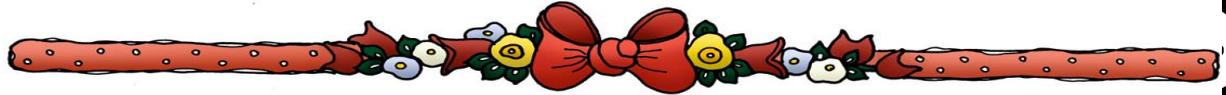


Let's Make A Memory Over a Great Book!

By Cindy Rushton



Hummm...was it the giggles the whole way through adventures with Pooh? My constant sobbing through every page of *The Little Preacher*? Our total addiction to every single page of *Pilgrim's Progress*? The giggles and strategy as the children would run off to "play" every single bit of Daniel Boone's life—with stiff warnings from Mom that NOONE really got the hair-cut! Peeking outside to see the hard, hard work as forts were raised and mud pies "baked" for our beloved "soldier." Oh, the precious, precious memories! Precious memories that are OURS forever!

Want the best homeschool year yet? Why not make it a priority to curl up as a family over the pages of a great book each day! Get the water going...pull out some nice snacks...settle down for tea (or hot cocoa!!)...and dig into great books! Game, but have no idea where to begin?? Come home with our family and get a picture of how easy AND awesome building a memory—over a great book—can be!

Decide a Good Time for Read Alouds...

Over the years, I have found that even though I LOVE great literature and believe passionately in the power of a great book to inspire us toward greatness, teach those facts in a palatable manner, and feed our hungry minds with great ideas, there has still been a constant battle with distractions from our beloved typical family reading time. Constant phone calls...friends dropping by...never the same day to day family life because of constant interruptions...the list could go on and on! I found that we needed a more consistent time to read, study, and cuddle. A time that was *just ours!*

The best time for this was at the end of our busy day. Our family reading tradition began years ago when my husband worked as an Alabama State Trooper. We found ourselves up

until very late hours. Those last few hours before he came in seemed perfect. They were not likely to be times for calls, errands, or drop-by guests. They were the easiest to preserve for our special time whether we were on the road traveling or cuddling on our sofa or snuggled in my bed for a nice-long read aloud! Those moments were the perfect ones for our family! Now, since the children are almost grown up, the schedule is more complex than ever, and dad is now retired and running the family business the ONE constant that we all cry out for in the midst of busy or chaotic or even the most hum-drum day is our evening family read aloud time!

So, what time would work best for your family? Look at your schedule? What time of the day is the most constant...the most uninterrupted...the easiest to settle down? Set that time aside—you have a treasure house of memories coming your way!

Bit-By-Bit!

Perhaps a set time is not the problem. Perhaps the greatest need is dealing with the struggles that make read alouds an utter impossibility! An ideal! Certainly not a reality! You know...settling down the children...containing the messes long enough to finish one small part of a story...getting their interest? The habit that becomes a treasured tradition begins bit-by-bit! Here are a few ideas that may help:

- ♥ **Get to know YOUR family and their interests!** Each and every family is completely unique. What we love to read as a family, your family may not like at all! Our children may be completely different ages as yours. Our family preferences may be completely different than yours. In fact, our choices for read alouds now that our children are at these ages are very different from the choices we made in the early years. The key to a sizzling read aloud program rests with getting to know YOUR family and their interests and then basing your choices upon where you are!
- ♥ **Use a reading list!** Have no idea which books to begin with? TOTALLY confused with all of the options? We have a couple of recommendations. First, we recommend our book **The Never-ending Rushton Reading List**. It is very reasonable, compact, simple, and easy to begin using today. It includes suggestions that are perfect for teaching every subject with great books

AND it has a basic list of recommended read alouds that EVERY (smile!) family should read through! As they get older, another recommendation that we have is our book **Inspiring Our Children Toward Greatness Using Great Literature** which has an extended list of recommendations for life-transforming literature and great books that you won't want to miss. You can also find great recommendations in other books, catalogs, and at your local library.

- ♥ **Make it FUN!** Reading need not resemble the drudgery from our school days! Rather, it can be a great big family party! We have a daily "tea time" with our read alouds. When the children were little, I found very soon that our children were much more attentive if their bellies were full and their hands busy. Being a "tea-time addict," it was almost the "given" thing to do! This may seem a bit artificial to your family. Find what works. Some families settle down with snacks like our family. Others entertain the children with play-doh to keep their hands busy while mommy reads. Other families give their children sketch books to "draw" what they imagine while mommy reads the book. Just make it a FUN family time! You will be amazed at how much the children will learn while making a memory!

Choose the BEST! Great Literature!

The still, quiet spirit of our home was only

the first part of this special family tradition! Great books were musts! My children love to read. We have a library just for them filled with books that they can choose during their free time. They cover a wide-range of studies just by using whole, living books full of ideas and great information. For our read alouds, I did not want a repeat of those books. Instead, I wanted life-changing literature. Because of this heartbeat, I am extremely selective to choose the very BEST books for this special time.

I have a very simple test for discerning if the books are life-changing. I ask myself, "If these were the last moments that I had with my children, would this be the book that I would want to be the LAST ONE?? Would this be the memory that I want for them to carry with them?" "Is this book capable of teaching those life-lessons that they need to carry them through life?" This limits my choices to those books that are absolute MUSTS for my children. Those books that all well-educated children should dine upon. Those books that feed the spirit...challenge the soul...and encourage us to keep on persevering through it all!

I have been amazed at the way the Lord has led us by His Spirit to each book that He has wanted for us to read as a family. From **The Hiding Place** to **Basket of Flowers** to **The Elsie Series** to **Hedge of Thorns** to **Passion and Purity** to great poetry to Christmas stories to a multitude of biographies...God has had specific direction for us right when we needed to know His next choice!

