

says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Yes, we can come to Jesus for help...for His yoke...right when we are feeling that labour, weariness and burden the most. Not after we get "OK" and all right or when we think we have it all figured out! He will take that ignorance and give us true wisdom in our teaching efforts! But, this is only if we will come to Him and take on His Yoke!

Easy???

A third reason that parents are likely to swap real education for artificial education when their children get older is because they think that it is easier! What a counterfeit assurance! God says that the EASY way is His way...His Yoke. Let's look again at Matthew 11: 28-30, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest, [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.] Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. For my yoke is wholesome (useful, good—not harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant), and My burden is light and easy to be borne." If you are confused, unsure, torn, or scared, you can come to Jesus for a new yoke and true rest and refreshment and renewal while you carry His burden! What an exchange!

Preparation for Real Life...

So, what is important as we teach older children? We have Homeschooled our children since the very beginning. There were many things that drew us into this lifestyle. One of the greatest benefits was the preparation for Real Life. Let me share what we mean by preparation for Real Life.

How to Learn...

In Real Life, children need to know how to learn. One of the most vital aspects of a real, living education is that children are taught how to learn for themselves. They are not mere vessels to be filled with facts, information, and data. They are living beings in need of ideas that can shape their lives while feeding their minds. But, they need more. They need to know how to find and access and utilize those ideas for themselves, independent of the constant supervision and initiation of others. Yes, they need to grow to independence, self-initiative, and self-education.

There is no easier way to teach them how to learn on their own than through home education. They can have access to great books. They can learn how to research areas of interest. They can learn to write with a purpose. They can learn practical skills that will serve them all of their lives. They can have access to others who can show them the need for learning all that they can learn in these short years.

Things do not change once a child is a certain age. Real learning is timeless...ageless...and never-ending! They still need to acquire the skills necessary to learn. The skills prayerfully become more advanced as they grow older, but that does not mean that someone else could teach the older child better than a parent. Instead it means that the parents must continue learning themselves! The things that work for the parent will also work for the child. If the parent enjoys reading a great book on a topic, the child will enjoy reading a great book. If the parent learns more from going to spend the day with a farmer working on his farm, the older children will learn more from the same experience than from four years in textbooks. If the parent would prefer to write an article about a topic of their interest, how much more would the child prefer to write an article about a subject of deep interest??

The education of our older children is no different than the education of little children or of ourselves. It is still an atmosphere, a discipline, and a life! They do not have to "get serious" about studies any more in the older years than the parent needs to! If the parent is learning constantly as they go outside for a Nature Walk or as they come home to look up neat facts about that new "find," then just when does the older child become too advanced for this simple, easy study? Just how does one get anymore serious? These simple, easy methods have been used by the greatest minds of all times, aren't they good enough for our children as well? Yes, their education really can be as easy, natural and simple as the education of the rest of the family!

What About Nature Studies for the Older Child?

What about Nature Studies for the older child? It is just as easy, natural and simple as in the early years. The goal is still the same. We want intimacy... appreciation... knowledge... understanding...wisdom and a deep love for nature! Our role is still the same. We give them access to the wonders of God's creation. We give them plenty of time to observe, think, and enjoy the marvels around us. We give them plenty of the materials that help them develop their studies...books, tools, and resources. We put them in touch with the resources that will teach them...nature, people from the past and people of today who specialize and have a true passion in this field! We then, model before them a lifestyle of learning at all times. We show them that learning is everywhere and continues throughout all of our lives!

Now, you are thinking, "what is different about teaching older children?" Well, not much! The relationships change a bit as the children become more our fellow pilgrims...learning with us, sharing thoughts and ideas with us, and sometimes teaching us more than we could teach them. Their abilities take off. They come to a point of deeper understanding and prayerfully wisdom in this area.

This age is a wonderful age for the study of Nature and Science. There are ways to challenge your older children. Here are some quick ideas...

Help Them Get to KNOW God...

The whole reason for studying any subject is to get to know God and to learn ways to bring Him more glory and honor! Nature Study is the same! It is through the study of Nature that children can see the qualities of God at work. They can come to learn their value in His eyes. They can come to see their purpose in life!

Use all of your opportunities to help your children develop their knowledge of God. Teach them about His Attributes that are seen in His Creation. Help them to dig in His Word to see the Truths that are often hidden in the mumbo-jumbo of words about Science today! Encourage them to search for the answers to those tough questions that are such a stumbling block to others. Then, teach them to share their wisdom with others! This is the main thing!

Give Great Books...

It seems as though the years really begin to fly as children get older! For this reason, we need to use each and every moment to give our children the best that the world has to offer. We need to give them those resources that build their character AND help them to find answers to the questions that baffle all of us. Don't shy away from tough issues. Hit those issues head on! Too many Christians today are content to put Science in a little box of "don't ask, don't tell" "unanswerable questions" when God has all of the answers in His Creation and His Word! All we have to do is dig...to search with all of our hearts and not be led astray by all the fancy words and complex ideas of the false teachers of our day.

This is where great books come in. We find through Biographies that God has given many great truths to those who earnestly seek Him. There are many of His people who sincerely prayed for answers to their tough questions, only to find that He was faithful to answer those questions! This is what we want for our children to see in their studies! This will challenge them to search out those deep questions they have hidden away in their mind!

Great books also do that work that "schools" try to do in all of those Critical Thinking Classes. They use all the powers of the mind while they feed the mind, nourish the soul, and restore the spirit! This is why we have great books as a mainstay even into the older years of homeschooling!

Give a Purpose for Using Their Skills...

In **Language Arts...The Easy Way** I shared the many keys to helping to encourage young writers to write for God's glory. One of my deepest convictions is that children desperately need to have a purpose for writing before we will see depth and delight in their writing. This is the most significant key to writing well!

Nature Studies are a perfect way to give a child purpose for writing. It is an endless subject full of topics that can be developed! Topics could be anything...issues surrounding the study of Science...in-depth Bible Studies...how-to's...information about a field of study...so on! Children can write anything from basic Copywork to develop their Notebooks (personalized curriculum)...to booklets...to complete books...to research papers...to articles for publication. Certainly, ideas are endless!

Nature Studies are also a perfect way to prepare children for research. Most colleges center around research. My husband's grades in college were anywhere from 80-100% based on his grade given for his research papers. Children cannot be prepared for this kind of study by the mere workbooks and textbook studies that are so common in most curriculums available. This is where Nature Studies can really prepare children for any area of life...even college!

