

Revival HOMESCHOOL Heartbeat

Oct
2024



Fall Time in the Kitchen

When I think of fall time, I think of cooler weather, the changing colors of the trees, comfy sweaters, pumpkin spice, and my favorite part of fall, which is baking delicious goodies. I love to find new recipes to try out for my family, especially if the recipe calls for pumpkin.

To me, there is nothing better than to see my family enjoy something I baked from scratch or put together for dinner. I do have one confession to make, though: I have a terrible habit of baking and cooking all by myself, and I forget to include my son in the process to teach him how to cook and bake himself. I forget just how important it is to make sure he knows how to prepare food for himself, for when the day comes that he goes out on his own and for when he has a family of his own to make food for.

Whenever I include my son in my baking or cooking, he enjoys it, and I love the sweet time we get to

spend together, just like I used to spend with my mom.

According to the article Why Cooking With Kids is so Important by The Body Coach Joe Wicks, cooking with kids helps your children fall in love with cooking, forms a healthy relationship with food, helps them become more adventurous with trying new foods, helps nurture their creativity and inspires them, sets them up for independence with cooking as teenagers, helps them to learn to read and follow methods and understand portions and measurements, helps them to learn problem-solving, and is an excellent time for bonding with your children.

“I love the sweet time we get to spend together, just like I used to spend with my mom.”

I have noticed that the more I show my son about baking and cooking, the more he wants to try and do it on his own. I have seen his confidence in cooking and

baking increase every time I teach him something new. Sometimes, he would surprise me and make something by himself for me to eat. So not only is he learning how to make food, but he is learning how to think of others.

This month, I encourage you to take the time to teach your kiddos something fun and easy to make. It can be as simple as a grilled cheese sandwich, helping prepare dinner, or baking some delicious cookies to share with the family.

If you really want something fun and easy to make with your kiddos, try this easy homemade caramel corn recipe by the Pinterest page Two Sisters Crafting. It is super easy to make with things you probably already have in your kitchen. My family and I love this caramel corn recipe, and it is the perfect recipe for the fall time. Have fun and enjoy.

– Trisha Kerwin



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



Ingredients:

- 10 cups of popped popcorn (air-popped or microwave)
- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- Salt to taste

Directions:

1. Prepare the popcorn: Pop 10 cups of popcorn and remove any unpopped kernels. Add salt for flavor.

2. Make caramel:

- Melt 1 cup of butter over low/medium heat.
- Stir in 1 cup of light brown sugar, combining thoroughly with the butter.
- Continue stirring until no separate butter layer remains.
- Bring the mixture to a low boil over medium-low heat, and stop stirring. Set a timer for 4 min.
- After 4 minutes, add 2 teaspoons of vanilla and stir. Set another timer for 1 minute.
- Stir in 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda, which will cause the caramel to foam.

3. Coat popcorn: Drizzle the caramel mixture over the popcorn, folding it in until all kernels are coated.

4. Cool: Spread the caramel popcorn on a parchment-lined cookie sheet and let it cool. Store in an airtight container if needed.

Enjoy your sweet and salty treat!

Basketball Registration is NOW



Do you want sports for your kids? Registration is open for Archers Homeschool Athletics basketball season. **The season begins on 11/18** and ends with the CHSS Annual March Gladness Tournament on 3/20-3/22. Practices for all age groups are held twice a week in Wildomar. Archers competes in the California Home School Sports League against other homeschooled athletes in areas such as Tustin, Escondido, Murrieta, Wildomar, Norco, and Lake Arrowhead. **Regular registration closes on 10/6**, with a \$30 late fee added for applications received after that.

The Archers program, a 501c3 sports ministry completely run by volunteers, is more than just a sports league. It's a community that seeks to provide homeschooled athletes with the opportunity to participate in competitive sports within a positive, supportive atmosphere. We are excited to have your kids on our team. Please visit playon.com/archershomeschoolathletics for more info.



Co-Op Days Service Project

Hosted by Revival Homeschool

Join us on **Monday, November 12th, at 9 a.m.** for a special service project as we honor and serve the military community! Our 4th-12th grade students will be preparing and serving a delicious pancake breakfast on the back lawn of Revival Christian Fellowship Church. This is a wonderful opportunity for our kids to serve those who serve our country.

Date: November 12th

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Revival Christian Fellowship Church (Back Lawn)

Who's Serving: 4th-12th grade students

Who's Invited: The military community

Online registration is required. Reserve your spot today!

We live and love and play and work and school in our homes. The blessing of having our children at home with us far outweighs picture-perfect homes. The Bible tells us, *"Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox."* Proverbs 14:4.

Perhaps it's an unflattering comparison, but my heart melts when I read this verse. Why? Because I remember the years without oxen... children. Four years of marriage, to be exact. Two in earnest. When the bedrooms were all guest rooms, I could only picture cribs and toys and board books. Waiting and praying; hopes raised... loss. And the incredible feeling of laying our baby in that first room and then the next and the next, needing to double up by the fourth child.

THANK YOU, LORD!