Once I know which book we will read next, I usually hunt for a nice, large print edition, if at all possible. These are wonderful for helping us take turns. My son used to be so intimidated by small print in books. The large

print editions are easier for him to read comfortably from. They also make great texts for Copywork lessons. I saw the advantage to the large print as we read from Corrie Ten Boom's **The Hiding Place**. There were so many wonderful quotes that I felt were important for the children to copy into their copybooks. While we read aloud, I simply marked them with a highlighter. On those mornings that the children were drawing blanks for Copywork ideas, all they had to do was open that book to find a plethora of excellent choices! I found that to be helpful for my writing and speaking as well because I could easily find those great thoughts that had been planted in my mind while we read!

We usually take turns reading. This is the perfect way to help beginning readers ease into reading aloud for others. Their work can be so mundane if they practice with readers or insignificant reading lessons. A great book invites children to read with expression. When I would notice them tiring out, (you probably know that time because that is when they get REAL monotone...AKA boring!!) I would join in and read for a little while. That usually brightened up the pace so that when they would begin again, they would sound expressive and enthusiastic. Now, I absolutely LOVE to listen to them read aloud. It is neat to hear them stress those words that I would stress...or pause as I would pause! What a treasure!

Well, that is only part of the treasure! One thing that I love about this precious time with my children is that I find out just what they think, feel, and believe. We have tremendous discussions almost nightly about great ideas. I remember this being a goal for my children as they matured into adulthood. I never dreamed that I could have this blessing with little children! It is during these quaint moments of reading while sipping our tea, that I get a peek

into their heart! I see their heart's desires... read a section from a great book. We also see their struggles in their character...the depths LOVE biographies, so we have enjoyed reading that God's Word has worked in their lives...and sketches about artists or the latest composer their instant choices when faced with that we are getting to know! Each day, we use adversity (through the pages of the books). I this time to also read through the Bible can also help them trouble-shoot making together as a family. This only takes minutes, decisions that may prevent them from yet the results have been overwhelming in our irreparable errors later in their lives! Yes, lives. Just a bit here and a bit there has those are the gifts that come with serving up helped to carry us into our world with a little great literature to our children. bit more understanding about the worldviews of our culture! Not to mention, great art and music feed our minds with ideas that keep us growing into the vessels that God can really use in our culture!

Just this Easy...

Our daily read aloud time is just this easy. We don't make it complicated by tests...by book reports...by written narrations on all we read. We are not even legalistic that our time be limited to books. We have been known to cuddle up with art prints JUST like we do our books. When we include Art Prints, we simply cuddle up to "listen" to the artist as he or she communicates through the canvas. My little ones have been known to sketch or paint the recent art print with their own style while I Well, why not put on a little Classical Music in the background. Warm some water...EVEN if you prefer to use it for hot chocolate with fluffy marshmallows! ☺ Dust off those poetry books or that book you keep putting off for another day. Curl up with your little ones... there is NOTHING quite like the memory that can be made over a great book!!



Want GREAT Books for Your Family?

Take a peek at OUR COUNTRY BOOK-STORE! We have a complete line of our FAVORITES! These cannot be easily be found in bookstores. We recommend looking at the themes and choosing the best theme for your family. Just choose one book at a time...enjoy...make great memories!

If you need more help with teaching with great literature, don't forget to see OUR books! They will give you the ins' and outs' that will help you get started on the right track!

Just For Giggles...



...He who has a glad heart has a continual feast
[regardless of circumstances].

Proverbs 15: 15



Ever Thought???

Borrow money from a pessimist—they don't expect it back!
I didn't fight my way to the top of the food chain to be a vegetarian!
Never answer an anonymous letter!
No one is listening UNTIL you make a mistake!
We have enough youth. How about a fountain of "SMART?"
He who laughs last-thinks slowest!
Just remember: you are unique! Just like everyone else!
Why is "abbreviation" such a long word?
Change is inevitable...except from vending machines!
A clear conscience is usually a sign of a bad memory!
Be nice to your children—they are the ones who pick your nursing home!
I don't find it hard to meet expenses—They are EVERYWHERE!
DARE! To Keep Cops off of Donuts!
For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism!
IRS: We've got what it takes to take what you have got!
DNA: National Dyslexic Association
I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges???
I used to think that I was indecisive...but, now I am not too sure!
I can handle pain...until it hurts!
Gravity always gets me down!
Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese!
If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
Don't steal! The government hates competition!
We are all part of the ultimate statistic—ten out of ten die!
If at first you don't succeed, don't try skydiving!
If Barbie is so popular, why do we have to buy her friends???

*"He who has a glad heart has a continual feast
[regardless of circumstances]."*

Proverbs 15:15



Notebooking! Sure To Addict You Too!

By Cindy Rushton



My earliest memories of childhood go back to our little country church. I would sit every Sunday snuggled up close to my mother. In order to keep me quiet (no comments please!), she would write out names or words for me to copy. As the years went on, writing was an important part of my education. However, my ideas of my "life career" went along the lines of Dental Hygiene (Don't ask me why! I guess I was not a mom yet! The idea of mouths now makes me sick!)

Well, until years later. My husband's grandmother served as my mentor. She and I spent countless hours together. She stepped up to her calling as a Titus Two mentor, who influenced me toward my life calling as a wife, mother, and spiritual mentor. She taught me how to love my husband (Could you get a better teacher than a grandmother who thought of him as her favorite grandchild—we all thought we were!)...how to love my children (Sure couldn't be a greater person to teach this! They were her favorite great-grandchildren—starting to sound repetitive?)...and how to be a godly homemaker. We canned together, farmed together, cooked together, ministered together, and, our favorite pastime, sewed together. Although she was never a writer, she was my single greatest influence in writing.

Every time I would visit Mamaw, I would HAVE to carry a notebook along just to take notes of all she would teach me along the way. As the years went by, I stored away many wonderful ideas and tips. She was an incredible mentor. She had sewed professionally for years. It did not take very long before I began to sew for my family and professionally as well. My addiction to sewing and embroidery soon led me to

our local Smocking Guild. They sent out a monthly newsletter that I was soon nominated to write and publish. Of course, I could not just send out the newsletter without tips and tidbits about sewing. Yes, you have guessed. I shared hundreds of the ideas that Mamaw had passed down to me. She loved to see her ideas coming through the newsletter. In fact, she loved it so much that she would pass her issues around to her friends.

