional.

I find that my emotions can reign supreme in two areas in my homeschooling.

First, a crying child can get my emotions going a little too much some days.

**“Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying”** ([Proverbs 19:18, KJV](#)). When my child is struggling with learning his multiplication facts, some days I'm too easy on him.

**“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged”** ([Colossians 3:21, KJV](#)). On other days, I'm grumpy and way too hard on him.

Secondly, over the course of a month, a school year, or even several years, I change my mind *too many times*. I'm very easily influenced, and my moods play more of a part in this than I care to admit. Curriculum, however, is usually written with a strong purpose behind it (or why would the author have gone to so much trouble?). At least for this particular school year (or until my mood convinces me to chuck it and buy something else completely), the daily lesson plans will keep us headed toward the goals that we set with much prayer and purpose at an earlier time.

I like curriculum because it lays things out for me, keeping me thoughtful and intentional in my teaching methods, rather than driven by my emotions for that day. No, I'm not saying that I need to “X” every box or do every activity suggested. However, I am realizing that most curriculum authors put those activities there for a very good reason, and I would do well to at least pay attention and try to figure out why the activity is there. More often than not, I've found that when I actually do what the author suggests, my children learn their stuff thoroughly! My emotions might not feel like “doing school” today, but my curriculum pushes me to have self discipline of my own.

- ✓ Because I need some accountability.

No, I don't need an official curriculum in order to be accountable to others, but it helps.

First of all, I really need to be accountable (a.k.a. “submissive”) to my own husband. These are his children, and he is primarily accountable to God for their upbringing and education. I am his “suitable helper” ([Genesis 2:18, NIV](#)). It would be wrong of me to tell

him that I'm planning to teach our children specific things — then just never get around to it. Curriculum really helps me with this!

I am also accountable to my country. I might not like it, but [Romans 13:1-7](#) makes it extremely clear that I must submit to my local “governing authorities” in matters of homeschooling law. I don't have to do *more* than they require, but I must at least do the minimum. I am welcome to take part in our democratic process (here in the United States) to make changes to bad laws, but in the meantime, I must **“give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor”** ([Romans 13:7](#)), and if a quarterly report card, then a quarterly report card. Curriculum really helps me with this.

- ✓ Because the Bible makes it clear that I need to review, to test, and to give rewards and consequences.

Yup, [as I was learning from Deuteronomy 8 and 28](#), part of my responsibility as a parent is to review with my children often, to actually test them to see if they're learning, and then to give rewards and consequences afterward. Without a curriculum, I personally am quite weak in this area.

Review? Ugh. It's fun to discuss or read aloud or do projects. But doing flashcards? Drilling spelling words? Chanting timelines? Reciting helping verbs? (Yawn...) Having a curriculum to nag me helps.

Tests? Who likes making up tests? I don't! What a pain! And it's tough to do in some of the harder subjects that my older children are in. (How do I test in Algebra or Chemistry when I can't remember any of it myself?)

And rewards or consequences? Sorry, Ladies, but I'm not that creative... day after day after day after day....

- ✓ Because I want to use the “Read, Listen, Learn, Follow” method of homeschooling.

[Deuteronomy 5](#) and [31:10-13](#) tell us about this method, and [you can read more about it in another post of mine](#).

1. Basically, I start by reading to my children (or otherwise giving them information).
2. They are to “listen,” which means to hear intelligently. This part includes the [discussion that we are to have together](#), so I can check for understanding of the topic.
3. Next, they are to “learn,” which comes from a Hebrew word meaning “to goad” or “instruct.” This is the review... the gentle poking and goading I must do over many days, being sure that head knowledge becomes deeply ingrained in their brains.
4. Finally, they are to “follow,” which comes from a Hebrew word meaning “to hedge, to guard, and to protect.” This is checking for long-term retention, and it must occur

over the course of an entire year, and even over several years and a lifetime of growing up in our home.

Honestly, this is a lot for me as a mom to remember to do. A curriculum author can lay out an entire school year, placing each of these components at their proper places. (Of course, this implies that I'm using a curriculum that actually agrees with these biblical goals I have.)

- ✓ Because I need to use a variety of teaching methods, even those that don't fit my own personality and learning styles.

Again, a curriculum author has gone to great care to reach a variety of audiences, learning styles, personalities, and methods. If I had my way, I'd choose the path of least personal resistance, but with seven children, I'm quite sure my own "path of least resistance" is probably nothing like the way some of them learn best. God is so creative, but even with the best of intentions, I am often lazy (or tired or very busy). A curriculum can really help me with this!

- ✓ Because I need to be realistic and practical. I still have a lot of other things to accomplish, besides homeschooling, in my days.

I am a curriculum author myself. I have lots of plans and big ideas about all the amazing books I'm going to write and publish... someday! (Oh, if only you could see them all, as they exist in amazing high-gloss beauty, at least in my head... LOL!)

