

**** Keep a Calendar!** This is a good project for the beginning naturalist! Just keep a simple calendar of what is found/observed each day. It may be the first flower of the year, the first leaf to fall, the day the puppies were born, and the day you got a goat...keep these memories!

**** Have a Window Sill Garden!** Even if you are not on your own land or in your own home, you can keep a window sill garden and enjoy watching nature! The children can have their own garden of herbs, carrots, impatiens, geraniums, and marigolds right in your window! It is such a delight to watch flowers come up from seeds into their full fruit! We have also planted flowers and herbs around the house and around the base of our trees. These are fun to watch and enjoy!

**** Want to teach direction?** Just buy those little ones a compass and turn them loose outside!

**** Keep on the look out for Nature Art!** Our favorites are Tasha Tudor, Beatrix Potter, and Audobon!

**** Make bird feeders or just throw out bird feed!** Our birds, squirrels and even chickens LOVE whole wheat bread crumbs! Every morning I have a fan club meet me at the door expecting their nutrition for the day! There are some wonderful ideas for making bird feeders in Kathryn Howshall's book Nature Projects or in any of the Boy Scouts of America literature!

**** Hunt for Nature Hymns!** Make a special section of your Nature Notebook or Copybook just for Hymns about God's beautiful creation! Don't forget to illustrate!

**** Picnic anyone?** Nothing is any more fun than a picnic! Just pack a basket full of lunch or a simple afternoon tea to go! Head out to your favorite spot with just your own sweet family! Of course...you should also think of your dear friends occasionally...yes, this is a hint! I am always up for a picnic! Picnics can also be outside your very own door...we LOVE a picnic on our deck! We curl up on the swing afterwards and enjoy the beauty of nature while enjoying great conversation or our books!

**** Speaking of a book...Don't forget to grab a book to read out-of-doors!** You may want to read a biography about the great men and women of science! Go to your non-fiction section of the children's section of the library and load up on their neat books about animals...space... plants...geography! Also, do not forget the treasures found in the fiction section by authors such as Gene Stratton Porter, Tasha Tudor, Beatrix Potter, Jean Craighead George and Sterling North!

**** Get a new pet!** In my "You know you are homeschooling when..." column, I jokingly shared that You know you are homeschooling when you have acquired a strange pet since you started homeschooling. Well, we have had the joy of acquiring and growing to love quite a bunch of critters! We have had dogs, cats, goats, birds (Cockatoo and Cockatiels), hermit crabs, rabbits, chickens...the list is getting so long I am afraid you may start singing Old MacRushton's had a farm! Pets are such an awesome way to teach about God's handiwork while learning all about Nature informally! Go ahead, join the ranks of tried and true homeschoolers and adopt a pet!

**** Spend a day with the grandparents!** What a treasure house of wisdom about nature! It may be a day of fishing...or a day working bees...or a day in the garden...or a picnic or helping out with the chickens. I guarantee that these memories will be the most treasured as they get older! I will always treasure moments with Mamaw picking berries or tending the chickens or working in the flowers! Moments that are a rich heritage!

Rich heritage...that is just what Nature Studies really are. They are not an option that we can just fit in if we have time. They are necessary to teach our children a fullness about God. They are necessary if we are to have time with our children to pass on who we are as we go along the way. Nature Studies are even necessary if we are to develop relationships. Yes, a rich heritage is one of relationships...Nature studies develops relationships with God, nature, and one another! Happy Trails!

Extra Reading...

If you would like to dig deeper into Nature Studies, the following resources have fantastic ideas and how to's for making Nature Studies a part of your home! These resources are the ones in my great big bag or basket of books that I bring along on all of our outings...they are totally necessary to encourage you along the way!

Victorian Family Celebrations By Sarah Ban Breathnach
pp..54-57; 80-85; 110; 145-147; 156-157; 168-172.

A Charlotte Mason Education By Catherine Levison pp.. 37-45

Charlotte Mason Study Guide By Penny Gardner pp.. 141-152

Wisdom's Way of Learning By Marilyn Howshall (see pp.. 231-241 for some great how-to's from Kathryn's Bird Book...these are great ideas for a Nature Notebook!)

On the Internet check out Lynn's Homepage...it has links to MANY other great Science links! <http://homepage.bushnell.net/~peanuts/science.html>

Nature Notebooks

Anyone familiar with the Rushtons is definitely familiar with our wide and varied use of notebooks in our homeschool. Nature Studies is no different! For a long time I was frustrated when I would read about the neat ideas for Nature Journals/Notebooks. I think it was because I did not take the ideas and apply it to how we already do our notebooks with our children! We took the ideas from our usual copybooks mixed it with some great ideas from Nature Journals of the past and scrapbooks of today...and wala! We have our own Nature Notebook, which is very simple to begin and to keep up! Here are some ideas for making one of your own...

**** Let Notebooking become a natural part of life.** Recording may be encouraged at the beginning, but let it become their own personal journal and scrapbook! They may work in it every day or just a few times a month depending on their interest!

**** Decide on your type of notebook that you would like to use.** Many families keep sketchbooks, which enable them to use watercolors or write. We tried these but they were difficult to add our Copywork, poems, and pressed specimens to. We decided to use the pages from our sketchbooks for pictures and just mount them in our 3-ring binder. We bought a binder with the see-through plastic covers that you can slide your own cover picture into. We let the children design their own cover for their notebook by using these notebooks! They loved it! We also gave them plenty of page protectors to slide their work into to protect it from smudges and too much handling! They added pages from their original copybook that had quotes, scripture verses, and poems with a Nature Subject. We are now really having fun as we see them using their new ideas from scrap-booking to add their own special touch to their Notebooks!

**** Let your children set up their notebooks like their very own Scrapbook of Nature!** Chances are you already have many things that could be included in a notebook around your home without their own special place! I remember a dear friend's mother who always instilled in her children (and me!) that there must be a place for everything and everything in its place! This is the perfect opportunity to develop a place for those Nature goodies while developing a nice product for displaying all that knowledge and keeping memorabilia!

You may want to include the following in your notebooks...

- ◆ Sketches...don't forget to include date, time, place, Latin Name, and Common Name!
- ◆ Snapshots
- ◆ Pressed Flowers, Leaves, Feathers, Butterflies, etc.

