

☀️ Wholehearted Wisdom ☀️

Cultivating Character, Curiosity, and Calling in Christ-Centered Education

September 2026

☀️ Welcome to a New Homeschool Year! ☀️

September has a peculiar personality. One minute you're enjoying summer, eating something that probably contains too much sugar, and wondering why anyone would ever want a schedule again.

Then suddenly...

THE SCHOOL SUPPLIES HAVE APPEARED

Pencils are sharpened. Notebooks are stacked. Curriculum catalogs are open. The printer is making mysterious noises. And somewhere in the house, a child is asking,

"Do we really have to do school today?"

Yes, dear child.



Welcome to August 😊

But before we rush into schedules, curriculum, lesson plans, and educational goals, let's remember something important:

Homeschooling is not primarily about getting through a curriculum. It is about helping a child become the person God created them to be.

That takes more than textbooks.

It takes patience.

It takes curiosity.

It takes conversation.

It takes character.

And, occasionally...

It takes a very large cup of coffee.



📖 "Teach Them as You Walk Along the Way" 📖

"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children..." — Deuteronomy 6:7

When we think about teaching, we often picture a desk, a textbook, a worksheet, and a child who is supposed to be sitting quietly. But Deuteronomy gives us a wonderfully different picture.

It says to teach our children **when we sit, when we walk, when we lie down, and when we rise up.**

In other words, education was never intended to be confined to a schoolroom. A child can learn mathematics while doubling a recipe.

Science happens when you investigate why the tomatoes aren't growing.

History comes alive when Grandma tells a story about growing up.

Writing develops when a child keeps a journal.

Economics appears when someone discovers that money does not, in fact, grow on trees.

And theology happens when a child asks one of those enormous questions that parents secretly hope somebody else will answer.

"Mom, why does God allow...?"

Suddenly, algebra doesn't seem quite so urgent.

The greatest lessons of homeschooling often happen in the spaces between the lessons.

- A conversation in the car.
- A prayer beside the bed.
- A walk through the woods.
- A disagreement that becomes an opportunity to practice forgiveness.
- A difficult assignment that teaches perseverance.
- A failed experiment that teaches humility.
- A beautiful sunset that produces wonder.

These moments remind us that **education is not merely the transfer of information. It is the formation of a person.**

That is one of the great gifts of home education.

You have the freedom to pause.

You can follow a question.

You can spend an extra hour discussing something fascinating.

You can turn an ordinary Tuesday into an unforgettable lesson.



And you can keep pointing your child beyond knowledge toward wisdom.
This August, before deciding everything you want your children to accomplish academically, consider asking a different question:

“Who do I want my child to become?”

Then build your homeschool around that answer. Because someday the worksheets will be forgotten. The multiplication tables may become a distant memory.

The science fair project will end up in a closet. But the character being formed, the curiosity being awakened, the faith being nurtured, and the relationship being built can last a lifetime.

- Teach diligently.
- Teach intentionally.
- Teach patiently.

And when necessary, teach with snacks.

Jesus did not call us to produce perfect students. He called us to make disciples.

Sometimes discipleship looks surprisingly ordinary. It looks like breakfast, books, questions, chores, laughter, prayer, forgiveness, and starting over tomorrow.

That is education, too.



♥ ENCOURAGEMENT FOR HOMESCHOOL PARENTS

You do not have to create the perfect homeschool.
You don't need the perfect curriculum.
You don't need Pinterest-worthy shelves.
You don't need a color-coded planner that could qualify for a NASA launch.
And you certainly don't need to compare your Tuesday with somebody else's Instagram Tuesday.
Your child is not somebody else's child.
Your family is not somebody else's family.
God has given you a particular child, in a particular family, during a particular season, and He can give you wisdom for that particular journey.
Some days will be wonderfully productive.
Other days will involve tears, forgotten assignments, spilled cereal, technical difficulties, sibling

arguments, and somebody mysteriously losing the pencil they were holding thirty seconds ago.
That's okay, because...

Faithfulness is more important than perfection.

If today didn't go according to plan, tomorrow is another opportunity.

Take a breath, Pray, Laugh when you can, Apologize when necessary, and Begin again.

Remember: you are not merely teaching subjects. You are building a relationship with a person who will someday be an adult.

That matters enormously.

😂 THE AUGUST HOMESCHOOL MEME,

WHAT I PLANNED:

- 📖 8:00 — Bible
- 📐 8:30 — Math
- 📖 9:15 — Reading
- 🔬 10:00 — Science
- ✍️ 11:00 — Writing
- 🎨 11:45 — Art



WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED:

- 8:00 — Bible
“Mom, why did God make mosquitoes?”
- 8:17 — Google/AI research
“Are mosquitoes mentioned in the Bible?”
- 8:42 — Breakfast
Someone spills the milk.
- 9:03 — Math
“Where's my pencil?”

- 9:21 — Search for pencil
Found under the couch.
- 9:45 — Science
The dog eats the worksheet.
- 10:12 — Emergency dog investigation
- 10:47 — Reading
Child discovers a book about dinosaurs.
- 11:30 — Everyone is now deeply invested in dinosaurs



AI IN THE HOMESCHOOL

Your New Assistant, Not Your New Teacher



Artificial intelligence is becoming part of everyday education, and homeschool families have a unique opportunity to use it thoughtfully.

