

Revival HOMESCHOOL Heartbeat

Sep
2024



Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on 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 doorframes of your houses and on your gates. – DEUTERONOMY 6:5-9

Dear Revival Homeschool Parent,

As we embark on a new school year filled with seemingly endless possibilities and opportunities, I want to encourage you in your role as educators, nurturers, and sons and daughters of Christ. The journey of homeschooling is not merely about academics but about cultivating hearts, minds, and souls in alignment with God's purpose and plan ultimately to bring him Glory.

As you begin this journey, either for the first time or as a homeschool veteran, may you be reminded of the divine calling that led you to your decision to homeschool.

Rooted in faith, love, and a deep desire to nurture your children in the ways of the Lord, always remember that you are not alone in this journey; God walks alongside you, providing wisdom, strength, and grace for each step you take. On this same note, He has already equipped you for this task.

In the busyness of lesson planning, household chores, and the myriad responsibilities that come with homeschooling, I urge you to prioritize your time in the Word. Take time to nourish your relationship with the Lord each day. Even if your quiet time is not exactly "quiet."

“10 minutes in the Word, setting your sights on Him, and realigning yourself before the school day starts will make all the difference in your home school.”

Chances are someone is going to need something the moment you sit down. The Lord sees you! 10 minutes in the Word, setting your sights on Him, and realigning yourself before the school day starts will make all the difference in your home school.

As you navigate the challenges and joys of homeschooling, remember to extend yourself grace. You are expected to have only some of the

answers or to be perfect in all things. Embrace the journey of growth, learning, and discovery alongside your children, allowing God's grace to cover your shortcomings and His wisdom to guide your decisions.

A Sanctuary of Learning

I pray your home will be a sanctuary of learning, love, and connection where the presence of God is tangible, His truth is proclaimed, and His grace is experienced in abundance. Remember, you are shaping the hearts and minds of the next generation. What you pour into your children this year during your homeschool year will echo into eternity. What a beautiful gift! Cheering you on!

– Rachel Montano

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. – Galatians 6:9



- THE FUN SIDE OF - HOMESCHOOLING

In my first years of homeschooling, I was all about making my home-school just like a public school. I wanted to prove to everyone, especially the naysayers, that I could teach my son just as well as the school could. So, we pressed hard into the bookwork, the worksheets, the educational videos, learning a second language, learning to play the piano, and typing, all while my son was only in the second grade. It went well for a little while. I was so proud of what we were accomplishing, but before we knew it, we burned out.

After some prayer and research, I suddenly realized that I chose to homeschool because I wanted something better and different than what the public school would give my son, so why was I trying to mimic it? I also realized that while I had all the educational parts down, I was missing the fun side of homeschooling.

I had been blessed with the opportunity to spend good quality time with my son, having fun and making memories together, so I needed to make a change. I had to learn how to ease up on my schooling, free up some of our time, and make room for a fun time, like sitting and reading together, working on a project together, playing a fun board game, working on a puzzle together, doing a fun craft or simply going for a nature walk.

All these things, while fun, are also educational and allow you to build up a beautiful relationship with your kids. And at the end of the



day, those are the moments our kids are going to remember more than the worksheets and bookwork they did. This month, I encourage you to take a break one day and go for a nature walk with your kids. Have them take along a Ziploc bag and tell them to collect all the fun and interesting things they can find, like a colorful leaf, a beautiful flower, or some little sticks. Once they have a nice collection of items, have them create a sun catcher to hang up in your window to remember your fun day out together.

Did you know that, according to Amy Blevins's Encouraging Moms at Home article, nature walks reduce stress, enhance observation skills, encourage curiosity and imagination, and promote family bonding? We could all reduce some of our stress.

I have included the directions here for a fun and simple sun catcher that you can make with your kids at home. Most of the items needed might already be at home. Remember, it doesn't need to be perfect; you need to have fun.

Sun Catcher

Materials:

- Cardboard or paper plate
- Xacto knife or scissors
- Clear contact paper
- Paper punch
- Tape
- String or twine
- Craft paint or markers
- Your collected items



Directions:

Step 1 Cut out the cardboard to make your border. You can make your border any shape or size you want. If you want to make it really easy, you can cut out the center of a paper plate and use that as your border.

Step 2 Paint or color your border any way you wish.

Step 3 Cut out two pieces of contact paper the size of your border.

Step 4 Now place all the fun nature items you collected on your nature walk onto the sticky side of one of the contact papers.

Step 5 Once you have placed all your items, take the other contact paper and place it on top of the items on the contact paper. Make sure it is sealed all the way around.

Step 6 Grab some tape and tape the contact paper circle onto your border.

Step 7 Use a hole punch to make a hole at the top of your sun catcher. Pull some twine or string the size you want through the hole, and hang your sun catcher in a window to enjoy the beautiful colors of nature.

HABITS OF THE TIDY-ISH HOUSEHOLD

How do you eat an entire elephant? One bite at a time. How do you build a skyscraper? One beam at a time. How do you scale a mountain? One step at a time, you get the idea. In this month's column, I would like to share five simple habits that help me keep a tidy home...ahem... one task at a time.