One day we were visiting and she shared that she was getting tired of sharing her copies and was afraid that she would not get them back for her "notebook." Of course, at the time that went over my head, probably because of her idea that she continued to share with me in this conversation—she wanted my tips and tidbits printed in the local paper! After informing her that "I" was NOT a writer, I have no idea what happened



Peek I n THESE
Notebooks!

to my sanity, but I was convinced by this little woman to approach the paper about doing a sewing column. The rest is all history...or Language Arts for ME too!

Of course, you need this background to know that Mamaw Alma Lee Rushton was the very first Binder Queen (Now, my loving title since she has passed away!). The little blurb about getting the newsletters "back for her notebook" did not even alert me to the fact that she had collected ALL of my writing—my newsletters, my personal letters to her, my handwritten recipes, and, later, ALL of my newspaper articles. The thought that someone loved me so much to keep all of my writing in a notebook, using expensive sheet protectors to protect them as if they were precious to her, still sends chills up and down my whole body. She was not just someone. She was very, very special to me. Plus, she was one of the greatest women I have ever known. I knew her. I am so touched that she loved me and what I wrote so much that she kept it all and kept it all dear to her.



As I think of Notebooking, I have to tell you that if you are not using this approach in your homeschool, you are in for a big treat! There is something precious that can transform any writer into an "addicted writer," especially when they see that their work is precious to those they love the most. This one idea can revolutionize your homeschool. It has ours! This one idea can take your most reluctant writer and turn him into a researcher, who loves to write! Want to know more? Let's take a closer look...



Who Can Notebook?

Who? What ages? Well, this is perhaps the most exciting part about Notebooking! All ages can develop a notebook. High Schoolers can use the researching and recording skills developed through Notebooking for their daily lessons and then for the rest of their lives. Elementary age struggling writers will LOVE Notebooking. Even your toddlers will be thrilled to keep their pictures and "copywork" in their very own special notebook. Oh, even YOU will treasure keeping your own notebooks.

Oh, that is not all! It does not matter if your young writer is a whiz, your writer will be challenged daily by the skills that must be used with Notebooking. If you are a bit reluctant

because your child already seems already a bit allergic to their pencil, your child is sure to love this one! In fact, I can almost promise that if you will just give Notebooking a try (What can you lose if the other ideas are not working?), you will find a different child within a year! Yes, this is one other thing that I love about Notebooking—it meets all of us right where we are. All abilities can be challenged through Notebooking. All interests can be developed completely. All learning styles are drawn to Notebooking. Notebooking is for anyone, well actually it is for everyone!

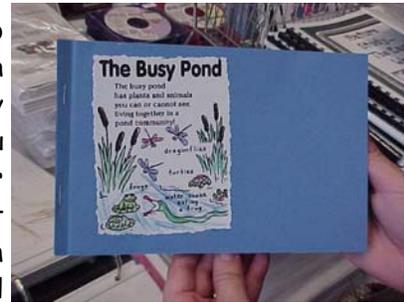
Why Notebook???

I have always been a "why" person. Convince me of "WHY" I am to do something and you have got me for life! Well, I want for you to know just a few of the perks that we have found along the way as we have used Notebooking for all subjects of study within our home. I will list and briefly explain a few...

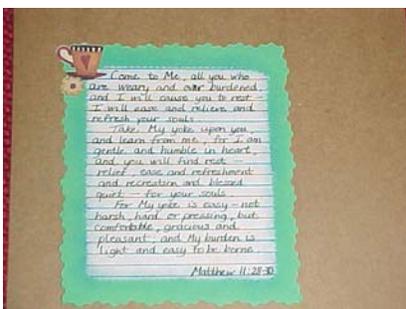
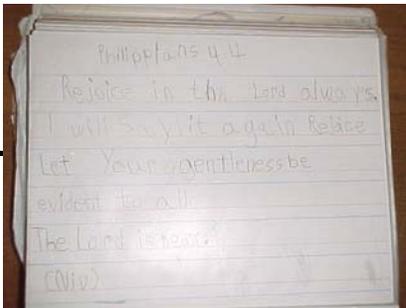
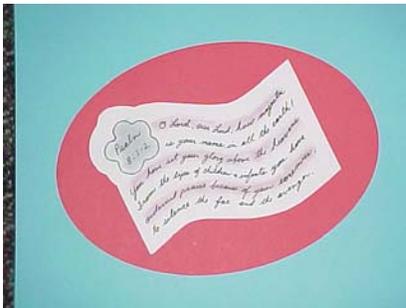
♥ A place for everything and everything in its place!

There is something deep within me that MUST have a place for everything AND must have everything in its place. In the busy Homeschool, this has been my greatest struggle. I like to KNOW where things are and that I can be sure to find them when I need them. I also like for things to stay nice, especially if my children have worked so hard to finish their work with excellence. Hands-down, Notebooking is the best and easiest way to KEEP your child's work nicely in a place that it can not only be found, but can also be viewed at any time by any one. A simple 3-ring binder can be used, by the child, to keep records naturally (and easily)...to help them see their progress... to teach them to be neat and orderly...and to encourage and teach the disciplines that are crucial for them all of their life (record-keeping, researching, thinking and discerning, organizing, categorizing, outlining, in-depth studies, writing). What amazes me the most is how effective this simple discipline is in training and developing the gifts of all children regardless of which age you begin using Notebooking or what level their current writing abilities may be.

♥ Perfect for each child and each family...I don't know if you are as particular about the material that your



Using WHAT You Have
To Teach ALL of the
Subjects! FUN!



children study, but this was one of the greatest concerns that we had as we began to Homeschool. The problem with this is that EVEN in the Homeschool market, there are materials that are in opposition to what we believe on a wide variety of topics and subjects. If this does not make things tough enough, materials are often written for specific ages and grades instead of to people of all ages and grades, making the material either "dumbed-down" or completely boring. Then, to top-it-off, we have run across great materials with completely inaccurate information. What to do, what to do??? Oh! Notebook!