- ◆ Reading Lists
- ◆ Glossary of Terms Studied
- ◆ Poetry
- ◆ Information about discoveries
- ◆ Lists of new findings
- ◆ Handouts from trips
- ◆ Narrations from trips, outings, hikes, Nature walks, books read about nature or scientists/naturalists.
- ◆ Instruction Sheets on “How to Care for...” or “How to Collect...” etc. (Kathryn Howshall has an entire set of her Instruction Sheets called *Nature Projects* which is great for the novice like me...but also a great idea for communicating all the children know about a topic in Nature!
- ◆ Booklets...My children began their Nature Studies by making Booklets on topics such as *Birds in My Backyard*, which was a collection of sketches of birds we spotted right in our front yard! They researched the names of the birds, the nesting habits of the birds, and their favorite foods. They sketched the birds and put the information about the birds into their little booklets, which were made from ideas in Dinah Zike’s *Big Book of Books and Activities*. We soon had several to put into their own binder for science! It may be that your child has such a deep interest in one part of nature that they want to develop a notebook just for that such as Kathryn *Howshall’s Bird Book* and *Butterfly Book*. That is perfectly fine! Just pick a topic and go!
- ◆ Project Data...this may be from any experiments or from just watching something for a few seasons to watch the changes!
- ◆ Bible Verses...We include our Copywork and memory work that relates to nature. You may also want to include any word studies that they do as they get older on Bible Verses. They may have Journalled meditations from their Quiet time and want to include them!
- ◆ Hymns
- ◆ Stories...Nature, Pets, Metaphors, about Outings!
- ◆ Journal Entries
- ◆ Details from Outings
- ◆ Favorite Quotes about Nature
- ◆ Reading Lists

- ◆ Research...for the older students! Let them keep an additional copy of all research papers and notes in their notebook.
- ◆ Reports...again this is for the older students. Narrations are preferable for the younger students since they will build their skills for writing and prepare them the best for Reports and Research in the later years!

**** Get Your Supplies...**You will need a notebook, plastic sleeve protectors, paper (Use Card stock for mounting specimens or lined for Journaling, Copywork, quotes, notes, or lists! You may want to consider Acid free/lignin free paper if you are mounting pictures of your walks and findings!), sketch paper for watercolor pictures or sketches from nature, top quality sketch pencils, top quality watercolors and brushes, index cards for data entries, and scissors!

We are taking our Science/Nature Notebooks one step further now. Elisabeth and I went to a Creative Memories Workshop (which was fantastic!) and got so many ideas for our homeschool notebooks! We decided that since MONEY is an object for us that we would use our skills to add to our notebooks until we had the money for full memory albums of our family! We bought some pens, templates, scissors, stickers, and acid-free paper from Creative Memories, Hobby Lobby, and Wal-Mart and got started! Maybe wild was the word!

You can add a lot of life to your notebook with their special supplies! It really adds a sparkle to your notebooks and my children are hooked! You can use Die-cuts, Frames, Stencils, Shapes, and edgings galore to make your notebooks fun and beautiful! My children now beg each weekend to work on our binders/scrapbooks!

I sure hope this gives you plenty of ideas so that you can make up Notebooks for your own family. There is no certain way to do the “right” notebook/sketchbook except your own way for your family! I hope this jump-starts you so you can have fun and make a notebook that is just right for your family! Catch Ya Outside!

Our Favorite Nature Resources...

Handbook of Nature Study By Anna Botsford Comstock

A Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady By Edith Holden

Time Began in a Garden By Emilie Barnes

Nature Projects; True Adventures with Nature By Kathryn Howshall

Victorian Family Celebrations By Sarah Ban Breathnach pp..54-57; 80-85; 110; 145-147; 156-157; 168-172 are all especially great for ideas on Nature Studies in the home.

Naming Nature By Mary Blocksma

Pets in a Jar By Seymour Simon

Animal Stories By Earnest Seton Thompson

The Bird Feeder Book

Drawing from Nature By Jim Arnosky

Peterson Field Guide Coloring Books (Check these out...they are great for budding artists!)

The Kid's Nature Book By Susan Milford
The Kid's Science Book By Robert Hirschfeld and Nancy White
Exploring Nature with Your Child By Dorothy Edwards Shuttleworth
**Reader's Digest North American Wildlife
Of Pandas and People**
Unlocking the Mysteries of Creation By Dennis Petersen
Back to Basics Published by Reader's Digest
Christian Liberty Nature Readers
Hurry Spring; Rascal By Sterling North
Girl of the Limberlost; Freckles By Gene Stratton Porter
My Side of the Mountain; On the Far Side of the Mountain; Julie of the Wolves;
Julie All Written and
Illustrated By Jean Craighead George
Any books by or about Beatrix Potter!
Any books by or about Tasha Tudor!

Any resource from Boy Scouts of America...Their handbooks have awesome Science/Nature Information and Ideas for your homeschool! We have particularly found Cub Scout Leader How-To Book to be a treasure house of information! It has details about how to do anything from collecting and keeping insects to crafts and puzzles to Nature and Hiking trips! We also love Webelos Den Activities for ideas for our homeschool! They have booklets that are to help the boys earn achievements but these are awesome handbooks for learning on topics ranging from Camping to Geography to Reading to Forestry to Nature. These are very reasonable and can be found at stores that carry Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts Supplies! Don't miss these!

Building Biblical Worldviews

There is a lot of talk within homeschooling circles about the importance of worldviews! I am constantly asked about what it is and how it affects our lives. May I say that whether or not we know exactly what our Worldview is, it does affect every area of our lives? I will attempt to explain as simply as I can a subject that can be very complex! Imagine that you are reading a book. You know that something does not set well, but you are just not sure what it is? Well, usually it is going to be the basic beliefs that are shared or the acceptance/rejecting of the standards of God.

I found myself in this situation a few years ago with art. I did not really study art at that time because of my mental block from the common nudity or bizarre ideas of most of the art which I had been exposed to. It did not make any sense to me. As I came to find out, this was nothing more to me than a check by the Holy Spirit. The nudity goes directly against Scripture...I knew that was sin. The bizarre, meaningless art also went against Scripture, in that the artists were not seeking to glorify God, but rather man. They had set themselves up as creator instead of declaring praises and honoring the One, True, Living Creator! These two checks in my spirit made me uncomfortable with the entire subject all because of the conflict between my Worldview and that of many artists.

What is a Worldview?