My clutter threshold is really narrow. I thrive in tidy-ish. Besides decluttering more than 50% of our possessions several years back and performing routine culls that keep the clutter creep at bay, these routine tasks keep things from becoming a pile again. They are the "one thing at a time" habits that may seem small at first brush, but they pack a punch when it comes to a well-ordered home. Like any habit, I do them now without really overthinking about it.

MAIL SORT

To keep a mail pile away, I have to deal with mail immediately. It may sound silly, but I only pick up the mail once I have a few minutes to process it that day. We keep a small trash can in the garage, and I like to sort the mail as soon as I come in from the mailbox.

I trash the catalogs or flyers, add an event invitation to my calendar,

open and stack the bills in their spot on my desk, and then handle any packages—trashing the box and putting the new items away. Paper clutter is such a problem for many of us, so as much as possible, try to take action as soon as the mail/paper comes in.

CAR SWEEP

If your car has become a dumping ground for every outing you've taken for the last month, don't despair. First, clean it out. Just bite the bullet and start fresh. After that, when you arrive home from the pool, church, a park day—whatever adventure you've been on—have everyone grab their items.

In our family, it's shoes, water bottles, discarded jackets, toys, and snack wrappers. "Grab your stuff, guys!" Then, we need to *inspect what we expect* and encourage the kiddos to go back for anything they might have missed.

Plastic flower pots make inexpensive trash receptacles. If you have a third row, throw an additional can back there to keep melted Baby Bell cheese wax from pooling in a cup holder. It's a thing—trust me.

We don't have a ShopVac, but when I can't get to the Quick Quack Car wash, I will run my cordless Dyson over the mats really quickly to give the car a fresh feel when the crumbs have taken over. There is no need to schlep the big Hoover out; do a quick sweep with something cordless.

As a side note, it's okay to be picky about what foods get eaten in the car. Call me a control freak, but giving a bean burrito to a two-year-old in the car seat is just asking for it.

AFTER-SCHOOL TIDY

We school in our "formal" dining room, and while it's not the central spot of the house, there is no door to close on the aftermath of a day of learning. So, suppose you've got a high-traffic school space. In that case, I suggest putting the art accouterment away, stacking the books on the shelf, and generally straightening things up. I like to go back in the evening and lay out the next day's work, and it's always nice to do so on a tidy table.

KITCHEN CLEAN-AS-YOU-GO

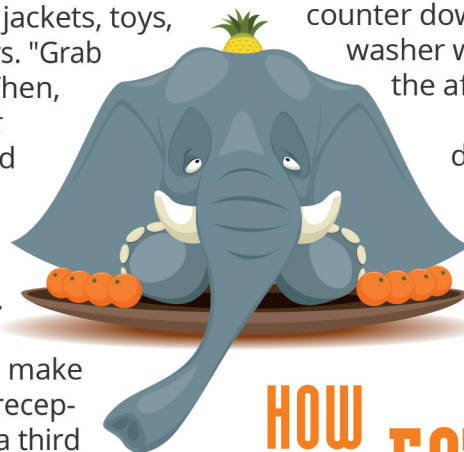
Don't save the heavy clean-up for after dinner. Use the time when the water is boiling, or the potatoes are baking to clean your cutting board or knives, wipe the counter down, or load the dishwasher with the dishes from the afternoon snack. Sufficient for the after-dinner clean-up is its own trouble, so do your future self a favor and do a little clean-up in the midst of dinner prep.

HOW DO YOU EAT AN ENTIRE ELEPHANT?

TIMED TEST

Sometimes, the simplest tasks are the ones that hang over our heads. We build them up to be such a big deal when it's really a task that could be done in a few short minutes. I once timed myself unloading the dishwasher so I could remind myself that it really only takes about seven minutes. Folding a load of towels takes about two minutes. Try timing any of these tidy tips above and see how little time they actually take. Small

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habits can really stack up and change the feel of your home. Everyone has a different threshold for clutter, so if yours is as narrow as mine, put one or more of these into practice and enjoy the payoff.

If done regularly, these habits can help you stay on top of the ordinary and necessary piles that happen when you have a family. Remember that a tidy home is a blessing, but more so is a happy heart and joyful attitude. We don't

need a tidy home for that; we need the Holy Spirit. I'm preaching to myself here. We are to be joyful in all circumstances. I suggest we make an effort to aid the circumstances we are in.

We serve a God of order, so it makes sense that we feel calmer and more at peace when we have a little order in our homes, too. So don't be a crazy person; just remember we should aim for progress over perfection. These little habits

help me with my progress in our home. Perfection is for Instagram, and how sick are we of all that?! Let's honor God by caring for the people and places he's given us with a grateful heart!



Dive into an underwater adventure with our upcoming field trip to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach!

Event Time: 9:00 am

100 Aquarium Way,
Long Beach, CA 90802

Buy your tickets directly from their website:

www.aquariumofpacific.org/events/info/homeschool_days