But realistically, I still have to sleep sometime. I still have to go grocery shopping, make supper, put away clean laundry, take meals to sick friends from church, do my income taxes, and answer the phone occasionally. I have to let the dog out, remind my son to vacuum the living room, send thank-you notes, and practice the flute with my daughter. I have doctors' appointments, dry cleaning to pick up, friends to have coffee with, and meat to take out of the freezer for supper. There are *occasional* days when I don't have time to write amazing curriculum... or even make lesson plans for my own kids. (Or even review spelling words... sshh, don't tell...)

So, the top reason I love having curriculum is because... I'm just a normal mom like you are. Sometimes I just need help. Ever feel that way, too? So hip, hip, hooray for days when I feel creative and inspired! But I'm thankful also for curriculum, to carry me on all my "normal" days.

~Anne

# Choosing Your Curriculum by Grade

Membership to Homeschooling Torah is an all-inclusive curriculum. There are so many choices that you might not know where to start!

1. Remember that parents are the “teachers” and “principals” in their family’s homeschool, so adjust our recommendations to fit *your* family and your children’s specific needs. You are in charge, not us!
2. Our curriculum is more teacher-intensive than some. Our job is to provide the tools so that you’ll have time to spend with your children, but our curriculum cannot substitute for that time.

More than one child? **Choose subjects for your oldest child first**, then add extras for younger children.

*\* Subjects marked with an asterisk are designed so that you can teach all your children together, saving you time and energy!*

## *High School (9-12th Grades)*

- [Torah, Nakh, or Apostolic Scriptures](#) \*
- [Together School](#) \*
- [History](#) \*
- [Science](#) \*
- [Independent Bible Reading](#)
- [Copywork](#)
- [Grammar](#) \*
- [Oral Language](#) \*
- [Writing](#) \*
- [Vocabulary](#) \* (if needed)
- [Typing](#) (if needed)
- [Literature](#)
- Advanced Math (not available from HT)
- [Art](#) \*
- [P.E.](#) \*
- [Chores](#) \*

## *Middle Grades (4-8th Grades)*

- [Torah, Nakh, or Apostolic Scriptures](#) \*
- [Together School](#) \*
- [History](#) \*
- [Science](#) \*
- [Independent Bible Reading](#)
- [Copywork](#)
- [Spelling](#)
- [Grammar](#) \* (5th grade and up)
- [Oral Language](#) \*
- [Writing](#) \*
- [Vocabulary](#) \*
- [Typing](#)
- [Chapter Books](#) (read aloud or independently)
- [Math Drills 4-8 with Mom](#) \*
- [Arithmetic Worksheets 4-8](#) \*
- [Art](#) \*
- [P.E.](#) \*
- [Chores](#) \*

## *Primary Grades (2nd-3rd Grades)*

- [Torah](#) \*
- [Together School](#) \*
- [Little Ones' Science](#) \*
- [Copywork](#)
- [Phonics 2](#)
- [Spelling](#)
- [Chapter Books](#) (read aloud or independently)
- [Math Drills K- 3 with Mom](#) \*
- [Arithmetic Worksheets 2-3](#) \*
- [Crafts](#) \*
- [P.E.](#) \*
- [Chores](#) \*

## *First Grade*

- [Torah](#) \*
- [Together School](#) \*
- [Little Ones' Science](#) \*
- [Copywork](#)
- [Phonics 1](#)
- [Spelling](#)
- [Chapter Books](#) (read aloud)
- [Math Drills K- 3 with Mom](#) \*
- [Arithmetic Worksheets K-1](#) \*
- [Crafts](#) \*
- [P.E.](#) \*
- [Chores](#) \*

## *Kindergarten*

- [Torah](#) \*
- [Together School](#) \*
- [Little Ones' Science](#) \*
- [Copywork](#)
- [Beginner Phonics](#)
- [Chapter Books](#) (read aloud)
- [Math Drills K- 3 with Mom](#) \*
- [Arithmetic Worksheets K-1](#) \*
- [Crafts](#) \*
- [P.E.](#) \*
- [Chores](#) \*

## *Preschool*

- [Preschool](#)
- [Crafts](#) \*
- [Chores](#) \*

# Can You Recommend a Good Printer?

*Note: This post contains affiliate links.*

Because our curriculum is an online membership to a website, and because all the lesson plans are digital PDF downloads, you'll want to think about how you can print inexpensively.

For several years, we have been very happy with Canon printers. I have a combination printer/scanner/copier at the moment, the [Canon PIXMA](#), but I use it to write curriculum and work on the business. It was around \$60 on Amazon with free shipping included. I don't know if you'd need something that fancy.