You understand this but are still wondering...What is Worldview? A Worldview is basically a set of beliefs, which you accept about life. Your basic beliefs will affect how you look at all of life. I will use myself for an example. My Worldview completely controls my marriage...my convictions that I am to marry, to stay married to this one man for all of my life, to stay faithful in spirit, mind, and body to my darling husband, to live in harmony based on Scriptural principles. My Worldview is the basis of how I parent...from the atmosphere of my home, my views of my children's personhood, my method of discipleship, how I teach them. My Worldview affects and determines how I keep our home...our values on cleanliness and orderliness, the atmosphere that permeates our home, the focus that we place on people or possessions. My Worldview influences how I interact with others...the way I respond to their needs, the way I respond to any struggles, the way that I respond to their joys and sorrows.

Just as I shared above with what I am influenced by, the things that I create are a reflection of what is in my heart and mind. You can see my Worldview in my sewing especially by what kind of clothes I make for our family to be seen in. You can see my Worldview in my writing as you see what I say and teach through that writing, what the heart of my writing is about, what markets I choose to write for. You can see my Worldview even in the foods I create whether it is whole foods or those horribly fattening cookies...OK, this is an area God is working on! My Worldview is even obvious in our choice of entertainment whether it is the music we choose, the places we go, the things we buy, the way we use our TV!

My Worldview is apparent even in things that are common to everyone such as the church we attend, how we do our work, whether we homeschool or not, the curriculum we choose for our children, our beliefs on Birth Control, Childbearing, Childbirth, Child discipline. Can you see just from these examples how vital it is to realize what our worldviews are, understand how they affect our entire life, and understand how they affect others in our life and our culture in which we live?

Yes, it is vital for you to really understand how important it is to really know what you believe. It is vital for you to see how those beliefs are to shape every area of your life. It is vital for you to truly understand how Worldviews affect others in your life. It is vital for you to know what shapes the worldviews of the culture so that you can be able to be a light unto the world...an island of truth in the midst of the ocean of uncertainty! It is vital that you know about Worldview so that you may be able to train up your children in the way they should go! So that your children may grab the baton of a godly heritage so that they may take the hope of Christ to a lost and dying world!

Our Worldview is how we accept God's Standards on all areas of our life. You may see effects of our worldviews whether we are Christians or not. Let me explain. Even the non-Christian must decide what they will decide to do with God's standards. They must decide how they will accept God's Standards on all areas of their life. You will find that many non-Christians love the emphasis of family and memory making from the Christian Worldview even if they do reject letting Christ be the Lord of their life.

Now, let's get a little closer to home, you will find that many Christians will also pick and choose God's Standards. The ones that they like they will live by, the ones that they do not like they will reject! Keeping this in mind, we must realize that unless the Worldview of an individual is in agreement you will never find complete agreement in the relationships, creations, or ideas. It all will depend upon which areas that they have surrendered to the Lordship of God! Could this be where so many people begin to see hypocrisy...between calling a person a Christian and watching the standards of God that this same person accepts or rejects? Just a thought?

How Do Worldviews Affect Us?

How does this affect us? Well, say you are trying to choose whether or not to homeschool. If you do not accept that God created parents with the full ability to teach and train their children, you may fall for the deception that we should leave teaching of the children to the professionals not realizing God does have a standard!

What about curriculum? Many people do not realize or even ask about the beliefs behind what they might purchase. For example, how do they view the child...as a container to be filled up with facts...or a living, thinking individual? Most parents do not see that many problems with curriculum come from the conflict between how the curriculum is designed to be taught and how you actually believe in teaching.

Again I will use myself as an example. I simply cannot use any pre-packaged curriculum because I believe that learning should be a continual part of our lifestyle. I

have personally not picked up a textbook in years for knowledge! Especially when I can choose real books on the topic that are by people who have a passion about the subject.

I also believe strongly that the time that we are teaching our children needs to be filled with sweet memories. The best way for our family to do that is to curl up together on the couch or in bed under the quilts rather than sitting in little desks while Mommy lectures at the blackboard. I also like being able to open a book and learn together...it is more fun to spend that time learning than planning to learn!

Can you imagine how miserable I would be if I had to resort to using something fully prepared for use in a classroom? If you are struggling, take a look and see if you are really doing what you believe in. It will make a difference!

Another area that can be affected by Worldview is the area of literature. Many questions abound about whether to read works by non-Christians. I have a different slant on this area. I look at the Worldview at the time the work was written. For example, one of my favorite authors is Tasha Tudor...she is not apparently a Christian. I picked that up in several of the books and articles written about her. But the question is does she operate from a Christian Worldview or a Secular Worldview in her writing and art? By the way, I do think so...let's go on!

Another example is in the area of music, Beethoven...his work is a perfect example of working in a Christian Worldview without being a Christian. The society was so influenced by Judeo-Christian values that it influenced the creations of those who chose not to believe in God.

How could a non-Christian act from a Christian Worldview?" Well, it would be much like how the Christian acts from a secular or worldly Worldview. It is forfeiting what you believe to go along with the culture or it is accepting what you want to believe from what the culture accepts. I do not mind it so much from the non-Christian, but from the Christian it stinks! :-)

If you all will notice, many great artists, writers, musicians, leaders were not Christians but did not write or compose or create anything that would be offensive to the Christian. Much of this is because of the Worldview dominant at the time. Regardless of their personal views, they created to sell! The society at that time was more Christian so they had to create more decent works.

In our times, I would hate to see what some such as Laura Ingalls Wilder, Tasha Tudor, Anne Montgomery would create...yes, I am talking about our darlings of writing...these were all feminist and non-Christians! BUT, you can trust their works because what was important in homes and even in the lives of non-Christians during the times these authors were writing much of their works were values such as family... memories... homemaking. Things which are up to the standards of God.

The Challenge...

Where does this bring us? It brings us the challenge to be more discerning with our influences. The influences are subtle when it comes to rejection of authority, feminism, or rejection of Jesus as our Lord, Saviour, Creator, and King. As parents, we must be very careful not to allow these influences to win the hearts of our children.

There is a battle for the hearts and minds of our children and it is in the area of Worldview. Satan does not mind so much whether we homeschool or not...take them to church or not. He knows that if he can get us to just sacrifice a little on one area or even ignore that God has standards for every area of life, that he can get our children! It may be that standard for relationships...or that standard for music...or that standard for reading materials...or that standard for television...or that standard for entertainment. It is by one standard at a time that satan wins the hearts and minds of our children.