In order to teach our children our beliefs AND what others believe (and why we DON'T believe the same way), we have to search for material from a wide variety of sources. Notebooking is the perfect place to compile all of the information so our children can form their own beliefs and convictions based on a very thorough foundation. We don't have to worry about age or grade segregated materials either. We can take out the great information (pictures, charts, terms, quotes, and stories), compile it in our notebooks, so all is used most effectively regardless of age. We even use the materials that have great pictures yet, have very little or sometimes NO truth in them. All can be used to build a notebook...well, all under our direction, which is yet another of the benefits of Notebooking!

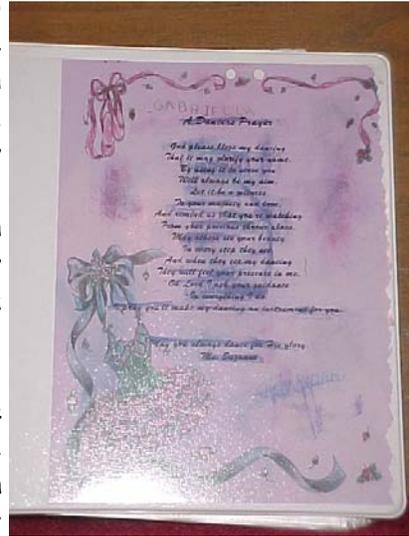
Wherever your child is...whatever may concern you... Notebooking gives the flexibility to teach to the child, not the book. Notebooking is so versatile. It goes the pace of the child. It can easily be added to any curriculum, especially those that could use a breath of life. Even those hard to document subjects or unit studies can be recorded in notebooks. Not to mention, LIFE can also be recorded in notebooks! Since education really consists of life, Notebooking documents the true education that takes place in the home.

♥ **Notebooking is FUN!!!** One of my struggles as we began Homeschooling was the guilt I felt when we REALLY had fun Homeschooling. Where on earth would my children learn the "fact of life" that life is not always fun???

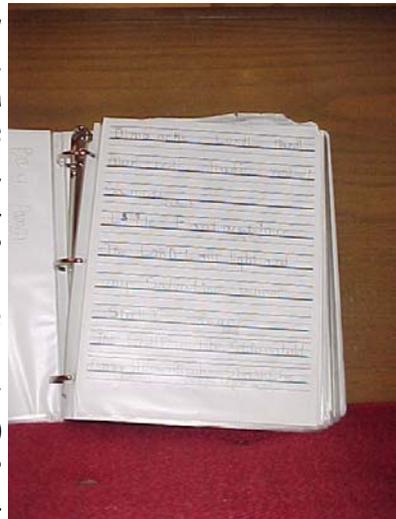
(The answer to this question is CHORES!) Where would they learn to continue working even when it was tough...especially if they never had a hard time with their lessons? (The answer to this question is CHORES!) How could they learn from a wide variety of subjects unless those lessons were dictated by a curriculum? (This answer is coming soon!) Can education be effective and challenging IF it is fun?? (This answer is YES! Glorious YES!)



Well, well...this brings us to another advantage to Notebooking: Notebooking is FUN! The notebooks are wrapped around areas of interests NOT subjects. In fact, subjects are not even the focus. Instead, subjects are blended into study, in context, so they make sense instead of being disjointed and artificial. Since subjects are taught as part of the topic, children begin to see that learning is part of life—real life! They see that life is FULL of learning! Learning becomes a lifestyle, instead of in a box or to just pass a test.



In our home, we have found that our children have certain individual interests. If those interests are the means that we use to introduce new material, we can pretty much teach anything and be assured that they will develop a love for that new topic. Want a picture of what this looks like??? Our oldest son, Matthew (now fifteen) absolutely LOVES anything to do with History, the military, and the "why" behind anything (even Phonics!). We have found that this VERY "boy" boy loves poetry...if it is historical in nature. He loves art...well, IF it depicts historical events (His favorite artists are Mort Kunstler and Norman Rockwell...both known for capturing American Life on canvas!). He loves music...especially if it represents ideas (He has collected lots of different songs from the Civil War for his notebooks. He loves them for daily Copywork AND believes that they tell the REAL story behind History!! Cute huh??) Your child is wired the same way. Regardless of your child's interest, you can reach them through the discipline of Notebooking. ANY topic is game...even, well, ESPECIALLY if it is fun!



♥ **No Artificial Deadlines!!!** Remember writing assignments in high school and college? What is your stomach doing as you think about them? Probably churning as you remember those late nights living off of caffeine just to "buy" enough hours in the day to make the deadlines. Even now, I am not a "deadline" writer. My best work has to be mulled around...thought upon...lived...loved...and made a part of ME. Deadlines take away the heart of topics, and eventually the heart of education as well. In fact, they teach us that the product, even if it is shallow and undeveloped, is more important than the process or the relationships with the areas of study. Want true success? Want to develop a writer who loves writing?? Try the discipline of Notebooking!

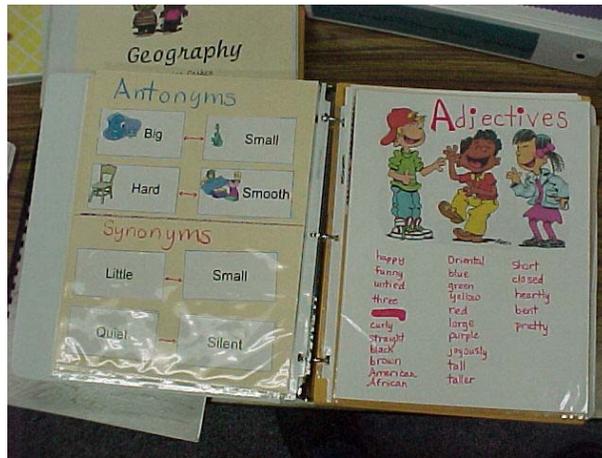
Notebooking follows the pace of your child. Whether your child comes to a skill that is challenging him to his limits or your child needs to find a real challenge in his education, Notebooking meets them where they are and gently challenges them onward without frustrating them! Notebooking, also, allows for growth.

An example of this comes from our family. We have many notebooks that have developed over the years. There are some that have had seasons of

intense focus...followed by YEARS of dormancy...only to come back with such a passion that they have developed into workshops, magazine articles, books, and even several series' of books! There are also many that have developed during a study that is now complete. Those are no less special. It is just that they are not "life" studies as others seem to be. In fact, some have been just for personal edification and for personal study. We keep them ALL! They are all beloved! They grow with us...and sometimes they even let us outgrow them.