The goal isn't to let AI do the teaching.

The goal is to let AI help **the parent do more of the teaching that really matters.**

Here are a few practical ways AI can help.

1. Turn "I Don't Understand This" Into...

"Let's Try Another Way."

A parent can ask an AI tool to explain a difficult concept at several different levels.

"Explain fractions to a nine-year-old."

"Now explain it using pizza."

"Now explain it without food."

That last request may be necessary if your child is hungry.

AI can provide alternate explanations, examples, analogies, practice questions, and review activities.

2. Create Customized Practice

Instead of searching through ten workbooks for additional practice, parents can ask AI to create problems based on what a student is currently learning. For example:

"Create ten fifth-grade fraction problems. Begin easy and gradually increase the difficulty. Don't give the answers until I ask."

That can save considerable preparation time.

3. Adapt Lessons to Your Child

One of the great strengths of homeschooling is individualized education.

AI can help a parent brainstorm ways to adapt a lesson for a child who learns differently.

Ask:

"My student understands the concept but struggles with reading lengthy directions. Give me five ways to present this lesson more clearly."

Now you have ideas to consider rather than starting from scratch.

4. Make Learning More Interesting

AI can help turn a standard lesson into a mystery, debate, adventure, simulation, writing prompt, scavenger hunt, or problem-solving challenge.

History can become a detective investigation.

Science can become a mission.

Literature can become a courtroom debate.

And vocabulary can become a game.

Curriculum gives you content. Creativity gives that content life. AI can help generate some of the creative possibilities.

5. Help Parents Plan

AI can help brainstorm weekly schedules, field trips, project ideas, reading lists, discussion questions, unit studies, and interdisciplinary projects.

That can be especially helpful when Mom or Dad is simultaneously trying to teach three children, answer email, prepare lunch, and locate the missing library book.

6. Teach Students to Think, Not Just Ask

This may be the most important use of all.

AI should not become a shortcut around thinking.

Instead, teach students to ask:

Is this answer accurate?

How do I know?

What evidence supports it?

Could the AI be wrong?

What does Scripture say?

Can I explain the answer in my own words?

AI can be an excellent assistant.

It can also confidently give an incorrect answer with the enthusiasm of a game-show contestant who has absolutely no idea what the answer is.

So **verify important information.**

A 2026 report from the Coalition for Responsible Home Education specifically highlights the need for caregivers to think carefully about responsible AI use in homeschooling. ([Coalition for Responsible Home Education](#))

The healthiest approach is neither panic nor blind enthusiasm.

Use AI... Understand AI... Question AI.

Teach your children to use it wisely.

Most importantly, don't surrender your role as teacher.

AI doesn't know your child the way you do.

It doesn't know the sound of your child's excited voice when something finally clicks.

It doesn't know which questions keep your child awake at night.

It doesn't know your family's story.

And it certainly can't replace the hug after a hard day.

Technology can assist education.

It cannot replace relationships.

Request a free email class in using AI in your homeschool classroom



THIS MONTH'S WHOLEHEARTED CHALLENGE

As you begin another homeschool year, choose **one character quality** you want to intentionally cultivate in your child.

Perhaps:

- **Kindness.**
- **Perseverance.**
- **Honesty.**
- **Responsibility.**
- **Curiosity.**
- **Self-control.**
- **Gratitude.**
- **Courage.**

Then look for opportunities to practice it during ordinary life.



Don't just tell your child about perseverance. Give them something worthwhile that requires perseverance.

Don't just lecture about kindness.

Create opportunities to practice it.

Don't simply teach gratitude from a textbook.

Stop and notice something beautiful together.

Character is rarely formed in one giant moment.

It is usually formed in hundreds of little moments.

Little choices.

Little conversations.

Little prayers.

Little acts of faithfulness.

And those little things become a life.



At MyHomeschoolCompanion.com, we believe education should help children develop more than academic skills.

We want to help families cultivate **character, curiosity, competence, confidence, and calling** in a Christ-centered environment. As you begin this new school year, don't measure success only by how many pages your children complete.

Ask:

- **Did they learn something?**
- **Did they become more curious?**
- **Did they grow in character?**
- **Did they learn to think?**
- **Did they discover something they love?**
- **Did they see God's hand in what they were learning?**

Those are the victories worth celebrating.



A FINAL WORD

The new school year doesn't need to begin with pressure.

- Begin with prayer.
- Begin with gratitude.
- Begin with curiosity.
- Begin with realistic expectations.

Begin with the confidence that God can use the ordinary moments of

your homeschool for extraordinary purposes.

Don't try to do everything.

You simply need to faithfully do the next right thing...

One lesson,

One conversation.

One prayer,

One child,

One day at a time.

And if somebody loses a pencil along the way... Give them a new one.

**Welcome to another year
of Wholehearted
Homeschooling.**



If you have comments, counsel, questions, or complaints, send them to: VJennings@homeschoolcompanion.org