This message to you is probably one of the most vital messages I will write. It is because we live in a day when our society has turned away from absolute truth. Many do not even believe it exists any more. My dear friends, God's absolute truth has not changed any more than He has. He is unchanging! His truth offers the only hope for our generation and for the generations to come!

The challenge is for us, as godly parents, to really seek to make God central in our lives! For us to really SEEK to know what God has to say about every area of our lives. For us to stand firmly on the standards of God. For us to pass on a Christian Worldview to our Children!

Picture Studies

Art...what comes to your mind? For most of my life art brought a blank. As a child, art was perhaps the most neglected subject of study next to music. I never really could understand the importance of studying much less teaching great art to my children until around 4 years ago as we continued developing our studies based on the Charlotte Mason Approach. Charlotte's works have challenged me to not only give my children the best...but to do myself a favor by giving myself the best! Let's look at the why and how of Picture Studies!

Why study art?

Art seems to be one of the greatest means that we can employ to encourage our little ones to really "see." By this I am not meaning to quickly look and go on, rather I mean to really give full attention to the details, to the spirit behind the great works. Art forces us to take time to look at details that we often walk right past whether the beauty in God's creation or the beauty in creations of others. Art opens the mind of the child (as well as the mind of the adult!) to beauty. It slows us down to see the beauty that is in the little things in life. Great art encourages a greater enjoyment of the beautiful things in our life. Art is the gift that disciplines our minds to really pay attention, to enjoy the little things that exist just for our blessing!

Art is not just for our discipline; it is a great bridge to times of the past. We are able to introduce our children to great minds of the past. As children are influenced by great masterpieces, they are able to develop friendships with the artists. They are able to get a glimpse at the society, culture, and predominant Worldview of the time period that the painter lived or based the work. In the study of art, we are able to see whether or not the predominant influence was a belief in God. As we look back to the art of the past, we are able to compare the effect that Worldviews have on art, government, culture, and theology. As we take note of the shifts that have resulted from Worldviews, we are better able to understand our own society, art, government, culture, and theology. Can you imagine the disservice that we do to our children and ourselves as we place art studies as a last priority? We are unable to understand history until we are able to understand art.

Two Kinds of Art Instruction...

There are really two kinds of art instruction for children: art expression and art appreciation. I found myself feeling very inferior in the area of both. For one thing, I had never been able to understand art much less enjoy it! I was unable to get past the fact that so much art went against my conscience. It seemed as though there was so much nudity and chaos...it simply did not make sense to me! I began to study art with the Cornerstone Curriculum's program Adventures in Art. During our studies one day, I realized that it was my Worldview conflicting with the Worldview of many artists! (Such as Picasso!

YUCK!) I found certain artists that not only agreed with my Worldview, but also were able to express it so beautifully on canvas! I began to APPRECIATE art!

Although I still have the ability to express art that would make an art instructor quit teaching (MINE DID!). I love Art and enjoy trying out my elementary skills! This is key to teaching art to your children! First, give them contact with the great artists. Let them learn to love and appreciate good art. Then, watch their expression! They'll begin to use techniques that were common to the masters because they will be students of the all time best!

How to Study a Picture...

We study art in the simplest way, yet we have enjoyed such benefits! Here are some tips for Picture Studies:

- **Show the children** (I teach my children all at the same time!) **a print giving them plenty of time to look and enjoy.** Try to make picture studies a family fun time, like your family read-aloud time. Curl up and enjoy the print with them over tea! Relax and enjoy...they will learn to cherish this time with you!
- **Discuss the print with your children...DO NOT lecture or explain!** If you are like me and know very little about the print or the artist, then trust me-it may be for the very best! You will be less likely to lecture or try to be a source of information. You will let the child get in touch directly with the art and artist! This is the GOAL!
- **Turn the print over and let the child describe the details from memory.** This can be in the form of a narration or drawing or discussion. I have found that my children are remarkably attentive! They notice the most incredible details! This will encourage them to notice even greater details. We have sometimes given them a blank sheet of paper to let them have a chance to try to recreate the print themselves. This is fun and very interesting as you see how much they are really able to recall! You can keep the drawings and narrations in a notebook just for Art! If you have extra prints, you can even let the children have their own for their notebooks as well!
- **Turn the print back over to see how accurate they were!**
- **Leave the print out for the children to come back to it during the week.** We placed ours on the wall as you walk out of our family room for a long time. I recently purchased a gorgeous portfolio to place all of our prints in. I have placed it on my coffee table in our family room for the children to enjoy. We often just sit down with the entire portfolio and enjoy all of the gorgeous works...even those we have enjoyed in the past! You may choose to purchase or check out a beautiful art print book. (I have been coveting a book at the Christian Book Store about all of Rembrandt's Bible Art!) We have access today to these wonderful resources at great prices or for free from our libraries! I have found myself personally steering away from many of them because of my convictions about not exposing my children to the nudity in many works of art. If you feel as I do, there are several alternatives! You could take

out all the prints that you do not mind your children studying and place them in a portfolio! I haven't because they ARE still too expensive for me to justify cutting up and throwing out the book! Another option is to use inexpensive print books (I have found some for only \$1) and "dress" the nude figures with handy magic markers...the children just giggle over "mom helping the artist!" Many moms also use prints from post cards, calendars, art prints from department stores, and greeting cards. These are O.K. But, I personally prefer nice large prints so that we can enjoy the intricate details!

- **At the end of the week, we usually discuss the painting and details that we have enjoyed from the print.** (Again, this is where I have loved **Adventures in Art** because it is complete with the prints and the study guide!) (*Let me insert here that now-2 years after this article was written! - there is another wonderful resource by Barry Stebbing that gives DEEPER details about the artists, their worldviews, and the art periods! There is a version with ALL of the artists, which is pricey but worth every penny, called **God and the History of Art**. There is a smaller version that is less expensive and still WONDERFUL called **God and Christian Artists**. These have my #1 recommendation. IF you have the big book, you would not need the smaller book because the smaller book is taken out of the big book! GET ONE!*) At this time, if the print is religious in nature, we look up and read the Bible account in Scripture. For example, while studying Rembrandt's **The Raising of the Cross** we looked up the gospel account of the crucifixion. This adds to the emotion of the print and helps us to actually go back in time to Rembrandt's studio...as well as, the cross!
- Speaking of this print, I try to bring out certain prints at certain seasons: **The Raising of the Cross** by Rembrandt and Cimabue's **The Crucifixion at Easter**, Fabriano's **The Adoration of the Magi**, and Duccio's **The Nativity** during Advent. They compliment our decorations and our festive moods! Also, I do this with Music such as Handel's **Messiah**...but that is another article!