Simple Nature Studies usually require that the children look up names and information about the specimen or the topic. Their habit of recording that data is the perfect preparation for further research! Not to mention, as the children develop their Notebooks, they eventually find that there are areas of interest that they want to pursue further than simple recording. Usually these are the areas that children begin to immerse themselves into. The process usually includes lots of reading... thinking...asking questions...looking up the answers for those questions...more reading...recording details found...more questions...going to others in that field of study...finding their own "niche" in the field of interest...sharing what they have come to love! Children who pursue their studies in this manner become great writers at young ages. They have a purpose for learning. They are equipped to learn and share their knowledge "their own way."

How can a mom help develop this gift of writing? This will seem very simple, but developing a writer is a simple, easy process! First, encourage your child to read widely. Readers are great writers. They have much to share. Reading keeps them filled up with fresh ideas! Reading also gives them great models to copy! They can be inspired to share ideas like a particular author does. They can be inspired to use words to convey the deep thoughts of their heart! Reading is an indispensable part of writing!

Another way is to require that they write every day. They will not write every day for their Nature Studies (unless Nature Studies happen to be "their" area of delight). But Nature Studies give the child more options to include in their writing, and more life experiences to think upon and hopefully write about now or later! The best way to develop young writers is to establish a habit each day of writing. They can use many areas of their normal life to establish this habit from copying their favorite Scripture, poems, quotes, hymns... writing narrations about books they read or places that they go or things they observe...developing notebooks for their areas of study...making their own Scrapbooks...writing metaphors/parables... working on research projects/papers...writing essays...and even writing articles for publication. These projects are not for just any topic, but for those topics that the child is naturally drawn to.

One other way to encourage your children to write is to treat them as a real writer! I know, you are wondering what on earth that means. Well, real writers have to take time to learn about their topics. Our children need that more than a professional writer does! Professional writers also have to have help in editing their work. They do not write something without lots of brainstorming... outlining... writes...and rewrites! Our children need this same process if they are to write anything of depth. Encourage this as they write. Encourage real writing projects such as letters to the editor, articles, books, notebooks, and email. They will quickly see "their" importance as a writer and the importance of learning more in all areas of study!

Find Ways to Help Them Find "Their" Field of Study!

Where are we going? There is one thing that concerns me with our culture today. In most cultures around the world, children are brought to maturity at an early age. In our own country, children entered the adult world around the ages of 12-13 until just the last 150 years. In our culture today, we find it rare for an adult to feel certain that they are in their particular calling! What has gone amiss?

I believe that it is education as it is today. Education in the past equipped children with the basic skills needed for them to learn. That education only takes about 100 hours, yet our schools today are dragging out education for 12 years...and even into college and more college with graduate school...all of this education without teaching the children skills to learn on their own. Sure some can read and write on a line and do basic computation, but what I am meaning here is real education...self-education.

The best way to remedy this is to give children the basic skills needed to learn...then put them in touch with real people and real life! It is through real people and real life that we receive ideas that feed our mind...that we learn the basic skills...yes, that we are challenged to grow in our life purpose!

The real classroom for the child is the classroom of others. That may be through books, places, or one-on-one relationships...but it is the best classroom! In the older years this does not change, rather it deepens. The children need exposure to those experts in fields of their interests, whether those interests are in the field of Nature Study/Science or some other field of study.

We have already begun to set up apprenticeships and internships with others for our children. They have had "days" helping them in their business or profession. This has been a wonderful experience for our children, but it has blessed those we have tapped into as well. I don't think that they realized how much they had to offer others just by teaching who they are. This was a good thing for all involved.

This also helps to prepare the children for their life purpose. They learn skills that help them now and later. They develop a firm vision of their own "niche" that only they can fill. They see how to start at the bottom and work their way up. They also see benefits and drawbacks to different professions.

What do you do to help them in this area? Help them to read widely, soak up information everywhere they go, and get to know lots of people from a wide variety of backgrounds. As you see an interest develop in their lives, put them in touch with those who are excellent in that area. You may first want to work alongside with them. While this is crucial in the early years, this is not as necessary as they grow more and more independent. There may be a need at times for you to help them get into an area of interest. Much too soon time comes when they are able to get out on their own to develop opportunities.

Just last year my son was able to help as a counselor for Cub Scout Camp. He set it all up himself. I went with him to the organizational meetings, but he was fine for me to leave each day while he worked. In fact, he was not only a helper for a den of boys, he was their leader for everyday of camp. This gave him confidence to go to a local bookstore (after he finished his book on Marines) to set up his own book signing and arrangements for putting his book in the store! I was proud...and teary...as I saw some of the first fruits of real education in our home. Now, he is pursuing other fields of interest. Some are fleeting studies...some look as though they are building up to his calling...all are shaping his life to conform him into a vessel that God can use!

What Do You Think?

Teaching older children is not much different from teaching our little babies. It requires that we get to know these children...really know them! It requires that we relax and give them back to God...the One Who can teach us which way to go step by step. All we have to do is to enjoy our children during these years. They are not any different from us. They need to know how to learn, how to work hard, how to serve others, how to enjoy work, how to know God's will for their lives, and how to give their lives completely for the God they love! We can teach them much of this as we simply get out in God's creation! When we think of these eternal lessons, all the sudden we find that Nature Studies are beneficial...even for the older student!



This article was excerpted from our book **Nature Study...The Easy Way!**

For more information about this book, see [Our Product List!](#)

Quick and Easy Record-Keeping

By Cindy Rushton



Record-keeping! Does your hair stand up when you think of record-keeping? Do you begin to grind your teeth? Did you feel like skipping this article just because it seems impossible for “EASY” and “Record-keeping” to ever go together??

Relax. I know that there is not a “one size fits all.” I know that in spite of how hard we may search, there is not a perfect system for every mom! That is OK! My prayer is that if you are in need of some ideas to make a couple areas a little easier or if you have no idea of where to begin, that you will find a few ideas as you come home with us to see how simple record-keeping CAN be. Ready for some quick tips??? Here we go...

Use What YOU Like Best!

Every mom has her favorite method that works JUST for them whether a planner with reproducible pages... a ready to use planner... a simple spiral notebook... binders... a filing cabinet... computer... etc, etc, etc! Before you consider anything else, look at who you are. What makes you feel more comfortable? What helps you to feel more accomplishment? Whether formal or informal... detailed or not even written down... YOUR way is the best way! Decide what works best for you!

Keep a Record-Keeping Journal...