People used to look around my childless home and tell me, "Just wait till you have kids. Your house won't always look like this." And do you know what? They're right... kind of. Is my house the museum it once was, going all day without a mess because no tiny humans were there to live in it?

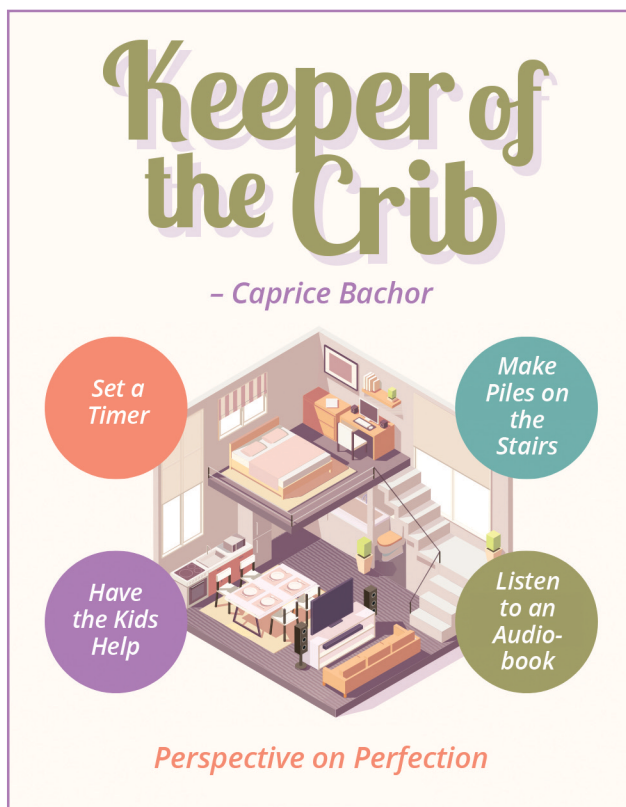
Nope. But overall, I'm satisfied that while it looks more lived-in, my home still feels peaceful and tidy. I like it like that. My personal threshold for clutter and disarray is pretty narrow. It's important to me, so I will make it happen.

MOOD BOOST

Decluttering and resetting a room give me a mood boost. Is every room spotless? No, they aren't; actually, none of them are, because we use every inch of this house, and I love that! Is it perfect? By no means. In a previous article, I mentioned that my goal is to progress

over perfection. I want to be able to pull the house together quickly but never erase the fact that an actual family lives here. I want to let the little piles remind me to be grateful that I'm not by myself all day when my husband is working.

I don't have to have the Price Is Right in the background for the company. My dreams came true. Tiny people are here with me. And they are living life! I'm not too fond of glorifying mess, so I'm not going



to do that. But there are days when it's paper confetti in the school room, play-dough drying on the floor so it can be vacuumed, and towels and water toys strewn about the backyard.

LIFE IS HAPPENING!

Do I still fall into a snit when things get out of control? Sadly, yes, I do sometimes. This is something that the Lord is sanctifying out of me, helping me to recognize and repent of. Especially when I see one of my children acting like I do if something gets out of place. I have some tidy kids, and I have those

who aren't affected by the "lived-in" look. That's ok! The world needs both. My husband can live and move and settle in without much thought of "tidying," but he can snap a whole house back to company-ready like nobody's business! He tells me I'd faint dead away if I witnessed the state of this house when I am out of town, and he's caring for the kids. But I'd never know it coming back in. It's always how Mama likes it, for at least a few minutes. Then we live again! And we tidy again. And so it goes. It's a beautiful rhythm.

With that said, I do have a little hack for fun sometimes. Yes, I said it was fun, but that's just me. It's usually when school is done that the kids are fed and play outside. Sometimes, I set a timer, and sometimes, I do have the kid's help, but these days, I love that they want to be outside enjoying their childhood, and I'm sure we will get a chance to do this again in about 4.5 seconds, so this time, it just. I might listen to an audiobook or a short chatty homeschool mom YouTube video.

Then I get after it. Moving around a room in a clockwise direction, I start picking

up. Trash, toys, blankets, discarded socks, books, etc. I put stuff where it goes if it's in that room. I stack items for different rooms on the stair steps, flip the laundry, put dishes in the dishwasher, run the cordless Dyson, and set the school room back to rights.

It's so quick and easy, and because we've done a lot of decluttering, we can pull the whole house (kids rooms included) to company-ready (not perfect, just not chaotic) in about 15 minutes. Try it! And while you're at it, thank the Lord for the oxen and the crib... ahem...I mean the kids and the house.

Homeschooling with Babies and Toddlers

When we began our homeschooling journey in 2020, I had a 6-year-old, a 4-year-old, and a 2-year-old. Since then, we have added another little blessing in 2024. So, I have been homeschooling babies and toddlers from the beginning. I had to learn what worked and what didn't and adapt quickly since seasons often change with little ones. Doesn't it seem like once you think you've figured out your baby/toddler, they have entered a new developmental stage to throw you off yet again? All to say, there is so much hope for you in this season, homeschool parent! Answering the call to homeschool with tiny ones at your feet is not easy, but it is possible to do it and do it well.