A challenge...

Picture Studies will open up the world not only for your children but also for you! I never had the benefit of Picture Studies, much less from the Biblical Worldview! Since our family has made Picture Studies a priority for every year instead of a luxury or one time unit, we have chanced to meet the greatest men and women of all history! We have learned to see life more clearly. We have seen history from the eyes of men and women who had much to tell us! We have been able to see things as they really were with accurate, firsthand communication. We have been given a challenge to create as the masters have created! We have been challenged to appreciate beauty! Yes, we should not neglect this area of study when so much is captured on canvas. I challenge you to make picture studies a priority in your homeschool and watch out for all the blessings! Happy Studies!

Poetry Studies in the Homeschool: Bringing Beauty Home!

Poetry...what do you think about? Is it lazy days in the sunshine enjoying the beauty of words? Is it precious moments curled up with your blessings enjoying the beauty expressed vividly by a well-written poem? Is it the stirring emotion, which captures you in the midst of a busy day? Is it the beauty of such inspiration articulated in words? OR does your mind wander to the experience from school days of long ago as you were faced with studying without sense the meter, the styles of poetry, and the endless details of how to write poetry? Poetry Study can be a dear memory. Poetry does not have to be an option! Yes, poetry can be a given...a time of great memories...a touch of the beautiful in life!

Why Study Poetry?

Our beloved Charlotte Mason said in her book *Ourselves* (Book 2, pages 71-72), *“Poetry is, perhaps, the most searching and intimate of our teachers...Poetry supplies us with tools for the modeling of our lives, and the use of these we must get at for ourselves...What we digest we assimilate, take into ourselves, so that it is part and parcel of us, and no longer separable.”* With poetry we are able to step into the very depths of another person’s soul to become intimately acquainted with these great teachers! We are challenged to become attentive of details that are only passed to us through means of descriptive words!

With each poem read, we bring the depths of culture to reside in our minds! We are challenged with the ideas from the minds of great thinkers! It is through the pen of the poet that we are challenged to appreciate in a deeper, greater way the beauty of our awesome Creator. It is in the words of poetry that we may take a first hand look at the despair of the soul running from God’s way, truth, and life! Poetry gives us the challenge of noble, pure, heroic, lovely, virtuous, praiseworthy, and faithful ideals! The pen of the poet brings into the very depths of our soul the wisdom gained by our mentors while we are inspired and filled with admiration of God’s workings with man!

Our children would miss the riches of ideas without the blessings of poetry! They would miss the blessing of making the work a part of their mind. Words are the link to each other’s souls. Without poetry our children would miss the development of “seeing” into words shared by others! Without a regular poetry break, our children would be handicapped from becoming acquainted with many of the greatest minds in History. In addition, they would be unable to develop that needed appreciation for the beauty within words because they would miss having the time to read, look, listen, and show reverence for the inspiration and beauty in words! Just as poetry draws us to our Creator, if we were

to neglect bringing our children to the regular exposure to poetry, we would find our children even missing the depths of appreciating our Heavenly Father! They would miss the beauty all about them! They would miss the abundant lessons on goodness, nobility, worthiness, bravery, and virtue! They would miss seeing the heartbreak of sin in the lives of others. Without an understanding of poetry, our children would never truly understand the impact of beliefs on the culture because they would never fully develop their own beliefs, thoughts, and discernment! Yes, much would be lost without the study of poetry!

Some Quick Poetry How-to's...

- **Make it natural!** Studying poetry needs to be a natural part of your home. It is not as effective in shaping lives if it is taught as a chapter in a book in 4th grade. For your children (and you!) to learn to love and enjoy poetry fully, you must make it part of your lifestyle. Read aloud during tea-time or before bedtime or during your family reading time. Make it part of what your family does!
- **Use poetry for Copywork!** Poetry can be used to adorn your various notebooks whether Bible, literature, geography, science, or art. Your children can copy poetry onto cards for others or just to enclose in special notes. Using poetry adds a special touch that blesses everyone whether copying it or receiving it. So, begin early using it and you will find your children developing a taste for poetry while developing the gifts of hospitality.
- **Recite beloved poetry!** Charlotte Mason shared in *Home Education*, “*All children have it in them to recite; it is an imprisoned gift waiting to be delivered...The child should speak beautiful thoughts so beautifully, with such delicate rendering of each nuance of meaning, that he becomes to the listener the interpreter of the author’s thought...Consider what appreciation, sympathy, power of expression this implies...The child is led to find the just expression of the thought for himself; never is the poor teacher allowed to set a pattern—‘say this as I say it.’ The ideas are kept well within the child’s range, and the expression is his own.*” Yes, children really do love to recite...but we are not talking about rote memory work here! We are talking about the fruit of reading beautiful passages over and over at odd times until the poem becomes a part of the child’s life! It may be the mother reading a certain poem during breakfast one day, then reading it again during the reading time, then again during another day outside...eventually the child will have sweet memories of the poem plus, remember it as part of his vast storage of great ideas. In turn, we are challenged to bring the children ample opportunities to recite those passages whether to family members...during tea-time with visitors...or during a formal homeschool event. No matter the time, enjoy learning poetry and expressing it as one’s own. As time goes by and the child reads more, they will find that poet or poem a special friend as they happen upon them in their reading.
- **Post copies of poetry around the home!** Just as the children come to love great art and classical music by constant exposure, so your whole family will come to delight in poetry, as it is accessible within the home. It may be through framed pictures, or copied passages on the refrigerator or mirrors, or through beautiful books placed for

constant use, or even a framed copy on the dining table for reading during meals. Just make sure that your home has the beauty of poetry as part of its atmosphere!