Talk about Record-keeping...The EASY Way??? For years, we simply bought a new spiral notebook every year and kept a log of all we did in it. I journaled the pages that we covered each day in Math, Latin, Language Arts, etc. I journaled the books that were read each day and all of our extra-curricular activities. This may work great for most of you. It is CHEAP and EASY! Just pick a spiral notebook and begin logging each day. When we kept records in this manner, I simply dated the top of the page with the date and jotted in a somewhat abbreviated fashion what we did each day. It was something like this:

September 17, 2000...

Quiet Times

Chores

Bible: MER and ELR: Romans Chapter 3, reviewed Memory Work, Looked up new vocabulary

Math: MER: SAP 33, ELR: SAP 29

Copywork: MER and ELR: The Star-Spangled Banner

Homeschooling The Easy Way Manual

Spanish: Lesson with Dad

Latin/Greek: MER/ELR: Copied from ERU

Family Time: MER/ELR: Helped Dad with Staining Wood for Sailboat; Picnic Lunch Afterward

Free Time: MER: Research on Sailboat Racing; ELR: Played dress-up like "Dolly Madison"

Ministry: MER/ELR: Helped pack orders for RFM; Coffee at the coffee shop—ELR helped them clean all of their tables.

Family Reading: ELR: Read Aloud to Family from John 5; BOF, Ch. 3-4; MER/ELR both narrated from Bible and BOF.

Since our children have gotten older, I have transferred this process to them. It really helped me keep up with those books they read in their free time and those extra studies that I never would have considered in my own record-keeping.

In order to make it EASY for them, I designed Record-Keeping Journals that are 5.5 X 8. These also give them a nice product to work with. They think that they are "professional."

They keep their pages in nice leather binders (We found the leather binders at Office Depot. Elisabeth uses my old leather purse/binder—it was perfect for her, but too packed and heavy for me!). They prefer these so that they can also include their pages from their Discipleship Journal (find out more about these in our products) and all of their planning/record-keeping pages all in one place, that can also go everywhere with them. One of the keys to any record-keeping is **HAVING THE SYSTEM WITH YOU ALL OF THE TIME**. This works for us. Our Record-Keeping Journals have made record-keeping and planning part of their lives early. It not only takes a load off of me now as we Homeschool and helps us to **REALLY** document **ALL** of their learning that is taking place, but it is training them with very practical skills that they will need for the rest of their lives.

Throughout the years, another thing that has helped me was having a separate spot in their Notebook for logging their extra read alouds. If you are like us and find that your children seem to read **TOO** many books for you to keep up with, you may want to keep a separate Notebook or a special section in your Planning Journal with a list of books that each child reads in addition to the journal entries of your daily read alouds as a family. It is amazing to see how much is being covered that I would have missed just recording the books that involve me or that I assign for lessons. When I look at the lists, it is amazing how my children **NATURALLY** cover all of the subjects of study just by following their interests and reading widely during their free time!

One other thing that we log is our **REAL LIFE**. I have found that we had **SO** many wonderful events that take place just because we are **AT HOME** (or on the road). I simply have this very simplified system of logging each day so we are sure to include **REAL LIFE** as part of our education.

Not only do I simplify my record-keeping for all of these reasons, but you must know that if I am not careful, I would be writing all day in my journal and **NOT** enjoying the journey at hand (I am intensely inclined to waste time on planning for what I would like to do and recording what we are doing instead of

DOING IT! (Know what I mean??).

Finally, one other thing that we do for our Record-Keeping Journals is MY MOMMY JOURNAL. As the children got older, I decided to keep my OWN “day timer” or organizer (whatever you would want to call it) with all of my yearly, monthly, weekly, and daily goals and plans. I jot down bookings, extra-curricular activities, family events, Harold’s off days, and special events. I also take time throughout each year to “retreat” and really hear God for our new school year (or even the next week...if we need a re-vamping or re-filling!). I record this part to help remind me through the year of the MAIN THING that God has put on my heart for my children. Since I have been writing it all down, I have been much less inclined to stray from the priorities that keep me on-target!

Just as I have encouraged my children to keep their Journals with them, I do the same. This helps me to snag those fleeting moments I would normally lose. It is great to review my goals to see where we are along the way...or plan for another issue of our magazine...or plan our family menus for the week...or pick up my Bible Study/Bible Reading during a free minute! Just as my children keep a variety of our forms in their Journals, so do I. Of course, they keep our School Records (the daily logs), but I have the overall plan for the year and the lists of resources and activities. Plus, I have our business and personal family calendar on hand for all planning that needs to be coordinated for the family.

This is where the “real” world meets “school records.” I have made it all work for me. The reason that I think we have to look at what is out there and make our own system that is just right for us is that we all have our own mix of the “real” world that influences our homeschooling schedules. The one thing that we all need for organizing it all is a way to keep things together so we have access to what we need at any time.

I don’t carry 11 years of plans with me all of the time. In fact, after I have planned out our school year, I have binders (shocked?) that I keep on shelves at home with all of the “used” information. This helps the children as well. They can store away records each month to lighten their binders and add room for more pages. We keep all of our homeschooling records in one “family” binder. I simply store the old calendars away with my journals and the children’s work. Talk about helping me to REALLY see what we are accomplishing...this has helped me to put into perspective WHY we may have missed “table time” for two weeks or why it took so long for a book to be finished! Sure helps chase away that self-condemnation!

The children also keep small notebooks for their sermon notes and their other work in Notebooks on those topics—more on that in a bit! The Sermon Notebooks are really awesome. Our preacher teaches on topics, so as he finishes a series, we add them to our 5.5 X 8 Notebook in sections that are based on each of the topics. The Bible Reading Logs are added to their Lifelong Discipleship Notebook after they complete all of the readings through at one time!

As you can see this goes on for years, but the neat thing is that we see ALL of the education taking

place in our home. But, of course, this is not our only way of keeping records. Stick with me, there is more!

Make Timelines!

These are some of our favorite treasures! We recently revamped our timelines so we could begin new ones—since the children are now so much older than when we first began.

Timelines are excellent for recording what we are studying in our lessons/read alouds, but they are much, much more. We use ours as much for review as we do for recording. The children remember MORE than they ever would by a test. Not to mention, all of history and all of the other studies come together perfectly as we see History fall together into place. The reason that I mention timelines here is that they are great for record-keeping and evaluation.