They are still beloved friends along our journey! Each has helped us to be more and more creative. Each has nurtured our delights and interests and in turn, continued our self-education.

♥ **Encourages In-depth Studies...** When I began Notebooking, it had nothing to do with Homeschooling. It was as a practical discipline for my own studies. I began as a young wife to study in depth what the Bible said about being a godly wife, mother, mentor, and woman. I just naturally began to compile information along the way. Where did I keep it? In a three-ring binder of course! If I had not had a place to put little goodies that came along my way, I would probably have never continued the study for the last



15 years. I am also pretty certain that I would not write as much as I do had I not been able to find the information in "its spot" after I collected it. I probably would have grown very discouraged to not have a good system for keeping all of my dear information.

Our children are wired the same way.

Notebooking is a discipline you will find in common with many of the greatest writers of all time. I love that in Scripture we see God commanding that the kings be trained by copying His Law in a book of their

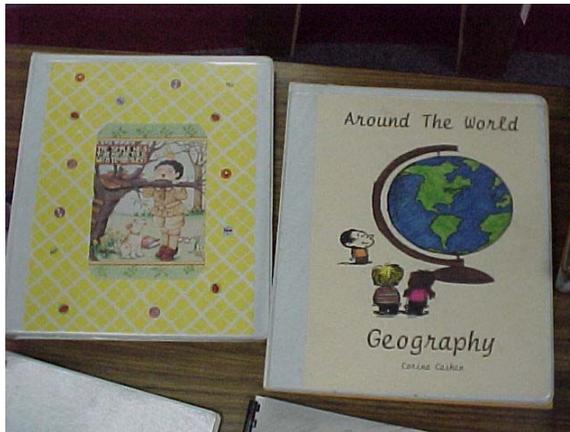
own so that it could be with them all of their lives (Deuteronomy 17: 18-20). Oh, it is not just for training...it is also a practice kept by God Himself (see Malachi 3: 16). Can't you just see heaven? Full of shelves and shelves of binders???? Hoot! Hoot!

My dear friend, Notebooking is not just a technique that has been thought up over the last few years. It is eternal. It can continue as long as they would like to continue with a notebook or a topic. It is not limited to certain ages or grades, and of course, not to just one project or just in accompaniment to projects that come along the way. Notebooking can be a life discipline. No scope-and-sequences...focus on subjects...or hurt feelings from grading their hard work with red pens and abundant criticism. Instead, your

children can develop a discipline of collecting gems and great information. They can dig deeper in areas of interest. And imagine...this covers all of those subjects naturally and EASILY!

♥ **A Unique, Individual, Personalized Education!** As I think of all of the benefits of Notebooking, I have to say

that of all of them, I think this one is the most precious to me. Notebooking encourages a completely unique, individual, personalized education. There are NO topics off limits. ANYTHING can be a topic. If it can be a topic for a career or a book, it is game.



Think of those topics most mothers find their most reluctant writers "into"... baseball, dogs, history, sewing, racing, cooking, travel, games, on and on!! All of these can be used for notebooks (Did I leave out your child's topic?? Trust me, I probably listed it in my book!). There are no limits! Notebooks can adapt to your child's personality, creativity, and talents. There is NO right way to create a notebook NOR any wrong way to make a notebook. This is not to be vague, rather it is to encourage independence, creativity, and originality!

So...Ready, Want to Know How To Get Started???

All right...fired up yet? Ready? Chomping at the bit to get busy building those notebooks???

Here are some easy how-to's...



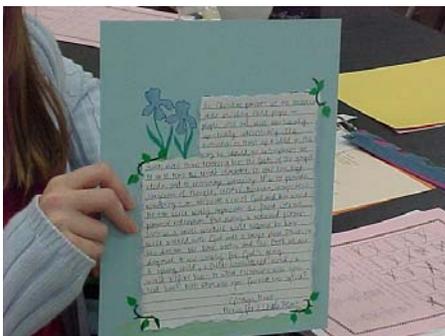
1. **Gather Your Supplies...** Your supplies can be as simple as a 3-ring binder per child, plastic sheet protectors, and a pencil per child. The great thing about Notebooking is that you can make this whatever you would like! Over the years, Notebooking has worked so wonderfully in our home that we are constantly on the lookout for different and fun supplies. Since I am a Scrapbooking nut, we love trying out all of the new Scrapbooking supplies during our daily Notebooking time. Of course, you do not have to go this wild...but, I am sure you will want to! If you have no idea where to begin, see our shopping list for quick ideas of our favorite supplies!



2. **Make Them Accessible...** Set aside a place for your materials and a place for your children to work. There is something wonderful about having a place for everything and everything RELIABLY in its place. The work in the beginning is well worth the time during the school year. When we begin a new study, I go through my books copying all pages that would make great coloring pages to go along with our Copywork and Narrations. I also reduce many pictures or copy all thumbnails that would be great for our History Timelines. We have a shelf that contains books that I find along the way with great Copywork that I would like for my children to add to their notebooks on those "no ideas are flowing" days. Just having everything there, ready to go, is such a blessing on those busy mornings. Plus, I have learned over the years that this is the best way to really utilize the resources that I have on my shelves.