Postpartum: Homeschooling with babies is a sweet but also delicate time. The family dynamic has changed, and mom and dad are tired. It's so important to hold fast to rhythms rather than strict schedules. Trust me, I love an hour-by-hour schedule, but here, general rhythms have been working for me. One of the best things about homeschooling is how it allows for mom and baby to have the rest and recovery needed for postpartum. With a newborn, there was no school for about a month. Listen to your body give grace and pick up slowly when you feel ready.

Starting School Again: Oh, that sweet newborn smell is lingering, and you are getting more confident; praise the Lord! When you feel ready to get back to lessons, my biggest tip for homeschooling is to wear babywear. This is 100% how I got school done with a baby for months. I'm sure my back has suffered, but we got that math done! Next, I would try to keep the baby content, bouncy, swing, play mat, try them all. Bring them to

your school room or take the school to the baby! Remember, we're flexible! My favorite was a \$15 garage sale find I could carry from room to room. Starting lessons right after the baby is fed was also beneficial. It's far less discouraging this way. Otherwise, tears are flowing minutes into your history lesson!

Older, More Mobile Babies: This is where things get interesting. The days of naps in the baby wrap are gone! The baby is moving around and hopefully sleeping longer! Snacks for all! Puffs, yogurt bites, or breastmilk popsicles to soothe teething gums are all helpful distractions while you are helping that first grader sound out that same word...again...and again.

Naptime: I found it helped if I split up our day in this season. In the morning, we would do Bible and looping artist/composer/history studies. Then, after the baby's morning nap, we would pick up with the rest of the subjects.

Toddlers: I am currently in the toddler phase with my youngest (19 months), and she is ACTIVE. I look away for one second, and she is regularly up on the kitchen counter with her monkey-like climbing abilities. I am exhausted, haha! This phase is most challenging for me because the baby is too young to understand why you're busy but old enough to destroy the house very quickly if not engaged. Some tips I have for toddlers:

- A unique basket of toys: We have a toy subscription for Montessori-type toys. They are developmentally appropriate and super engaging! I keep all these unique toys in a box in our school room. Since they are not out all the time, I find that she will stay and play quietly with them longer.

- Coloring: Sometimes, these little ones want to feel included and be at the school table, too. I love the mess-free Crayola markers for this. Crayola also has thick crayons for those tiny, chubby hands.

- Board book basket: Along with the unique toy basket, I also have a little basket of toddler books in our school room. She will look at these quietly for a bit!

- Have older kids help: My 7-year-old is a new reader and needs a lot of encouragement to practice. For 10 minutes a day, I have him read to my toddler. She loves it, and he is reading! A win for all! You would be surprised how much you can get done in 10 minutes of quiet!

- Busy Toddler Activities: One of my favorite resources for simple, inexpensive toddler activities is the blog Busy Toddler. The writer Susie has so many great ideas! It requires a bit of planning and gathering supplies, but her activities have kept my little ones busy for a reasonable amount of time! You can find her at busytoddler.com

If you are in this season, I know it is hard, and there will be days when it seems like everyone is crying at the same time, yourself included! When the day seems lost, and things are just not working, you can always sit and read aloud for school. Reading covers a multitude of homeschool struggles! But like every season of motherhood, it will come to an end, and you are not alone! I often think that God will bring us to the ends of ourselves to remind us of how little we can accomplish without him. What a gift that we can call upon the Lord for help and wisdom at any time (James 1:5). Cheering you on!

- Rachel

What is Christian Curriculum?

A **Christian curriculum** is a set of subjects designed to assist parents in teaching their children according to God's truth. This curriculum not only incorporates Christian values but also includes Scripture from the Holy Bible. Lessons are derived from these Scriptures, aimed at building a child's faith and character.

What Does Christian Curriculum Teach?

Biblical Worldview: The curriculum emphasizes teaching children to view the world through the lens of Christian faith. This may include understanding creationism in science, learning moral lessons from the Bible in literature, and focusing on Christian history.

Bible Study and Faith-Based Education: Daily Bible study, Scripture memorization, and Christian theology are key components. This often involves studying both the Old and New Testaments, learning about Christian doctrine, and exploring the history of the church.

Integration with Academic Subjects: Christ's teachings are woven throughout standard academic subjects. For instance, history lessons might highlight the influence of Christianity in major historical events, and literature studies could focus on Christian authors and themes.

What is NOT Christian Curriculum?

Curriculum that only loosely mentions Christian values or phrases but does not deeply incorporate God's Word.

Curriculum that lacks consistent biblical references and teachings.

Curriculum purchased from a "Christian" website that does not include Jesus or God's Word throughout the material.

As a ministry of **Calvary Chapel**, we require that parents use **Christ-centered curriculum** that fully incorporates God's Word in every subject. When submitting your **Course of Study** or **Course Description**, our office will review your selected curriculum to ensure it aligns with our ministry's standards. If a curriculum does not meet these Christ-centered guidelines, we will ask you to revise your choice to ensure your child is receiving the proper biblical education.

Teaching our children according to **Christian values** and **God's Word** is a freedom we treasure as parents, and it's an essential part of our homeschool ministry.