- **Always read beautifully!** Pay attention to punctuation while reading any poetry. Enunciate clearly! Read with lots of expression...verbal, body, and facial! This is where reading a poem many times is beneficial. You are more familiar so you are able to put more into your reading! Enjoy...in turn, your family will enjoy!
- **Take time to enjoy poetry!** So often our days are rushed and the heavy load of learning all the “necessary” subjects encumbers our school time. Well, poetry is just as necessary, if not more so. Yet, we so often neglect its study due to our busyness. We must take time to nourish our souls! We must take time to be challenged to virtue, honor, greatness, and heroism! If we have all of the knowledge in the world but neglect to take time for the beautiful, we will have missed a vital part of praising our Lord!
- **Make a notebook with collections of beloved poetry for each child!** This need not be just another thing to do...just wait until your Copywork notebooks are filled with many favored poems and then place into a poetry notebook of their own. Let the children decorate with pictures to make the Poetry notebook their very own.
- **Focus on one poet at a time!** It may take you a whole year to focus on the works of a single poet, but it is perfectly fine to take your time. Our personal favorite is Robert Louis Stevenson. I came to love *A Child’s Garden of Verses* after checking it out from the library! We have two copies...very worn now! We are still collecting other copies with various illustrators who we also love like Tasha Tudor or Jessie Willcox Smith! If you want to just study a poet but you do not have any compilations of only their works, then just look in the index of a large anthology for their poems. As you study your particular poet, you may want to find a biography as well. In your poetry notebook, you could include a narration from the biography in the section for that poet.
- **In all of your studies, remember to pull in poetry.** For example, an American History study is incomplete without reading Henry Wordsworth Longfellow’s poem, *Paul Revere’s Ride*. Also, Nature Studies are dull and lifeless without the study of poetry alongside. A study of Bible History is incomplete without the Psalms alongside showing the thoughts of the hearts of men and women during all of history. Just tie in poetry into all studies to give balance and beauty!
- **Learn with your children!** Perhaps this should have been said first. So, often we neglect studying anything that we are not able to understand fully. Poetry is one study that can be studied best without a teacher giving lectures, sermons, notes, or long lists of questions. Poetry is best without a middleman! Just like the Bible, Poetry is best if the child meets the poet mind-to-mind. This eliminates the need for us to know poetry before we can introduce it into our homes. All we have to do is find a few great books with poems and dig in! The poets will do the speaking...the children (and you!) will do the listening...and the ideas will bring challenge to the mind, relationship with the

thinkers, and the discussion will begin. It will not be long until the student of poetry will reap the benefits of poetry in every area of learning!

Don't Know Where to Start?

- **Find poetry books in the library or recommended by friends.** Begin looking at topics that interests you. As you find a favorite, take time to savor that poem. Then, find other works by that author.
- **Choose poetry that you love!** Do you love poetry with deep spiritual truths, observing nature, or encouraging romantic love for your spouse? Take a close look at the authors of the poems that you like and look up more poetry by them. Most poets write most of their poetry on the same topics and in the same style.
- **Make poetry part of every day!** Read over meals, or at tea-time, or during reading time, or at bedtime!
- **Begin by picking what appeals to you.** Chances are that many times your children will enjoy much of what you enjoy. Do take into consideration the differences in personality though. Just read your picks aloud or make available the collections for them to use. Once an appreciation begins to develop, you will find differing tastes that will need to be nurtured. Then you will find that appreciation is set!

With Poetry Study keep in mind that your job is to guide the children to the best and let them do appreciating for themselves! It may take time of the children to find their favorite area of poetry to study or their favorite poet to want to study, but as they begin to appreciate for themselves the beauty of words fitly spoken you will know that poetry is bearing fruit. Keep in mind that the goal is for the children to develop a relationship with the poetry as well as the poet. They will develop friendships with poets of long ago. If this is attained, then you can consider Poetry Study a complete success!

Time for a Poetry Break...

Resources for You and Your Family!

- A Child's Garden of Verses by Robert Louis Stevenson
- A Child's Treasury of Poems Edited by Mark Daniel
- Favorite Poems Old and New
- Who Has Seen the Wind? An Illustrated Collection of Poetry for Young People by Rizzoli (Out of Print!)
- Best Loved Poems of the American People
- Imaginary Gardens: American Poetry and Art for Young People Edited by Charles Sullivan
- A Child's Treasury of Animal Verse Edited by Mark Daniel
- A Child's Treasury of Seaside Verse Edited by Mark Daniel
- Poems to Read to the Very Young By Frank
- Favorite Poems of Childhood by Smith
- A Christian's Treasury Edited by Lissa Roche

More Great Resources for Poetry That You Don't Want to Miss!

For Everyone...

The King James Bible

Younger Students...

- The Random House Book of Poetry for Children Compiled by Jack Prelutsky (K-2)
- A Child's Garden of Verses by Robert Louis Stevenson
- Favorite Poems Old and New Selected by Helen Farris
- The Book of 1,000 Poems
- Beautiful Stories from Shakespeare for Children by E. Nesbit
- Tales from Shakespeare by Charles and Mary Lamb

Older Students...

- Treasury of Best Loved Poems
- One Hundred and One Famous Poems by Roy Cook
- (Should be required reading for your high-schoolers!)
- Shakespeare Stories By Leon Garfield
- Shakespeare

Serious Students of Poetry...

- Five Hundred Years of English Poetry Edited by Barbara Lloyd-Evans (meaty and long poetry!)

Great Websites for Poetry!

All about Poetry...Reading, writing, writing about, memorizing, studying, discussing, and collecting poetry! During this lesson you will put together a Poetry Scrapbook. There is also a lesson plan for "If" on this site! <http://www3.sympatico.ca/ray.saitz/poetunit.txt>

Little Ann and Other Poems By Jane and Ann Taylor/Illustrated by Kate Greenaway... You can print this one out for you to have a copy!

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs.cmu.edu/user/mmbt/www/women/taylor/little-ann.h>

"The Arrow and The Song" By Longfellow...<http://www3.sympatico.ca/ray.saitz/arrow.txt>

What Casey at the Bat would be like if Edgar Allen Poe wrote it!
<http://www.mit.edu:8001/afs/athena.mit.edu/activity/h/humor/www/Generic/case>

Lynn's English and Language Links...Sell all your dry textbooks! All you ever know to write is on the Internet! This site links you to sites with how to's of writing, libraries, even Webster's 1828 Dictionary online! <http://homepage.bushnell.net/~peanuts/english.html>

Scrapbooking in the Homeschool!

One of the crazes sweeping the country by storm is Scrapbooking! Magazines and books are now available. Workshops and Cropping Parties are scheduled for adults and children alike. Stores are cleaning out extra aisles to make more room for acid-free/lignin free stickers, papers, albums, stencils, pens, and rubber stamps. Once bitten by this bug, you will never be the same again!