Canon PIXMA MX452

I had a smaller Canon printer before that, and it worked great with no problems for about 4 years. I only upgraded because I needed a scanner. I think this would be the perfect printer for most homeschooling families.



Canon Office Products IP2820 Inkjet Printer

You can get ink for a good price through Amazon, too. We just use black ink, and we

choose the default settings of “fast” and “grayscale” so that we never use color, to save money. But that’s just us. 😊

## *The Cost of Printing*

[According to one study](#), the cost for our family to print with “grayscale” and only black ink (using the fancy Canon PIXMA above) is around \$0.053 per page. With six children homeschooling each day, we use ink for the following subjects:

Bible – 4-8 pages/week – **Cost to Print Weekly: \$0.212 – \$0.424**

Together School – We use it only online (or max. 8 pages/week) – **Cost to Print Weekly: \$0.00 – \$0.424**

History – We use it only online, with occasional 1-2 pages printed from Internet (or max. 4 pages/week) – **Cost to Print Weekly: \$0.106 – \$0.212**

Copywork – Most of my children copy into a composition book, but we occasionally print, especially at the beginning of the year (5 pages/week) – **Cost to Print Weekly: \$0.265**

Phonics – student 6 pages/week, teacher’s guide online (or max. 3 pages/week) – **Cost to Print Weekly: \$0.318 – \$0.477**

Spelling – 5-6 pages/week, per student – **Cost to Print Weekly: \$0.318 x 3 students = \$0.954**

Grammar – 5 pages/week, teacher’s guide online (or max. 15 pages/week) – **Cost to Print Weekly: \$0.265 – \$1.06**

Writing – We use it only online (or max. 4 pages/week) – **Cost to Print Weekly: \$0.212**

Vocabulary – 5 pages/week – **Cost to Print Weekly: \$0.265**

Typing – 5 pages/week – **Cost to Print Weekly: \$0.265**

Math – 5 pages/week, teacher’s guide online (or max. 4 pages/week) – **Cost to Print Weekly: \$0.795 – \$0.477 x 5 students = \$1.43**

Advanced Math – We use it only online (but average 8 pages/week) – **Cost to Print Weekly: \$0.00 – \$0.424**

Science – student worksheets (5 pages/week) and teacher’s guide (3 pages/week) – **Cost to Print Weekly: \$0.424 – \$0.954**

Preschool – 5 pages/week average, teacher’s guide online – **Cost to Print Weekly: \$0.26**

**TOTAL COST TO PRINT WEEKLY: \$2.28 -\$7.63**

*(...and your printer might not be as fancy, and therefore, is probably cheaper! [Check out your costs here.](#))*

As you can see, it REALLY saves a lot of money to use the resources online or download the teacher’s guides to a Kindle or smart phone!

Another option is to use the [HP Instant Ink subscription](#) (from \$2.99/month) so that you can use an unlimited amount of ink. This service has saved our customers a lot of money!

### *Let Others Print It for You*

If printing things yourself doesn’t appeal to you, try downloading all the curriculum onto a flash drive or memory stick and going to [Kinkos](#). They do a great job of printing and compiling our PDF files into books with whatever kind of binding you would like.

# A List of School Supplies You Might Want



Every August, the big discount stores have lists of school supplies at the front of the store. Teachers from local public schools submit what they would like students in their classrooms to have.

Well, if I were teaching Homeschooling Torah in my home, these are things I'd like to have handy for my "students." 😊

**Don't worry if you don't have money to buy all these things!** Just be creative and remember that a few centuries ago, children learned just fine with just a Bible and a way

to write things down, even if it was just a piece of slate and chalk. Your kids don't need much in order to be well educated.

(Note that some of the following links are affiliate links.)

- A Bible for each person
- A 3-ring binder for each student.
- A 3-ring binder to store notebooking pages for Bible, History, and Science
  - [What is notebooking?](#)
- A 3-hole punch
- Plastic sheet protectors for charts and notebooking
- Printer paper
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Scrapbooking paper for notebooking (very optional)
- Construction paper
- loose-leaf notebook paper
- Handwriting paper for young writers
- Spiral notebooks
- Composition notebooks
- [A folder with clasps for Typing class](#)
- Paints for younger children
- Art supplies for crafts and art
- Tracing paper for making maps for history and geography
- Glue and glue sticks