As you see a timeline coming together, you can see subjects or time periods that have not been covered yet, or not as extensively as you would like. You can easily plug the gaps, while bridging all of history and all areas of life together. You may not get to a certain time period in YOUR timing, but you will see where you need to work toward in the future. Sure makes planning easier!

Scrapbooks-Yearbooks!

These are some of OUR favorite projects. You have probably noticed by now that we will use Scrapbooking for ANYTHING! Yes. We are hopelessly addicted! We have found that making Scrapbooks/Yearbooks for our school year is not only fun, but it helps to preserve the memories of ALL that we are doing in our family.

One year we even made copies for the grandparents so they could see all that we were doing. They LOVED them! So, you have fun... keep memories of what you are really doing...AND have great gifts! Ready to pull out the stickers??

Make Notebooks...

One final way that you can record what your children are REALLY doing is my favorite way—NOTEBOOKS!

We keep ALL of our written work in a binder of some sort. Then, we take it further... we keep ANYTHING that can be pressed in binders. Anything left?? Yes! Then, we take pictures and keep THEM in the binders! (Hehe!) ANYTHING and EVERYTHING that can be studied can also be kept in Notebooks in some way.

We keep anything that would expand a study and build a great collection of information on topics we study... great quotes, definitions about a subject being studied, diagrams, character sketches, pictures, coloring sheets, art prints, poems, Bible verses, narrations, Bible word studies, on and on! Our main reason for Notebooking in this way is that if our children are going to spend their time **DOING** something, it ought to be worthwhile enough for us to **KEEP IT**. This teaches them to value their work, do a great job on all they do, and that **ALL** areas of life are truly educational. *(More on this later! See the section on Language Arts or the section on Notebooking for more help and details!)*

What About You??

So, what about you? Still scared about Record-keeping? Why not think through **YOUR OWN** way? Try your spin. Use what is easy, simple, and will give you more time with your little ones while helping to keep things in place for you. Most of all, find a way that can capture all of these precious memories of these days for you so you will have them to look back upon tomorrow! Have fun! **EVEN** with Record-keeping!



Excerpted from **Homeschooling The Easy Way MEGA Issue!**

Making Your OWN Brain-in-a-Binder!

Designing a System To Help You Balance ALL of Life!

By Cindy Rushton



Can you tell with this issue what has been on MY BRAIN? Yep! I am completely indulging myself in binders, storage containers, and even trash bags! I have been cleaning out and cleaning up. Making lists and checking them twice—well, more like fifty-five times!! Not one area of our home and business is being left untouched!

Actually, I have to be very honest. I am always like this! Every single year! This is the time of year that I am just Binder-Crazy! I actually began LAST year to get my binder ready for this New Year. I LOVE the freshness of a nice, clean, organized binder! I love actually being able to FIND information! If you do to, stick with me...this is YOUR article!

For the rest of you, you know those of you who LOVE binders but are deathly afraid of them and cannot explain why. You know, you buy a new one each year. You love the smell of leather. You love the fresh pages. BUT, something always happens that you cannot quite pinpoint that takes your joy sometime around January 25th of each year!

I don't know about you, but I always have "high-hopes." I mean, I begin every year with my precious leather binder full of wonderfully gorgeous calendar pages, renewed goals, brand new chore charts, new Bible Reading Charts (being checked off everyday!!), and even a freshly RE-COPIED address book. I just LOVE it! I almost want to sleep with it—Harold DOES take exception to that!

Well, except I had a problem that needed to be overcome! I noticed this last year. You may relate! I noticed that it never failed. Every single year I would have the same process. I began the year with my "perfect" binder—taking it EVERY place I went. I felt so "together" and much, much more "organized." My REAL brain could relax while my "brain-in-a-binder" did all of my remembering and thinking!

But...then, it would happen slowly. I inevitably found myself beginning to leave my binder in my car... then, it would be lost for weeks on end...then, by sometime around April every year, my binder would be lost...or WAS that the lump I always trip over going into the house????

Organizationally Challenged???

Yep! This was ME! I am now diagnosed AND the prescription has been working! Need help for this "condition" too? Here are some ideas that may help!

Take an Inventory of YOUR Needs...

First of all, think about what would really help YOU take a load off of your own brain? What would help to simplify your daily, monthly, and yearly tasks? What would help you to think out the details of your life AND keep them close so they are near you WHEN you need them (keep in mind that what you carry needs JUST enough to help you, but not TOO much because you won't carry it if it is TOO heavy!)?

I have to keep up with SO much each and every day...week...month...and year! I have looked EVERYWHERE (trust me!) for a system that could really work for me. In fact, I have TRIED almost ALL of the systems out there! I could not find any system with pages that really were designed for all of the many areas that I balance each and every day. Most were full of pages that I did not need for anything. Then, even the most helpful systems were just not my "style." I found that they were either TOO PRETTY to use or they were SO PROFESSIONAL that I was almost scared that my "little notes" would mess things up! They were not friendly enough for me to ACTUALLY use as "MY brain in a binder!"

Relate??? Want to KNOW the solution?? Just take a look at what YOU need! If you only need a binder that includes a calendar, a notebook for jotting down your "to-do's," and an address book, then you will probably be much, much better off if you purchase the actual "notebook binder" and add the special things that you want individually. Plus, you won't be as confused or feel bad for not using it all!

You don't HAVE to buy a system and throw away MORE of it than you use! Rather, you can buy only the sections that will help you to uniquely design a binder that can meet your very own needs!

Check Out What is Out There for YOU!

Well, wondering how to KNOW what you need? Well, take an afternoon trip to your local office supply store or to your local Wal-Mart. There are MORE options than I could mention in a whole book. Decisions abound, often presenting yet another complication to getting organized and binderized! You can choose the type of binder case... number of rings in the binder... thickness of the binder... types of paper... sizes of paper... and a whole host of wonderful accessories ranging from Palm Top Computers and calculators to hole-punchers of various combinations to even Bible Studies to carry on your long commutes! See why it is SO important to know what you would want?

My greatest dilemma was choosing the style of my planner. I travel with my computer and SO many

books and extra research material that I did not want to juggle one MORE thing, much less a binder with all of the goodies that “I” could stuff in a binder! I found that binders were available for people JUST like me!

Now, you can find a “purse planner.” You can find styles that are designed to slip into your purse. Other styles are designed as briefcases. Still others look like an ordinary journal. You can even buy a simple three- ring binder for only a couple of dollars. Take a look at what is out there and decide on what is just right for YOU!

I Know, I Know! The BUDGET!!!