Just file away any pages or pictures in either Manila envelopes or file folders. If the children know where they are, they are more than likely to use them on their own. Also, you will want to use anything else that you have in your home. I keep our paints, papers (plain and colored cardstock and 20lb paper; writing paper; etc.), glues,

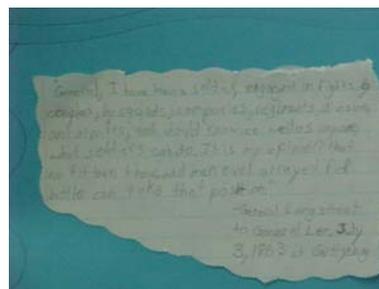
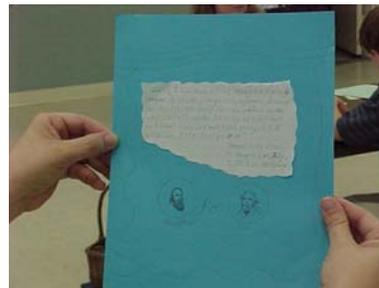
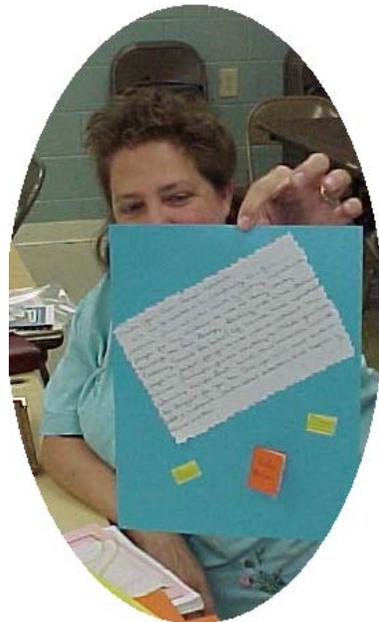
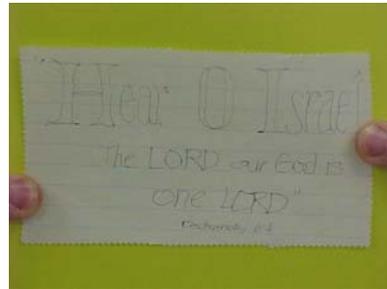


templates, cutting utensils, rulers, markers, pens, pencils, etc. on a shelf and in plastic bins by our dining table (where we do our daily lessons). They are in their spot and that spot is close by. If we want to encourage our young writers, we must give them free access to the best materials. The benefits are unbelievable!

3. **Turn Your Children Loose!** Yep! This is all that is left! Inevitably, when I teach workshops on Notebooking, I can almost see the brains of mothers clicking away with one tough reality, "IF ONLY I HAD MORE TIME TO DO THIS!" Oh, beloved! Notebooking is not another thing for you to do! The hard part is almost over. The hard part is learning what this is all about and how to get everything together so we can turn our children loose!

When we began Notebooking, I copied a Bible Verse a day as a model for my son to copy. As he copied his verse, he would place his page for the day in a plastic sheet protector and add it to his notebook. The next day, his page for that day would slide in behind that page. The next day, he would add another page in another page protector. We built the entire notebook; not specific divisions or subjects. We chose not to divide by subjects because we wanted a nice full "product" built over time. As we added to the notebook each day, I could see the delight building in my young writers. They would sit and just flip through the pages. They loved seeing success. They loved seeing the notebook build up.

As time went on, my son began to find and copy poems that he liked, songs from church hymnal or from his history lessons. He began a collection of art prints. He added maps that highlighted journeys. At the end of the first year, we had a bulging notebook and a young writer that had gone from reluctant to really excited! The notebook quickly became "his own" notebook. At the end of the year, we divided our notebooks (there was no room to add anything else) into



Notebooking In
Tupelo, Mississippi!

obvious divisions. We had a Bible Notebook, a History Notebook, a Poetry Notebook, and another Copybook. All of these have continued and several have divided into other notebooks through the years. As your children dig into their interests, they may have other Notebooks that develop. Let them go! You will learn more about your children as they learn more about topics AND writing!

So, What Do You Think?

- Easy as A, B, C? Want to give it a try? If I could ask every homeschooling family to do just one thing, it would be to just give Notebooking a try. I am sure that if you try just a bit, you will be addicted too! So, think about it. Pray about it. Then, get those supplies. Set aside a spot for your supplies. Then, turn those budding young writers loose! Want to know what will happen? They will be addicted too!



Need More Help???

Excerpted From *Notebooking! Yes! You CAN Be a Binder Queen Workshop Manual*.

Need more help with Notebooking? We HIGHLY recommend our book, *Notebooking! Yes! You CAN Be a Binder Queen*. Plus, the book could not hold it all, so we also recommend our brand new supplement to our book, our *Notebooking! Yes!*

- *You CAN Be a Binder Queen Manual*. It is now available in a packet or CD format.
- Oh! AND that is not all! We have companion tapes, tape sets, BOOKS, and even reproducible packs!

It is time to stock up on your wish list!



Coming To An Area Near You...

Notebooking!

Yes! You CAN Be A Binder Queen Too!

The Complete Workshop!



Missed our workshops? Don't forget! We have this workshop on AUDIO! Get your copy NOW! Also, you can purchase our workshop manual so you can have your OWN workshops at home! See our pricelist!

Join us in an area NEAR YOU for TWO BIG DAYS as Cindy Rushton takes us through the "ins and outs" of How-to Homeschool THE EASY WAY with Notebooking!!

What Do I Need To Bring???

This workshop is HANDS-ON! So, bring your Bible...Scrapbooking Supplies (any that you have...OR a friend who has PLENTY!)...and a friend! All else will be provided for you!

Topics for This Workshop Include:

- ♥ Hey! Do I Have A Chance At This??
- ♥ Why On Earth Notebook???
- ♥ Down to the Nitty Gritty...WHAT Do I Need and HOW Do I Do It?
- ♥ Step-by-Step Through Notebooking
- ♥ Scrapbooking! YES! You CAN Have Fun Homeschooling!
- ♥ Hey? What is Legal? What All Goes Into A Notebook???

DO NOTE: Cindy has made a "Notebook" available with the registration (or when purchasing tapes from these workshops—see details inside this issue!). Cindy's Notebook includes all you need to get started Notebooking from workshop outlines to quick shopping lists for your supplies to reproducible pages that you will find worth it all! PLUS!

The Notebook also includes a sampling copywork, narrations, and even pictures

- ♥ Developing FUN Studies That Teach and Inspire!!
- ♥ Copywork...Answers to ALL of Your Questions
- ♥ Taking the Writer From Reluctant to Researching!
- ♥ Ideas, Ideas, Ideas, There's Gotta Be One for You!
- ♥ PLUS Much, Much More!