- Scissors
- Pencil sharpener
- Pencils
- A pencil grip for young writers
- Pens
- A red pen for the teacher
- Highlighters
- Permanent markers for making charts and flashcards
- Dry-erase markers
- Dry-erase eraser
- Tape
- Rulers
- Yardsticks
- Compass for middle-school and high-school math
- Protractor for middle-school and high-school math
- Calculator for high-school math (we do not require a graphing or scientific calculator)
- Abacus for young children for math
- Learning clock
- Letter magnets (ABC for English)
- Letter magnets (aleph bet for Hebrew)
- 3 x 5 index cards
- index-card storage box
- index-card dividers
- spiral 3 x 5 index cards
- bank box for storage
- file folders
- hanging files
- dividers for binders
- flashcards (alphabet, math, Hebrew)
- Strong's Concordance (or use [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org))
- Bible Lexicon (we like Jeff Benner's Ancient Hebrew Lexicon, which is [available free online](#))
- College dictionary (or use an online dictionary such as [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) or [Webster's Dictionary](#))
- Thesaurus

[You can see a complete list of supplies needed for science here.](#)

~Anne

# Obedience and Joyful Homeschooling



If you've been homeschooling for any time at all, you've discovered the same secret I have. Children must be obedient if you're going to enjoy teaching them!

God says the same thing:

“The father of the righteous shall **greatly rejoice**: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have **joy** of him” ([Proverbs 23:24](#)).

On the other hand, God tells us:

“A wise son maketh a glad father: but a **foolish son is the heaviness of his mother**” ([Proverbs 10:1](#)).

“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a **child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame**” ([Proverbs 29:15](#)).

Is homeschooling a miserable experience for you? If so, let me ask you some questions.

1. Do your children obey you the first time you speak?
2. Do they obey cheerfully?
3. Do you enjoy your children?

If you had to say no, then here are some steps you can take:

## 1. *How's Your Marriage?*

- ✓ Do you submit to your husband?

This may seem like a strange place to begin talking about parenting, but honestly, do you really expect your children to submit to you if you don't set a good example? The Bible says,

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Master. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Messiah is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Messiah, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing” ([Ephesians 5:23-24](#)).

In “every thing.” That’s pretty specific, isn’t it?

- ✓ Do you show physical affection often to your husband?

Again, this may seem like strange parenting advice, but your children need to see love in concrete ways. Saying “I love you” is nice, but they need to see you holding hands, hugging, even kissing! (Yes, my kids think it’s gross, too.)

- ✓ Do you put your husband first in the home?

Do you work on his “to-do” list before your own? Do you clean up the house and welcome him home at the door with a big smile and hug? Do you give him undivided attention and time when he is home? Do you build him up as a hero in your children’s eyes?

## 2. *What Is the Focus of Your Family?*

The Bible teaches us that the **focus of your family should be on others, not on yourselves**. In a marriage, the wife’s focus is on her husband. The parents should learn to focus on others that they can serve. The children should focus on what others want, such as sharing a toy with a sibling or a neighbor child.

“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets” ([Matthew 7:12](#)).

This is known as the “golden rule,” but it’s really so much more than just a nice proverb. Yeshua said that this rule is the foundation of the entire Torah and Prophets.

“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” ([1 John 3:16-18](#)).

True love is an *agape* love, or a love that lays down its life for another. This is an essential principle that should be at the center of everything we teach our children.

We need to teach our children that “me first” has no place in our homes. They need to be taught to wait. They need to be taught to delay their own pleasure for the joy of serving others. They need to learn to show concern for others in everything they do, from picking up their things so that others don’t get hurt, to speaking with kind words to others, to going beyond their “to-do” list to truly helping others. (See [Leviticus 19:16-18](#).)

Believe me, this does not come naturally!

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness?

Do your children have too much freedom? I think we all realize that children cannot handle too much of the stuff or they get “wise in their own eyes.”

I have found, though, that homeschooling families struggle in this area. We have more freedom with our time than other families. We homeschooling moms also tend to be much more busy than other moms. The result is that our children tend to run loose much of the time, without as many constraints and without any idea of what to do with themselves.

What happens when your children lose some freedom? Do they have a bad attitude? The answer to this question will tell you a lot about their hearts!

For instance, if you poured a drink into a red cup for your daughter, would she complain and want it in a blue cup instead? Or would she be content and thankful? Her attitude when you make a choice for her tells you if she has too much freedom for her age.

If you ask your son to do math or to stop playing video games, does he obey immediately or grumble?

Attitudes are a peak into the heart.

### *How to Fix the Problems*

I have three primary goals as a parent:

1. To teach first-time obedience ([Colossians 3:20](#)).
2. To teach obedience out of a happy heart ([Psalm 40:8](#)).
3. To teach a love for others over a love for self ([Matthew 7:12](#)).

If I can accomplish this, I will have laid a foundation on which I can build godly character and a devotion for God.

How do I do this?