While you are shopping for the system and style that is just right for YOU, you may want to also consider what will work with your personal budget! I found that when I spent a whole lot of money, I was less inclined to actually “use” my system. I was almost “saving” it for when I could be the best “steward” of my investment—yea, right! I was too afraid that I would mess it up to actually write in it! EEEK! I first had to see the real value of using a planner for managing my time AND relieving my brain so I could be a better wife, mother, and business owner! Then, I had to work with my own personal budget!

If you have an unlimited budget, trust me you can spend it ALL on planners! I was absolutely shocked to find planners (sometimes just the actual binder!!!) were a hundred dollars or more! Yep! Beyond any budget of mine!

Not to mention my budget, but also I found that many systems were so expensive yet since they did not meet my personal needs, I was really wasting a lot of money and lugging around something that was useless. Some had pages and pages just for chores and housekeeping—it took longer to plan them than to just DO them! I did not have time for that! Others had unnecessary business forms that ALSO were completely useless. Even the very best homeschooling planners seemed to include a lot of fluff that kept me keeping records instead of making memories OR even getting around to actually teaching my little ones! In other words, sometimes building your OWN system within your budget is better financially AND it meets your real needs!

I decided to find a nice leather binder (I bought mine from Franklin Covey) that I could use MY OWN pages inside. I spent a bit more than usual on the binder this year, but this binder is holding up so much better than binders in the past.

I also decided to use “dated” calendar pages for the first time this year. In the past I have only bought “undated” pages that I could use ANY month or year. Well, sounds good huh? But, the sad truth is that the first couple of months were “dated” by me...I used them and things went great! Yet, I have years and years of unused “undated” calendars! What happened? TIME! While evaluating my past failures, I found that it is much, much better to have everything ready-to-use. I have no excuses NOT to use one that is ready-to-go!

Another thing that I have done for my personal “brain-in-a-binder” is to laminate pages that I will need from year-to-year. I laminated my divider pages, my page finders (I made several that have Bible Verses I am trying to memorize this year), my Bible prayers for my family, my goals for the new year, and my emergency information. This allows me to keep those pages in daily use throughout the whole year and possibly into the new year, saving time next year when I put together my new binder. Plus! They are soooo cute and they used what fit into my budget because I already had the supplies to “make” them at my house!

Think Through YOUR Essentials CONSTANTLY!

Although you can ALWAYS change things around, take out anything that does not work, or add new sections to meet any new need you will want to be sure that your most essential needs are met in the beginning...or lump-in-the-floor your beloved planner CAN become!

My personal “brain-in-a-binder” changes throughout the year. I balance many areas of life. There are a few sections that are **MUSTS** for all year round. Other sections demand more attention at times than others. So, often you will find my personal planner including different pages (I store extra sections or pages away in topical binders on my desk—old calendars, homeschool records, seminar details, planning pages, reading logs...). For example, during the early months of the year, I do more planning for my home for the year. My planner includes pages that help me organize my home, my overall schedule, and my business/family goals for the year.

During the spring, I usually spend more of my time planning out books that I work on and release during the year **AND** our wish list for the following school year. I can work on that type of planning while we travel to spring retreats and conventions. Plus, I have the early convention season to browse for the new picks for our following homeschool year so I can plan our lessons, field trips, and special events for the school year in advance! I also add my Mommy Journal pages (we now provide those through our business) for times along the way that I can really work through my “heart goals” for the next homeschool year.

Summer brings other changes to my planner. I usually keep basic details in my planner that help keep me on the right track. Summer finds me extremely busy. I tend to function off of “to-do lists,” seminar planning forms (with all of my details for getting me from place to place **AND** to help me prepare for my speaking engagements). I usually pull out all of my “planning pages” or “bulk” during the summer just to make sure that I have plenty of room for those details that I need on the road—Convenient Bible Study, Contact Information, Daily Bible Reading Log, Year-at-a-glance, Monthly Calendars, Daily Pages, Extra “To-do” and “Note” Pages, etc.

I don't even produce some of my regular forms during the summer. For example, I don't need any of my menu planning forms because I simplify my kitchen duties to only take-out or easy dishes during the summer. Having too many forms was a hindrance to me in the past. It helps **SO** much to know what *I* really need and have **ONLY** that in my binder!

By Fall, I begin to focus more on writing again, so my planner begins to swell with more of my project notes, menu plans, and homemaking helps. I cannot put into words the importance of getting everything that is **ESSENTIAL** for **YOU** and eliminating everything—even if the pages are **CUTE!!!**—that you will not be using!

Ready? So...What **DO** You Need To Begin???

(Keep in mind that these instructions are written for those of you who choose our packets, but they will work with any system you find along the way!)

Three-ring Binder

The first thing that you **MUST** have to make your own *Brain-in-a-Binder* is a small 3-ring binder. Again, decide which kind of binder will work best for you and your budget. You can use a simple 3-ring binder. I recommend buying a nice binder that you can carry with you at all times.

For my own personal planner, I purchased a nice, leather binder that I can take with me anywhere. Planning moments can be “snagged” at the oddest times. Inevitably, I need a telephone number or email address, or a detail about one of my speaking engagements at the most inconvenient times...well, unless I have my handy companion with me to do the thinking and remembering for me! I like to have my binder with me so I can best use each moment and have help at the touch of my fingers!

Binders are limitless! We do not currently stock any types of binders, but they are available almost everywhere! Note that we punched our pages with **SEVEN** holes. This will allow us (or you if you buy our systems) to use any type of binder that you prefer.

When shopping for a binder, think about whether that binder will be comfortable to carry with you. I have had several different kinds through the years, but my preferences are still the real leather binders with zippers to hold in my “stuff” and plenty of pockets for cards, paper bits, and extra paper (directions, details, or separate lists that I need to work on!) I also have a wonderful tapestry binder that I **LOVE** for my Bible Study Binder.

Another thing that you may like if you are not carrying a lot of pages at a time is a simple leather “address” book from the office supply store. Mine has a plain front and back. I took out the pages that it came with it, added my Sermon Note Pages, and I was ready to slip it inside of my Bible Cover (I have a Bible Cover that zips up. It holds my Bible, Sermon Notebook, Pens, Highlighters, Stick-it-notes, and any Sunday School Material we are working on!) Find what will work for you! Find what you like! **AND** know that you can always change anything that does not work at any time!

WHICH Packets Do I Need?