I believe that Scrapbooking is a hit because there is a part within each of us that knows the value of preserving the past and our present, as it becomes the past. We all desire for our family to have deep roots of memories built together. We all want to develop a deep family heritage. We all want to create bonds between the generations. Well, Scrapbooking is perfect for preserving those memories of today for tomorrow's generation!

It may be the memories of time spent with Mamaw and the little ones all picking blueberries...well, of the little ones eating their weight in them while you and Mamaw pick the ones to take home! It may be the memories of those special family outings that would all drift away from the memory without a snapshot and a little Journaling about that special day! As we have been bitten by the Scrapbooking bug, we are finding ourselves spending hours reliving the stories of our lives that will one day be history but today are building deep roots in our family relationships! We find ourselves sharing delight in the memories of yesteryears making bonds with one another that can never be broke.

The reason that I decided to share about this passion of ours is that Scrapbooking is great in one other area. That is the homeschool! The children can develop their own Memory Books. While they are having fun, they will be practicing their handwriting, learning to journal, plus decorating with their own artwork. While preserving their past, documenting family history, and developing their relationships with the family, they are able to use their skills learned in school in a fresh, fun and personal way!

As you may remember, all throughout Scripture God told His people to set up memorials to remember His work among them. One instance is in the book of Joshua 4... *“And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the Lord spake unto Joshua, saying, Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, and command them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests’ feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night. Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man. And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the Lord*

your God into the midst of Jordan, and take you up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel: That this may be a sign among you that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.”

The purpose of memorials is to remember God’s work in the lives of His people! Our scrapbooks are a record of God’s work in our family. Let us learn how to choose materials and begin the simple craft of Scrapbooking so we may record God’s work in our own family!

The Supplies...

There are some simple supplies that you will need for this fun craft. Most supplies can be purchased from Hobby Lobby (which is a Christian owned and operated store! The owner’s children are fellow homeschoolers!), Michael’s, Walmart (the hobby section!), or any other hobby shop!

The most important part of Scrapbooking is to be careful with the materials selected to use with your photos and memorabilia. You will want to be sure to use acid-free, lignin-free, Polyvinyl Chloride free products. These chemicals will deteriorate and destroy your pictures and memorabilia. As I have gone back to enjoy some of my pictures from our wedding this spring, I was horrified that all of my wedding pictures are now ruined from leaving them in a magnetic album. They are all turning a yellowish-brown...it has only been 12 years!!!!!! This is caused not by merely age...but by the chemicals in these albums that include acid and lignin. The acidic pages eventually eat away your pictures by slowly burning them away! The lignin in the pages, which is a product that must be carefully extracted from all paper products, will cause the yellowing of your photos. Polyvinyl Chloride, which is present in most plastic covers of magnetic albums and some plastic sleeve protectors today, will release gases that can deteriorate and fade and even eat your pictures or important papers! We are now in the process of taking all of our pictures out of photo albums to save the rest of our memories from this terrible fate! The supplies do make a difference so be careful that what you buy is specifically labeled “Archival” which means that it is specifically designed to protect your treasures from damage! Supplies which must be “archival” include your album, pages, page protectors, stickers, and adhesives. These archival products are usually guaranteed for at least 300 years! Let’s look closer at what you need to look for when shopping for your supplies for this fun craft...

Paper and Sheet Protectors...

Options for paper, pages, and sheet protectors are abounding! You may purchase either 8 ½ X 11 or 12 X 12 sheets or special album pages. These pages are available in 90lb. Cardstock for base sheets and lighter weight papers for photo mats and paper designs. These papers add a lot of pizzazz and personality to your albums! The heavy sheets used for base sheets are excellent for the heavy mementos you will want to include in your

album, plus they will not ripple from the glues! We decided to use 12 X 12 3-ring albums and Cardstock sheets that slide into sheet protectors for our memory albums and 8 ½ X 11 for our school notebooks! (The plastic sleeves will say PVC or Polyvinyl Chloride free! Be sure to spend the extra money to protect your memories.) Papers and sleeve protectors are very accessible and reasonably priced for our little hobby! You can find many options for your base pages and decorative sheets to meet your needs and desires!

Albums...

Not only do you need safe pages and page protectors, but you also must be very selective about the photo album that you select. I have found that safe albums are not any more expensive than magnetic albums! As matter of fact we are able to fit more pictures into our 12 X 12 albums than we could in our little cheap magnetic albums! There are many options available for the memory albums. Again, be sure to select albums that are safe for your memories too! Even if you have all of the other wonderful supplies for your albums, your memory album can also have chemicals, which can destroy your photos!

You can choose from many different styles of photo albums. Styles include Spiral Bound Albums, Ring Bound Albums, Journal/Post Bound Albums, and Expandable Spine Albums. We chose the 3-ring album because it was so easy to add to! We could purchase several reasonably and even include other 3-ring pages from our schoolwork! The important thing to remember when buying is to see how accessible and reasonable your page refills are. If you are like me, you will find yourself needing more supplies at the most awkward and broke times!

The extras...

While you are on the lookout for acid-free supplies, watch for supplies that add your personality to your scrapbooks...cute stickers (pictures and letters), pens (Look for “permanent, acid-free ink” to prevent your notes, thoughts, and history from fading, staining, bleeding through, or ruining pictures! You can also find pigment ink colored pencils to use!), mounting tape/glues (Note that glues can damage photos irreparably just as much as magnetic albums will. Instead, use only mounting supplies that are “photo safe” like transparent photo corners, double-sided tape, or 100% water-based, permanent acrylic adhesive glue pens.), and punchouts (We have purchased some of the most adorable punchouts to make our own stickers from our acid-free paper. We have used these to make cute borders around our mats and pages!).

The Process...

The process of Scrapbooking is so simple that you can jump in today! This is a jump-start for Scrapbooking, so I know it is not going to be complete! Let’s look at the important parts of the process of this fun hobby!

Get some “know-how”...

You will find many resources available to learn all about Scrapbooking! One of the most delightful ways is to attend a workshop! My daughter and I attended a workshop

that was a Mother-Daughter Tea. We had such a nice day learning about Scrapbooking while building memories together!