1. **Mom, spend more time with your children.** “A child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame” ([Proverbs 29:15](#)). Keeping your children close to you throughout your day will allow you to quickly correct any wrong actions or attitudes. (See also [Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#)). However, the *purpose* of this time is to catch any disobedience or bad attitudes right away. This is a mother’s and father’s job, and we must not be lazy about doing it.
2. **Mom, be consistent in your discipline.** “Say what you mean and mean what you say.” If your child disobeys, quickly and consistently correct him. If you fail to do this, you are teaching your child that you are a liar. Just as our children must obey “the first time,” we must correct “the first time” — or sin will continue.
3. **Mom, think ahead and teach your children before there is a problem.** [One of my favorite authors](#) calls this “teaching in moments of non-conflict.” Play act

various situations with your children, being sure to tell them why they should obey, so that they can apply your instruction to a multitude of contexts.

### *Enjoy Each Other*

Finally, have a happy home by learning to enjoy each other's company. Home should not just be drudgery and work and conflict. Home should be a wonderful haven from the sin of the world. Joy is a fruit of the spirit and a sign that your home is healthy.

1. **How many times a day do you all laugh together?** You can teach yourself to laugh long and often. Honestly, the more you laugh (even when you don't feel like it), the more you'll laugh.
2. **Write funny things that happen in your journal or on a blog.** Noticing the positive, happy things that happen in your home will keep you from complaining and murmuring. Again, joy is a choice that is contagious.
3. **Stay offline.** Homeschooling moms can become addicted to the Internet (or television or fiction books or the telephone). The more your children are left to themselves, the less joy you'll find in your parenting.
4. **Play games together, pretend with your children, tickle, give hugs and kisses, and tell funny jokes.** No, life is not all fun and games, but since you spend so much time together, have fun in the doing.

Homeschooling is hard enough! Start with a happy home filled with obedient and loving children and you've got a foundation for homeschooling success!

~Anne

# Practical Planning for a New School Year



How many more weeks until school starts at your house? We're planning to start back up again by late August — and it just recently dawned on me how *soon* that will be!

So I thought I'd make a list of the things I need to get done in the few weeks of summer I have left. 😊

*1. Make sure we have a plan for chores.*

If we're ever going to get all our school work done each day (and still have enough energy left to breathe), we're going to need a system for chores. We certainly have a system in our home, but after several weeks of a more relaxed summer schedule, we've all gotten a little slack about things.

First [I print out my plan from last year](#), then I evaluate how things have changed since then and what needs to be tweaked.

Next, I think about how the kids have grown. Do I need to teach them new skills or give them new responsibilities? ([You can download lesson plans for chores here.](#))

Finally, I need to help my children (and myself) develop good habits by teaching them to get back into consistent, daily routines. This means that they need to do their jobs faithfully, and I need to inspect and teach them daily. (*"Don't expect what you won't inspect!"*)

*2. Get up in the morning.*

It's been nice to sleep in a little, but if we slept in during the school year, we just wouldn't have enough hours in the day.

So even though it's a rude awakening for all, we have to set our alarm clocks and start rolling out of bed on time. Practice makes perfect!

### *3. Figure out meals and menus.*

My brain has too much to think about during school to have to wonder what we're going to eat for supper — or breakfast or lunch.

And yet, if I don't think about it, we won't have anything to eat!

So I rely heavily on a [weekly menu](#). I eat [simple breakfasts](#) over and over, and I have several [easy dinners](#) ready to go.) Then I have my older children help me in the kitchen. (They enjoy choosing meals for the menus, too.)

### *4. Obedience is the most important thing.*

Children must be obedient if you're going to enjoy teaching them!

God says the same thing:

**“The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him”** ([Proverbs 23:24, KJV](#)).

So before you start your school year, ask yourself:

- ✓ **Do your children obey you the first time you speak?**
- ✓ **Do they obey cheerfully?**
- ✓ **Do you enjoy your children?**

If everyone in your house needs brushing up in this area, [check out my article](#) — then ask God to help you be consistent.

### *5. Evaluate strengths and weaknesses.*

One of my favorite things to do each August is to line my kids up against a door frame and to mark their height. It's so much fun to see how they've grown the past year!

In the same way, I enjoy evaluating each child's strengths and weaknesses. I like to sit with each one and ask him about his dreams, his goals, and even his fears. A great book for this is [Discover Your Children's Gifts](#), by Don and Katie Fortune.

### *6. Weed out distractions.*

First, go through your home with an eye for getting rid of clutter. Check the closets, under the beds, and in the cupboards — but certainly out in the open spaces, too! Winter is coming, when you'll all go stir crazy if the clutter closes in on you, too.

Be especially vigilant to clean out the clutter in your school room or area. The smaller space you live in, the more careful you need to be. Check out this [post on clutter](#), or try my book on how to have an [Organized Homeschool](#) (free with your membership).

Second, weed distractions from your time as well. Check that you have a reasonable and manageable schedule for your day. Let your friends know that school is starting and, just like any school teacher, you won't be able to take phone calls or check email during school hours.