If you have used other planners and reproducibles, you will notice that our MAKE YOUR OWN series is a bit different from others on the market. In our series, we have lots of different forms, but they are sold in separate packets. We designed them so you could mix and match to build a planner that would meet your own unique needs. All of our packets can be interchanged, so any of our packets can be used with as many other packets or all by itself to build YOUR very own BRAIN IN A BINDER!

If you want to use our system, I suggest that you take a look at our listing of packets. Read through the descriptions. Mark those that you already use OR those that you really need. You can build your binder as you go along the way. My suggestion is to begin by meeting your greatest needs. For example, if you are needing to write down appointments for your entire year, take a look at our Monthly Calendars. Need a bit of help planning out your school year OR renewing your mind in the midst of a busy school year, try our Mommy Planner. Need help with those "Daily To-Do's?" Try our Daily Calendar Pages! They will help you plan in advance OR walk you through your day!

Some of these forms are great for planning out a new school year or business year. You may not want them in your Journal all year long. For those forms, I store mine away in an inexpensive binder (I like the small 3-ring binders that I can label on the spine. I keep my "used" pages in separate binders like I would separate files. For example, my Sermon Notes are kept in one binder that has dividers for the different "series" topics that my pastor teaches. I keep either one or two years (as much as can fit!) in each binder so I can easily find sermon notes that I am looking for! It is wonderful, especially when I am trying to look up a certain verse!

I use the same system with my business information that I keep in my binder. I cannot tell you how nice it is to go back to my binders from years before to find directions to a convention or email addresses and phone numbers for my contacts! Again, at the end of the year, I just divide off my business forms into their own storage binder (with a labeled spine for ease in locating the information) and add new ones into my binder! This same method works for other sections of my planner that I use like my "Daily Bible Reading Log," "Menu Planner" and my Homeschool "Mommy Journal" planner.

We homeschool our children. I also keep their records in this same format. Throughout the school year, I add "finished" pages to the binder so the one I carry all of the time stays most efficient. At the end of the year, I take out all of my calendars, reading logs, and other forms that are left to also add to that notebook. Of course, many moms like to keep everything in one place. That is fine too! The goal with our system is to work for YOU, not to work you! You can use our system any way that you prefer—after all, YOU are making your OWN BRAIN in your binder!!

Not to mention, I am so happy to offer our system in this particular format because I always have found that I run out of some pages faster than others. This system not only takes that into consideration, but

plans for it from the very beginning! I hope that you will enjoy our format! Even if you do not choose our system, you may want to consider this for making-your-own-brain-in-a-binder using any other system.

Ready To Make YOUR OWN Brain-in-a-Binder????

A planner of your very own will become one of your best tools! It will become one of your beloved companions! Consider your "Brain-in-a-Binder" to be your friend walking alongside of you as you reflect, retreat, renew, re-organize, re-commit, and get ready for a new year and each new day! So, ready? Dig in and have FUN!

Happy Organizing!



Excerpted from *Homeschooling The Easy Way Magazine*

Check out our WHOLE line of great resources designed to help you make YOUR OWN Brain-in-a-Binder! See the back our manual for our most updated listing (or check our website for NEW sets that we develop all along the way!)

The Spiritual Side of Education...

By Cindy Rushton



"Of the three sorts of knowledge proper to a child, --the knowledge of God, of man, and of the universe, --the knowledge of God ranks first in importance, is indispensable, and most happy-making."

Charlotte Mason, p.p., 158-Toward a Philosophy of Education

Of all the wonderful things that we can instill into the depths of our children...there is no greater call than discipleship of our precious children. This is the perfect place to begin looking deeper into the ideas of Charlotte Mason. Her tender conviction about this area of child training actually became the basic foundation of all she did and wrote about children. Her ideas blend beautifully with those of Scripture to assist the parent in developing a whole education for the WHOLE child...mentally, physically, emotionally, *and* spiritually. Let's dig in...

The Primary Emphasis of Education is Discipleship!

In Charlotte Mason's writing, we find the priority that Miss Mason placed upon Education as a means toward teaching the child about God. Her hope is not that Education will lift the child to some sort of supremacy void of God, but rather that the focus of the child's education would be to prepare the child to KNOW God intimately. However, Miss Mason knew what she was dealing with in the young child. She writes in her book *Toward a Philosophy of Education* on Page 46,

"The fact seems to be that children are like ourselves, not because they have become so, but because they are born so; that is, with tendencies, dispositions, toward good and evil, and also with a curious intuitive knowledge as to which is good and which is evil. Here we have the work of education indicated. There are good and evil tendencies in body and mind, heart and soul; and the hope set before us is that we can foster the good so as to attenuate the evil; that is on condition that we put Education in her true place as the handmaid of Religion."

What truth! Children do NOT come to us complete and ready for ministry at the age of FIVE! Nor do they come to us as mere vessels that we need to fill with information. They are not our parrots, simply in need of learning off facts without a heart for what they are learning. They are REAL people! They learn JUST like we do...only with perhaps more receptivity. There are no inborn limitations to learning due to their age nor their race, social status, or religion...all children desire to learn. Our role is to give

them the very best!

Not only are children capable of learning and attaining knowledge as adults can, but they also are capable of good and evil. Every single child is born with tendencies and dispositions toward doing good *and* evil! Our role as parents is vital as we train...disciple these little ones *"in the way they should go."* But how??

In *Toward a Philosophy of Education* on Page 65 she writes...

"In such ways the great thoughts of great thinkers illuminate children and they grow in knowledge, chiefly knowledge of God. And yet this, the chief part of education, is drowned in torrents of talk, in tedious repetition, in objugation and recrimination, in every sort of way in which the mind may be bored and the affections deadened. I have endeavored to sketch some of the possibilities for good and the corresponding possibilities for evil present in all children; they are waiting for direction and control, certainly, but still more for the formative influence of knowledge..."

Let's take a look at some of her ideas for instilling the good...

Get to KNOW the Child!

"We must know something about the material we are to work upon if the education we offer is not to be scrappy and superficial. We must have some measure of a child's requirements, not based upon his uses to society, nor upon the standard of the world he lives in, but upon his own capacity and needs." Toward a Philosophy of Education on Page 65-66

What a challenge! This is the foundation for training the child in any area, but never is it more important than in the Spiritual Discipleship of the child. Yes, we need to get to KNOW the child! Just what ARE we working with???

Take some time to really get to know your child! What are their strengths? What are their abilities? What is their bent? Where are their talents? What is God's plan for your child's life? This is where education begins for the child!