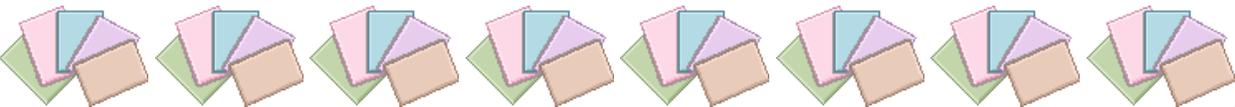
YOU CAN TAKE HOME of Matthew's and Elisabeth's Notebooks!



priceless...digital cameras! Not only do you save money on film processing, but you can also paste-and-clip all of your pictures into documents that your children are writing. Printing is as easy as the click of a button. NOW...if you have a nice camera, you can still have your film processed in most locations so that you can request a disc with the pictures on it. Those pictures can be used as clip-and-paste into your documents as well. This unleashes those children who are hands-on into a whole new world of writing. If they are your children who are constantly building, cooking, creating, or tinkering; they can document what they are learning

through Scrapbooking the process. Yes, Scrapbooking in a BINDER!! Get those cameras out! Turn those little ones loose!

♥ **Other "Essentials"...** You are sure to already have lots of these. Just round them up and keep them accessible for your children. What "essentials" am I talking about? Different kinds of scissors, hole punchers, highlighters, pens, pencils, markers, watercolor pencils, sketch pencils, mounting tapes, mounting corners, glue stick, stickers, rubber stamps, paper cutters, colors, paints, and of course, Scrapbooking books and magazines!



Need More Help???

Excerpted From *Notebooking! Yes! You CAN Be a Binder Queen Workshop Manual*.

Need more help with Notebooking? We HIGHLY recommend our book, *Notebooking! Yes! You CAN Be a Binder Queen*. Plus, the book could not hold it all, so we also recommend our brand new supplement to our book, our *Notebooking! Yes! You CAN Be a Binder Queen Manual*. It is now available in a packet or CD format.

Oh! AND that is not all! We have companion tapes, tape sets, BOOKS, and even reproducible packs!

See our price-listing for our BACK-TO-SCHOOL specials that will help you to get started on the right track!



Don't forget to bring YOUR Albums!
We will have SHOW-N-TELL at this workshop! Bring YOURS to display and share! Group favorites will receive door Prizes and gift certificates for OUR COUNTRY STORE!



YOU ARE WARMLY
INVITED TO JOIN US!



Scrap-a-Latte!



Join us in an area NEAR YOU for TWO BIG DAYS (AND NIGHTS!!!) as Cindy Rushton takes us through the "ins and outs" of How-to Scrapbook and FINISH those precious heirloom albums!!

Whether you have NO clue how to begin...you are needing fresh ideas...OR you are just craving a GIRL'S NIGHT OUT (with lots of giggles... Chocolate...new friends...oh and...LATTE'S!), this is one workshop that is sure to give you a whole LATTE encouragement and fresh ideas!

Topics for This Workshop Include:

- ♥ Hey! Just WHAT is the BIG DEAL??
- ♥ Who, What Why, When...OH Tell Me MORE!
- ♥ Down to the Nitty Gritty...WHAT Do I Need and HOW Do I Do It?
- ♥ Step-by-Step Help for Building Heirloom Albums!
- ♥ FAST, FUN, and FINISHED Albums!
- ♥ Scrapbooking! YES! You CAN Have Fun Homeschooling!
- ♥ What IS SAFE???
- ♥ FUN Ideas with Just a Bit of PAPER!
- ♥ The Great BIG World of Lettering!!!
- ♥ BUT! I HATE MY Handwriting AND I Don't KNOW What To Say! All ABOUT Journaling!
- ♥ Pepping UP YOUR Heirloom Album with those EXTRA Touches!
- ♥ WHAT DO I DO WITH ALL MY STUFF??? Organizing Your Scrappin Stuff!
- ♥ Finding TIME to Scrap!
- ♥ Scrapbooking-When You LOVE IT, But Have a "CHALLENGED" Budget!!



- ♥ Cindy's Easy (AND Affordable!) Shopping List!
- ♥ EASY Ideas for Scrapbooking Gifts!
- ♥ Ideas for HOLIDAY Albums!
- ♥ Recording YOUR Family Story!
- ♥ Write the Vision! Scrapping Your Family's Journey with God!
- ♥ Basic Layouts—GREAT Albums!
- ♥ Beyond the Basics!!
- ♥ Hello Dolly! The FUN of Paperdolls!
- ♥ 10 THINGS You Can Do With Chalk!
- ♥ Circles, Ovals, Squares...OH! Too FUN!
- ♥ PLUS Much, Much More!

What Do I Need To Bring???

This workshop is HANDS-ON! So, bring your Bible...a few of your favorite pictures (and quotes/family stories if you have them)... Scrapbooking Supplies (any that you have... OR a friend who has PLENTY!)...and a friend! All else will be provided for you! EVEN THE LATTE'S!

Totally NEW???

If you have NO SUPPLIES and NO IDEA how to scrapbook at all...OHHH, WAIT to buy anything! We will simplify Scrapbooking SO MUCH that you will find EXACTLY what you need to begin on the right track—quickly, easily, AND best of all affordably! PLUS! We PROMISE to save you from buying a LOT OF JUNK that will only frustrate you and your checkbook!!

We will have ALL of our goodies on site for you to "try-out" so you are sure to find JUST WHAT YOU WANT!!!

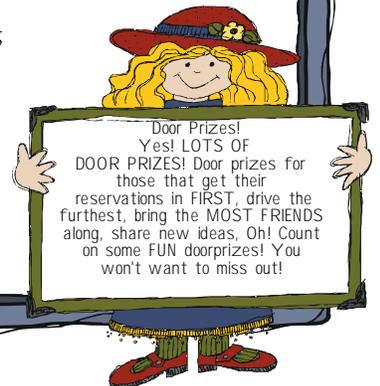
We Have All You NEED— But the Pictures!!

We also have Scrapbooking Starter Kits that get you going with the BEST BASICS materials on the market. If you want to reserve your kit, note that on your registration!