Another alternative is to have a Cropping Bee. Yes, you heard me right! The popularity of Scrapbooking has opened an opportunity for ladies to get together just as our grandmothers did for their Quilting Bees. This is a fun way to share your supplies, “steal” great ideas, fellowship and work on your albums with your dear friends. Another idea is to hit the stores for great ideas that are available from magazines and books. These can be found at most hobby stores!

Get organized...

Now, this is the housework of Scrapbooking! I began with pictures in several boxes all over our home, and even in our camper. I was in tears at finding so many of my pictures that I had put into albums destroyed. So, the first thing that must be done is to get all of your treasured memories out of those unsafe albums! You can stop the damage now by taking them out! We organized ours in chronological order and stored them now in Rubbermaid containers until we can work on them. We spent a whole week putting all of ours in order. Although this is the housework of this craft, I did not find this to be quite so dull and monotonous as the dishes. It was so much fun to look back over the yesteryears of our family history that were captured in photos! We laughed, cried, and told all sorts of our stories to the children! We were already beginning to build memories even in the “work” part of the craft! Now, all we have to do since it is all organized is sit down to work on our pages as we can!

You may want to organize your pictures in chronological order or you may choose to organize yours in themes such as birthdays, Christmas, Easter, School days, etc.. This is what makes Scrapbooking so much fun is that it can be your story of your family!

We realized when we got all of our photos divided that with Scrapbooking we could use some of each event in each of our scrapbooks. We took whole rolls of film of each day, so I can include some in our family scrapbook, some in Matthew’s Scrapbook, and some in Elisabeth’s Scrapbook! Matthew may have used his birthday pictures under that theme while Elisabeth took a cute snapshot of herself with Matthew for her “Best Friends Page.” Scrapbooking makes the pictures go further so that everyone can keep those precious memories!

Scrapbooking has changed the way that we are taking and developing our pictures! We are now taking more pictures on themes to build our scrapbooks. Matthew has been taking many of his pictures of Cub/Boy Scouting to work toward a scrapbook on this topic some day! It has turned out neat so far! Another thing that we are doing with our film developing now is buying triple prints of every roll. If we do not use them in our albums, we can always send them to grandparents on a page just for them!

Gathering the Details...

Scrapbooking is to me so much fun because it goes beyond just sticking pictures in an album without any documentation of who, what, when, why the picture was taken! Instead Scrapbooking includes the names, dates, places, and stories behind the pictures. It

will tell those details of why you took a picture of Mamaw cleaning that obstinate rooster (which spurred her for the last time that day) for our favorite meal at her house...Chicken and Dumplings! It will have details like the hunting trip with Papaw and Daddy with that brand new gun and the details that those squirrels only fell after FOUR shots!

If you are like me, you will find that often these details may be sketchy...the best way to capture them is by jotting down details that your family throws in while you uncover these photos. Also, you may want to work backwards from the most current, back to relive the most current memories!

We find that writing is easier for the children on lined paper. I do a preliminary model for them to copy from so that they can have more fun without so much labor. They simply dictate what they want to say. I copy it in a model that is set up like they want it written on the paper. Then, they copy the model much like their Copywork. This is using our skills for real projects which teaches our children that these skills are for a purpose!

Another great idea to add to your scrapbook is favored Scripture that meant a lot during those times of your life...thoughts of your heart...original or favored poetry...and cute sayings by your little ones! Keep these for your Journaling entries that will make your scrapbook special!

Cropping...

Cropping is cutting away the excess of your photos to focus attention on the subject of the picture instead of the distractions in the background. Cropping can be done using a variety of equipment such as a mini-trimmer, scissors (regular or paper-edger scissors), or X-acto knife/cutting mat. Many Scrapbookers are using decorative shapes or edger scissors to cut out shapes and mats to add personality and originality to their memory albums. If you prefer to make a shaped mat to accent the photo, you may want to use acid-free paper in a coordinating paper cut out with a template or with paper edger scissors.

There are many templates on the market that can be used to crop the picture or to create mats. You can be creative by making your own from cookie cutters, but the templates are easy to use and very affordable! We use a grease pencil to trace the shape onto the picture. Then we cut using plain or paper edging scissors.

We have added lots of interest to our pictures and mats by cutting them out with paper-edger scissors. Paper-edger scissors come in many different patterns. Our favorites have been Heartbeat, Victorian, Ripple, and Mini-scallop. They are easy to use. You simply cut out or trim the piece using straight scissors. Then, you go back over the edge with the Paper-edgers. You can eliminate the first step of cutting out with straight scissors if you trace the lines to cut with a grease pencil and follow carefully with the paper-edgers. After cutting, be sure to use a clean Kleenex to wipe off the residue from the grease pencil.

Mounting...

There are many choices available for mounting your photos safely. You may choose to mount your photos directly onto the base sheet or you may prefer to mount it onto a coordinating paper mat which is mounted directly onto your page. We organize our photos as we would like for them to be on the page before we stick them down. We leave plenty of room to embellish our pages with stickers, colored paper, die cuts, rubber stamps, punchouts, and Journaling. Different effects can be obtained by arranging your photos differently. You may want to angle some...use a combination of big and small photos...leave room for mementos or Journaling about the event...accent photos with rubber stamps or stickers or punch-outs...use fun shapes to draw attention to special photos...or use colored paper to accent or bring color to your album! Ideas are limitless for making your album just perfect!

Journal...

Journaling is what drew me to Scrapbooking. Although everyone journals differently, the Journaling is what sets apart this hobby from just putting pictures into an album. Even just the names, dates, and places are not enough to tell the story of your family. Try Journaling specifics! Tell the story behind the pictures! This keeps a detailed history of your family that will be a treasure for generations to come! You may want to include special nicknames...favorite Bible verses...favorite poetry...thoughts...the weather...family jokes...favorite recipes...cute sayings...so on! Just let your imagination and pen go on!

Embellish...

This is where you go wild or stay mild! Use stickers...rubber stamps...punch-outs...die cuts (pre-cut pictures and shapes)...and colored paper to make each page your very own! This is the finishing touch on your pages. Have fun and make give it that touch of your personality!

Get going!

Well, how about it? Is the Scrapbooking bug nipping at your heels? This craft can be started as a unit study or just as a special family time! I guarantee that your children (and you!) will find this a fun way to keep your family history...build relationships...ALL while using those skills naturally! This hobby works great in the homeschool so take a bit to learn a few tricks of the trade...I will meet you on the Scrapbook aisle! Happy Scrapbooking!