If you are uncertain about the answers to these questions, this is where you begin with your foundation of study in education. Fewer things are more important than getting to know WHOM you are working with and WHERE they are going. Without taking this time, much time will be wasted in vain efforts. Taking time to get to know each of your children and God's plans for each of them will get you off on the right track! Take a look at what the Bible says about the call on the lives of God's children. Take a look at their current personal interests. Take a look at WHO you are. You will get on the right track!

Most Important Lessons are Of God...Parents are the BEST TEACHERS!

Speaking of WHO you ARE...The first place to begin with the education of your children is with yourself! The greatest lessons that you will teach your children are those **deep** lessons that God has ingrained into **your life!** Without **knowing** God first-hand, you will have very little to instill in the lives of your children. However, it will be that deep passion for God radiating through you in those tender moments with your children that will make the most lasting impressions in the lives of your children.

On page 158 of **Toward a Philosophy of Education** Miss Mason wrote, *“Of the three sorts of knowledge proper to a child, --the knowledge of God, of man, and of the universe, --the knowledge of God ranks first in importance, is indispensable, and most happy-making. Mothers are on the whole more successful in communicating this knowledge than are teachers who know the children less well and have a narrower, poorer standard of measurement for their minds. Parents do not talk down to children, but we might gather from educational publications that the art of education as regards young children is to bring conceptions down to their ‘little’ minds. If we give up this foolish prejudice in favour of the grown-up, we shall be astonished at the range and depth of children’s minds; and shall perceive that their relation to God is one of those ‘first-born affinities’ which is it our part to help them to make good. A mother knows how to speak of God as she would of an absent father with all the evidences of his care and love about her and his children. She knows how to make a child’s heart beat high in joy and thankfulness as she thrills him with the thought, ‘my Father made them all,’ while his eye delights in flowery meadow, great tree, flowing river. ‘His are the mountains and the valleys his and the resplendent rivers, whose eyes they fill with tears of holy joy,” and this is not beyond children...”*

These precious moments with our children are priceless! Not only as memories, but also as moments which will shape their eternal decisions. No one can replace the parents in the discipleship process. Parents ARE the best teachers! This duty and responsibility cannot and should not be passed on to someone else regardless how we may doubt our own qualifications. This is probably the most vital role that we will have in our lives. We must be faithful to this call! So, are you wondering “Just what is OUR role???” Charlotte Mason shares wonderful truths in all of her books about the parent’s role in discipleship...let’s look at a few!

Enthroning the King...

“‘It is,’ says a writer who has searched into the deep things of God--‘it is a King that our spirits cry for, to guide them, discipline them, unite them to each other; to give them victory over themselves, a victory over the world. It is a Priest that our spirits cry out for, to lift them above themselves to their God and Father, --to make them partakers of His nature, fellow-workers in carrying out His purposes. Christ’s Sacrifice is the one authentic testimony that He is both the Priest and King of men.” (Maurice, Sermons on Sacrifice) “Parents have some power to Enthroning the King...It is necessary, however, that we should gather up

crumbs of fact and inference, and set in order such knowledge as we have; for the keys even of this innermost chamber are placed in the hands of parents, and it is a great deal in their power to enthrone the King, to induct the priest, that every human spirit cries for!" Charlotte Mason, page 341-342 Home Education

Give the Idea of God to the Soul of the Child...

"In the first place, it does not rest with the parent to choose whether he will or will not attempt to quicken and nourish this divine life in his child. To do so is his BOUNDEN DUTY and SERVICE. IF he neglect or fail in this, I am not sure how much it matters that he has fulfilled his duties in the physical, moral, and mental culture of his child, except in so far as the child is the fitter for the divine service should the divine life be awakened in him. But what can a parent do? Just this, and no more: he can present the idea of God to the soul of the child... it is his part to deposit, so to speak, within reach of the child some fruitful idea of God; the immature soul makes no effort towards that idea, but the living Word reaches down, touches the soul, --and there is life; growth and beauty, flower and fruit!"

Charlotte Mason, page 344 Home Education

Instill the Ideas of God and Divine Life...

Charlotte Mason, page 144-145 School Education, "The most important part of our subject remains to be considered--the inspiring ideas we propose to give children in the things of the divine life. This is a matter we are a little apt to leave to chance; but when we consider the vitalising power of an idea, and how a single great idea changes the current of a life, it becomes us to consider very carefully what ideas of the things of God we may most fitly offer children, and how these may be most invitingly presented."

Teach WHAT We KNOW!

*"How to select these few quickening thoughts of the infinite God? The selection is not so difficult to make as would appear at first sight. In the first place, we must teach that which we KNOW, know by the life of the soul, not with any mere knowledge of the mind. Now, of the vast mass of the doctrines and the precepts of religion, we shall find that there are only a few vital truths that we have **SO TAKEN INTO OUR BEING THAT WE LIVE UPON THEM**--this person, these; that person, those; some of us, not more than a single one. One or more, these are the truths we must teach **OUR** children, because these will come straight from our hearts with the enthusiasm of conviction which rarely fails to carry its own idea into the spiritual life of another...**Let the parent who only knows one thing from above teach his child that ONE; more will come to him by the time the child is ready for more!**"*

Mason, page 346-347 Home Education

Look for Holy Moments...SEIZE THEM!

*“Every now and then there occurs a holy moment, felt to be holy by mother and child, when the two are together—that is the moment for some deeply felt and softly spoken word about God, such as the occasion gives rise to. Few words need be said, no exhortation at all; just the flash of conviction from the soul of the mother to the soul of the child. Is ‘Our Father’ the thought thus laid upon the child’s soul? There will be, perhaps, no more sympathetic meeting of eyes hereafter, between mother and child, over a thousand showings forth of ‘Our Father’s’ love; but the idea is growing, becoming part of the child’s spiritual life. This is all: no routine of spiritual teaching; a dread of many words, which are apt to smother the fire of the sacred life; much self-restraint shown in the allowing of seeming opportunities to pass; and all the time, earnest purpose of heart, and a definite scheme for the building up of the child in the faith...It is as the mother gets wisdom liberally from above, that she will be enabled for this divine task.” Charlotte Mason, page 349 *Home Education**

Read the Bible...