[\(Check out even more blog posts here.\)](#)

However, be sure that time with your husband *IS* scheduled and made a priority. He is NOT a distraction! 😊

### *7. Pray and plan.*

Speaking of your husband, be sure to allow some time away with him (even if just for a few hours), to pray over the coming school year and to share plans with each other. [God has set your husband up as the leader in your home](#), so remember to communicate with him.

And communicate with your Heavenly Father. After all, your children are just on loan to you from Him. Ask Him what His plans are, and ask Him for wisdom in your mothering and teaching.

### *8. Get training.*

Are there subjects coming up that you'll need help with? Do you need to brush up on fractions, algebra, or cursive handwriting? Do you know how to teach phonics, or world history?

Now's your chance! Head out to your local library, and spend some time searching online. [\(Hey, check out our blog!\)](#) Strive for excellence in your teaching.

And if you won't have time for all this training in just a few short weeks, remember that you only need to stay one day ahead of your students. You can do it! Be brave...

~Anne

# A Practical Look at Scheduling

This post was originally written Summer 2015.



Each year of my life bring unique circumstances. My oldest son is 19, and we've been officially homeschooling since the fall of 2001. In that time, we've lived in 9 houses in 6 states, and now we have seven children, all in school except for my oldest, who is taking courses online. My husband has had a variety of jobs, some out of the home and some working from home, and now we own our own business. I've had some serious health issues, plus several of our children have had periods of sickness or

special needs.

I'm sure your life is just as crazy. The point is that life changes. No season is the same as another. Just as we get used to one season, our heavenly Father lovingly brings new circumstances into our lives, for His purpose and glory. We have to be flexible, to adapt, and to trust Him.

I make a homeschool schedule each summer, but I know it's time to make a new plan when the frustration levels rise or when we just don't seem to be getting anything done. Just recently, I spent a few days planning, so I thought I'd walk you through the process I use. (At the end, I'll share some links to how some other homeschooling moms do it, too, in case your personality is more like yours than mine.)

## *List All Tasks*

The first thing I do is make a master list of every single thing we do in a day (and even in a week). This step takes a few days, but I try not to rush it, because if I make a schedule but leave something off, the whole thing won't work.

Honestly, it feels good to list all the things we do. I get them off my chest, and I also realize that we're getting a lot more done than it felt like.

I take a piece of notebook paper, and I just start listing things: showers, times for Bible study, meals, errands, regular meetings, every subject of school, times for crafts and baking, every single chore I wish we were doing, and so on. I usually make the first list while snuggling on the couch in the evening, but then I stick it on the refrigerator door for a few more days, where I can keep adding things as God brings them to my mind.

## *Set Up a Planning Form*

Next I set up a schedule planning form on my computer. Many years ago, I did this step on paper, but I just got tired of erasing. 😊 Now I do all my planning on the computer so that I can copy and paste, cut and drag, and adjust until everything is just right.

You are welcome to download the scheduling form I use. Below is an Excel spreadsheet, but you could also [download a PDF here](#). You can get to [forms from a previous year here](#).



## *Schedule Common Tasks (Meals, Together School)*

I really try to keep our meal times consistent, so this is where I start plugging all our tasks into a scheduled time. Other common tasks are rather unchanging and non-negotiable (chores, bedtime, and activities outside the home), so these all go onto my spreadsheet here.

I strongly believe in doing as much of our school together as possible, so these subjects can also go onto the schedule now. For our family this year, these subjects include Hebrew, music, history, science, and grammar, as well as our family Torah reading after breakfast each morning.

## *Plan Individual Tasks*

Next I plug in individual tasks and subjects. Some things are just plugged in where I prefer them. For instance, I like to have quiet time alone in the morning before waking up the family, so I make sure that I schedule this in. I know that I like doing phonics and math with my younger children while the older children are cleaning up the kitchen after breakfast. I also need to have time to work online, and my teenagers also work online, so I need to be sure we rotate our computer use so that each of us has the time we need.

I want my younger children to learn to play nicely with each other, but I also want them to have time to play alone each day. I want my older children to take turns doing things with their younger siblings, and I also want to schedule time for them to learn new skills. I want to be sure each child is helping run the house, so I schedule chores in the kitchen as well as cleaning chores. The burden of a family is much easier to bear when all of us are lending a hand, from the youngest to the oldest. (Mom does *not* need to do it all herself!)

## *Allow for Breathing Room*

This little tip is the hardest thing for me to learn. I tend to fill up my day in 15-minute slots, and then I wonder why I'm so stressed out! As I get older, I'm learning to be a little wiser. We might not have as many things on our list, but we are less tired so we enjoy each other more and generally do seem to be just as productive as ever.

Sometimes I forget what's really important. I feel as if I need to entertain my children all day long, or that they need dozens of hands-on projects (that I planned, shopped for, prepped, and cleaned up from) in order to learn, or that I must enroll them in every activity and class outside the home that I see others doing.