*“Now our objective in this most important part of education is to give the children the knowledge of God. We need not go into the question of intuitive knowledge, but the expressed knowledge attainable by us has its source in the Bible, and perhaps we cannot do a greater indignity to children than to substitute our own or some other benevolent person’s rendering for the fine English, poetic diction and lucid statement of the Bible.” Charlotte Mason, page 160 *Toward a Philosophy of Education**

She continues,

“Literature at its best is always direct and simple and a normal child of six listens with delight to the tales both of Old and New Testament read to him passage by passage, and by him narrated in turn, with delightful touches of native eloquence. Religion has two aspects, the attitude of the will towards God which we understand by Christianity, and the perception of God which comes from a gradual slow-growing comprehension of the divine dealings with men.”

On page 162, she continues,

“the teaching of the New Testament, not duly grounded upon or accompanied by that of the Old, fails to result in such thought of God, wide, all-embracing, all-permeating, as David, for example, gives constant expression to in the Psalms. Let us have faith and courage to give children such a full and gradual picture of the Old Testament history that they unconsciously perceive for themselves a panoramic view of the history of mankind typified by that of the Jewish nation as it is unfolded in the Bible.”

Bible Reading...

Bible Reading need not be difficult or intimidating! Actually, Bible Reading can be the easiest lessons

that you teach your children. All that you have to do is use STRAIGHT Bible! Don't bury God's Word under endless comments and applications...let it alone with the child. Also, be sure to teach the entire Bible! Don't select only passages that can "indoctrinate" your child...their minds are keen enough to form opinions and beliefs without those being forced upon them. Leaving the child alone with God will really work WITHOUT interference on our part!

Another thing to remember is to be very careful to avoid picking out individual verses to "grind" into the child. Instead instill a LOVE of God's Word! On this Charlotte Mason says on page 349 of **Home Education**, *"I doubt if the picking out of individual verses, and grinding these into the child until they cease to have any meaning for him, is anything but a hindrance to the spiritual life. The Word is full of vital force, capable of applying itself. A seed, light as thistledown, wafted into the child's soul, will take root downwards and bear fruit upwards. What is required of us is, that we should implant a LOVE of the Word; that the most delightful moments of the child's day should be those which his mother reads for him, with sweet sympathy and holy gladness in voice and eyes, the beautiful stories of the Bible; and now and then in the reading will occur one of those convictions, passing from the soul of the mother to the soul of the child, in which is the life of the Spirit."*

I am not sure if the next quote will apply to you, but Miss Mason also brought out the importance of NOT reading the Bible AT the child. This passage REALLY convicted me! She wrote on page 349 in **Home Education**... *"Above all, do not read the Bible AT the child: do not let any words of the Scriptures be occasions for gibbeting his faults. It is the office of the Holy Ghost to convince of sin; and He is able to use the Word for this purpose, without risk of that hardening of the heart in which our clumsy dealings too often result!"*

Instead of using the Bible as a weapon, let's use it as the very Word of God! Just as we would not dream of bringing our children to spend time with someone who would beat them over the head with every word they spoke, so WE do not want to use God's precious Word to beat our little ones over the head!

Let's give our children a deep love of the Word. Let's teach ALL of the Bible. Let's use the Bible as our primary lesson book! The Bible is the perfect reader. The Bible is the perfect text of Literature. The Bible is the perfect Theology Book. The Bible is the perfect Character Curriculum. The Bible is also the perfect History text. If we want to equip our children **perfectly**, we must give them the entire Bible!

Charlotte Mason felt that instilling a deep love and understanding of the entire Bible from an early age was essential in the lives of all children. Perhaps, this was instilled even more so in her convictions as she studied the life of Goethe. Goethe was a German writer, politician, poet, playwright, thinker...a true Renaissance Man! In his early years, he was brought up with a strong emphasis on Scripture. Although his life was inevitably rocky because of his willfulness and constant immorality, he wrote of the impact that Bi-

ble teaching had on his life to offer stability and peace in the midst of his constant errors due to willfulness. Miss Mason used him as an example in her book **Toward A Philosophy of Education** (pages 160-163). She writes...

*“Now our objective in this most important part of education is to give the children the knowledge of God. We need not go into the question of intuitive knowledge, but the expressed knowledge attainable by us has its source in the Bible, and perhaps we cannot do a greater indignity to children than to substitute our own or some other benevolent person’s rendering for the fine English, poetic diction and lucid statement of the Bible. Literature at its best is always **DIRECT** and **SIMPLE** and a normal child of six listens with delight to the tales both of the Old and New Testament read to him passage by passage, and by him narrated in turn, with delightful touches of native eloquence. Religion has two aspects, the attitude of the will towards God, which we understand by Christianity, and that perception of God, which comes by a gradual-slow-growing comprehension of the divine dealings with men. In the first of these senses, Goethe was never religious, but the second forms the green reposeful background to a restless and uneasy life and it is worth while to consider how he arrived at so infinitely desirable a possession...It is well to know how Goethe obtained this repose of soul, this fresh background for his thoughts, and in all the **ERRORS OF A WILLFUL LIFE** this innermost repose appears never to have left him. His eyes, we are told, were tranquil as those of a god, and here is revealed the secret of that large tranquility. Here, too, Goethe unfolds for us a principle of education which those who desire their children to possess the passive as well as the active principle of religion would do well to consider; for it is probably true that the teaching of the New Testament, not duly grounded upon or accompanied by that of the Old, fails to result in such thought of God, wide, all-embracing, all permeating, as David, for example, gives constant expression to in the Psalms. Let us have faith and courage to give children such a full and gradual picture of the Old Testament history that they unconsciously perceive for themselves a panoramic view of the history of mankind typified by that of the Jewish Nation as it is unfolded in the Bible. Are our children little skeptics, as was the young Goethe, who take laughing joy in puzzling their teachers with a hundred difficulties? Like that wise old Dr. Albrecht, let us be in no haste to explain. Let us not try to put down or evade their questions with modesty and scrupulous care. If we act in this way, difficulties will assume their due measure of importance, that is to say, they will be lost sight of in the gradual unfolding of the great scheme whereby the world was educated.”*

It is hard to tell, just how Goethe’s life would have been different if he had developed a love and passion for a deep, abiding relationship with God...if he had reached a real understanding of WHO God was, not just a nodding acquaintance with stories about Him. This is one reason that we must answer the questions that our children bring up to us. Of course, we will not KNOW every answer! In fact, the greatest lesson we can teach our children is NOT to come to us for these answers...but to go to GOD! To **Seek after HIM** and **HIS ANSWERS**!!

Our part is to give them continual teaching in God’s Word...all of it. Then, take their questions seri-