As an adult, sometimes I have other responsibilities than just being a mother. However, the *Shema* gives me hope:

“These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” ([Deuteronomy 6:6-7](#)).

Being a busy mother is okay, as long as I keep my children with me and teach them as *I am going*. Just as praise is to always be on my tongue ([Psalm 34:1](#)), as I am to give thanks in everything ([1 Thessalonians 5:18](#)), and I am to pray without ceasing ([1 Thessalonians 5:17](#)), I can also learn to teach my children as I go. This really takes a lot of stress off!

In addition, I must be very careful not to compare myself to others.

“We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise” ([2 Corinthians 10:12](#)).

I have included my schedule here, and I've listed links to other mom's schedules, too — but please don't be unwise and use this to compare yourself to me or to anyone else. It only leads to misery and discontent. What's worse, you'll make your family miserable, too — and they won't even know why they can't please you!

You should try to be a good steward of the time you have, but never forget that the providence of God placed you (and your children) exactly where He wanted you. Rather than coveting, rejoice and give thanks as you schedule your days.

## *Other Helpful Links*

I thought you might enjoy the following posts and resources, to give you lots of ideas:

- ✓ [Homeschool Daily Schedule](#) — One mom shares how she makes a schedule in Microsoft Excel for her children, and she shares some of the natural consequences she applies if her children don't do their work diligently.
- ✓ [10 Steps to Help You Create a Schedule](#) — This small download has a variety of helpful tips on scheduling a homeschooling day.
- ✓ [Creating a Schedule](#) for a stay-at-home mom
- ✓ [Schedule Forms](#) from Managers of Their Home (MOTH), plus [ScheduleBreeze](#) (computer software)
- ✓ [Creating a Daily Schedule or Routine](#)
- ✓ [Creating a Homeschool Schedule](#)
- ✓ [How to Schedule a Homeschool Day](#)

# How much time should Mom spend homeschooling?

**Anne, how do you fit in “together time”, individual time, and your other subjects that I read about? Do you do all those subjects every day? I am having trouble figuring out how to get it all done.**

I’m so glad you asked this question. After doing a new school year with my kids for a couple weeks now, I’m absolutely positive I *don’t* have it all together. That’s the frustration of the Internet. It always looks like everyone else is managing, when in fact, anything looks easy on “paper” (or online).



But let me see if I can give you a couple ideas anyway. Honestly I can wear out really quickly. Sometimes, like now when I’m pregnant, I can have a rough week or two when I just don’t have much energy. So I have some days each week scheduled for “together time” and some days scheduled without it, so that I’ll have some flexibility.

Our “together time” is planned three days per week, when I attempt to do subjects such as Bible, Hebrew, music, poetry, reading from chapter books, history, science and grammar (whew!). On days we don’t do “together time,” we just do Bible. I try to do Bible every day. (I don’t always succeed, but it’s our goal.)

I sometimes get up at 7 a.m., but if I’m not feeling well, I sleep in. Either way, we eat a good breakfast, and that takes a while to make, then we try to at least have the kitchen cleaned up and all our bedrooms neatened up before school starts, so realistically, it’s 9:30 or later before we start. I aim for 9:30, but if we don’t make it, well, we just start when we can.



It takes us about 2 hours to get through “together time,” or about 20-30 minutes for just Bible on the lighter mornings.

After that, my older kids work independently as much as possible. That’s my goal. (I *do* drill math for about 10 minutes, but only 2-3 days per week. Ideally, I’d drill them daily, but I just can’t fit it all in. I also have little ones who can’t read yet, so I have to save some energy for them.)

[I make up “assignment sheets” for each student in the summertime](#), and I print them and put them in their 3-ring binders. This gives them a checklist that they each work through every day.

For instance, my 5th grader knows to do one lesson each day in Arithmetic. She knows to work on copywork each day. If she has a question, she knows to come ask me. We also review school during the day. For instance, I hang [charts](#) on the fridge and try to remember to help them memorize the prepositions, helping verbs, pronouns, etc., as we’re doing dishes.

Same with spelling. Each day of the week I gave her a different assignment, such as alphabetize the list one day, write half the words in a sentence one day, have her sister quiz him another, etc. The test is always on Friday, and sometimes her sister gives that to her. Sometimes I do. But her assignment is in her 3-ring binder, and she doesn’t need my help to work on this each day.

For reading, I just listed all the books I wanted her to read for the year in a list, and she reads a story a day. When she has finished what I’ve assigned, she gets to pick out chapter books from the library or our bookshelf and read a chapter a day for the rest of the year. That’s as fancy as my planning gets here. Sometimes at supper, we’ll have her tell Dad about her story for the day, just to be sure she’s reading it and understanding it. This has worked for us.

And so it goes for the other subjects.

So I guess the moral of this story is that I want my kids to work without my help as much as they possibly can. I give them a checklist of all their subjects, and they work through this checklist each day. We all sit at the table together (me with my laptop, working online) so they can ask me questions and I can keep them on task. But outside of those “together” subjects 3 days a week, they work on their own. We try to start at a consistent time, but when we finish each day just depends on how well they work. Some days are great... other days are SLOW. They’re pretty normal kids! 😊

I hope all this made sense!

~Anne

# Things Needed by the Next Generation



There are many opinions on what things are needed in the Messianic “movement” over the next few decades. I don’t think I’m an expert on this subject at all, but I do have some opinions as a mother and as a “teacher” at HomeschoolingTorah.

I get goosebumps as I think about the potential we mothers (and fathers) have in raising up an entire generation of children whose “first language” is the Torah and obedience to it. For most of us, we grew up without ever knowing what the Torah was. Only in recent years did we discover its joys, and we’re still very new to all that it contains.

I wonder what it would be like to have only known the Torah, the Sabbath and Appointed Times, and an expectation of our soon coming Messiah to set up His kingdom and restore all things. Yet this is what our children will experience, especially the very young ones.

Do you realize what an opportunity we have? Think about the horrible truth behind what Hitler once said:

*“When an opponent declares, ‘I will not come over to your side.’ I calmly say, ‘Your child belongs to us already... What are you? You will pass on. Your descendants, however, now stand in the new camp. In a short time they will know nothing else but this new community.’” ~ Adolf Hitler*

Yet YHWH has placed each of your precious children into your home “for such a time as this” so that *you* could train them, teach them, and cultivate them for great and mighty purposes in His kingdom!

What things do I personally hope will be cultivated in this generation?

- ✓ **Pastors and Teachers** — We so badly need congregations meeting locally for fellowship and protection! We need to raise up a generation of children with high character and leadership skills, as listed in [1 Timothy 3:1-15](#). Maybe we mothers could even use the lists in these verses as we methodically teach and train our children. We also need to encourage some of our young men toward occupations that would allow them to also lead local congregations.
- ✓ **Skillful in the Word** — We need children who have been trained to *think*, to evaluate worldviews as the Bereans did ([Acts 17:11](#)) and to communicate those worldviews effectively to others, like Priscilla and Aquila did for Apollos ([Acts](#)

[18:24-26](#)) or like Paul did in Greek Athens ([Acts 17](#)). We need children who will not be influenced to *add to or subtract from* any of YHWH's Word but will rightly interpret the Word of God ([2 Timothy 2:15](#)). We need writers and theologians who can clearly articulate our beliefs and doctrines, even founding seminaries and training schools.

- ✓ **Evangelists** — We need children who will have a heart of love for unbelievers beyond the Messianic and Christian circles, those who are completely lost without any realization of their need for Yeshua. We Messianics are currently effective in sharing our beliefs on Facebook with our church-going friends, but we need to lift up our eyes to the *nations*. We need church planters, missionaries, and founders of orphanages. We need them globally, and we certainly need them terribly even in the United States. To accomplish this, our children need to be firmly grounded in Torah and in the Hebrew and Greek languages (for Scripture translation and study) but also in other world languages and cultures.
- ✓ **“Skilled Craftsman”** — [Jeremiah 29:4-14](#) says that when we are in exile from the land of Israel, we are to “build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.” We are to “seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile.” I pray that the graduates of Torah-observant households will be skilled at whatever they put their hands to. We badly need scientists, archaeologists, researchers, writers, and historians who have a firm basis in creation and all of YHWH's Torah. We need builders, architects, farmers, city planners, and health professionals with an unshakable conviction in the righteous business practices of Torah.
- ✓ **Husbands and Wives** — Yes, we need godly men and women to raise up our grandchildren! Oh, it is the cry of my heart that my children *and my grandchildren* will stay true to YHWH and obedient to Him in all they do! However, a key piece in this is that my sons will find believing wives and that my daughters will find believing husbands. I pray daily that our children's spouses are growing up now in homes where their parents are teaching them from the Torah and pointing them faithfully toward Yeshua as their Savior and Messiah. (Maybe they're growing up in one of *your* houses! <wink>)

“The kingdom of God is much bigger than you or I,” said Hebrew teacher Izzy Avraham this week on his Facebook wall. This is very true, but the Father is pleased to give us the kingdom. As Joshua encouraged the people to go out and conquer the land, I want to encourage each of you to lift up your eyes to the greater Kingdom mission of which you're a part every day.

Homeschooling is more than math and history. Homeschooling is more than schedules and diapers and craft projects. Homeschooling is Kingdom Building! What are you doing today to build His kingdom?

~Anne