PLUS, Cindy has compiled a "SCRAP-A-LATTE Notebook" Manual available at a discount for our workshop attendees. Like our topics? Well, this Manual is simply UNBELIEVABLE! Cindy's Notebook Manual includes all you need to get started Scrapbooking on the right track. All attendees get handouts, but this is MORE THAN a handout!!

SCRAP-A-LATTE Notebook Includes:

- Workshop Outlines
- A Quick AND Easy Shopping List
- Articles by Cindy and several featured writers
- Step-by-Step Help
- Safety Tips
- Basic Layout Ideas
- Paper, Paper, Paper IDEAS!
- Great Websites You CAN'T Miss!
- Scanned Page Ideas!
- Quotes and Poems PERFECT for Your Albums Too!
- Scrapbooking Gift Ideas!
- Master Reproducible Pages PERFECT for EVERYTHING
- From Journaling to Homeschooling!
- Plus MUCH, MUCH More!



Door Prizes!
Yes! LOTS OF
DOOR PRIZES! Door prizes for those that get their reservations in FIRST, drive the furthest, bring the MOST FRIENDS along, share new ideas, Oh! Count on some FUN doorprizes! You won't want to miss out!

Journaling!!?!?!?

By Cindy Rushton

(Excerpted from Cindy's NEW SCRAP-A-LATTE MANUAL—available soon!)



I have ALWAYS loved Scrapbooking...and writing! But...one thing that seems to always send chills up and down my spine is the thought of coming to the point of journaling on my page!

I know that sounds crazy! As the author of over 61 books, you would think that I would have no problem journaling in my family heirlooms, wouldn't you? Writing articles by the droves would seem to keep my mind sharp enough to easily journal our life story, don't you think? I know! I know! Totally crazy!

As crazy as it may seem, I find myself feeling very kindred with so many of my dear "Scrappling pals!" So, what to do, what to do??? Well, here are some quick tips that are making all of the difference in the world when it comes to journaling in my precious heirloom albums!

Ease Up On The Handwriting Thing!

Yep! I have personally struggled here SO much! I have plenty to say, but I have to admit that I really do not like (well, HATE is the REAL word!) my handwriting! I just seem to write crooked...print when I began writing in cursive...go cursive when I begin printing...run out of ink (!!!!) in the middle of a page...well, you get the point! Not to mention, It just seems that I get more and more frustrated because I feel that I can type so much more of my heart than I can write. If I have too much for a page, I can decrease the size of my fonts. If I don't

have enough, I can just increase the size of my fonts. But, handwriting is SO permanent! So, hard for ME to get "just" right! Relate? Well, let me share what I am doing!

I KNOW the value of my handwriting to future generations...especially my own children. I DO include my handwriting throughout my albums...but only for smaller passages like labeling photos and copying Bible verses or neat quotes, songs, etc. For those family stories that really need "writing" or possibly more than one draft, I type those into the computer and print them out for my scrapbooks. It is SO much easier AND I find that I actually get around to DOING IT!

Legal? Oh, yea! It is so much better to have those wonderful stories in our heirloom albums, those stories that are sure to be forgotten along the way (especially in future generations!), even after printed from the computer (!!) than to let those family stories be lost forever! Sooo, ease up on the handwriting thing and go for journaling...even on the computer!

Try Out Those Neat Computer Programs!

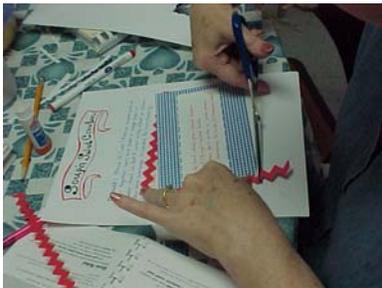
Ohhhh! Girlfriend! Want to know my "finds" of this year? Well, it has been the year for great computer programs! Chatterbox has come out with my favorite program ever: *Journaling Genie!* I use this program for EVERYTHING! It has cute templates that are ready for you to type in your favorite quotes or Bible Verses or

even labels in fun designs!



I thought I was in heaven when I found their templates for scrapbooks earlier last year! BUT, this program is the best I have seen! It is perfect for adding those little touches to our albums (all you have to do is type what you want into the program, then clip the picture or design, and paste the copy into a document that you will print! You can size the pictures up or down to fit your layout! It is wonderful!)...OR it is also perfect for those notebooking students! **MUST HAVE!**

Another great tool that I enjoy using for my journals is my *Creative Lettering* programs (by *Creating Keepsakes Magazine*). They are **WONDERFUL!** I create titles for my pages (I LOVE them so much more than those I make by hand!)...neat captions...etc! I love them because I can choose from my favorite fonts **AND** even pick the colors and designs for **INSIDE** my letters! With *Creative Lettering*, it is **EASY** and **FUN** to journal!



Oh! That is not all! We also use our *Microsoft Office* program for our notebooks **AND** homemade books! We usually type our text into *Microsoft Word* and use the neat *Microsoft Publisher* program for our books. We clip in pictures from our digital camera, scanned in sketches created by our children, and even neat labels and lettering we make through our other programs. It is **SO** easy to create books that look great and are wonderful "wrap-ups" for our studies!



Computer programs are getting better and better! They are **REAL** essentials, especially if you find yourself a bit "journaling-challenged!" Check them out! You will find a whole bunch of new Scrappin' tools that will help you capture your "family story" in the pages of your albums!

Not a Writer??

I know! I hear this all of the time! However, it is almost inevitable that when girls sit down with their pictures, something happens! The stories **BEG** to be told! They seem to flow from **EVEN** the most reluctant writer! So, here are some quick tips to bring out the writer in **YOU**:



- ♥ **Remember that you are telling YOUR family story!** What better way to pass on your legacy inside the pages of your albums! Oh! And those details that you



times you want to pass your legacy to your children!
True treasures! Worth more than pure gold!

Soooo, Ready???

Fired up? Ready to journal? I pray so!

Words seem so simple...so easy to just skip by! So easy to put off for another day! Much more difficult than any other aspect of building an album!



Oh yes! Tough! But, words have power! They give us the story—the family story! They help us to remember! Simple words help us to KNOW one another! Yep! Those simple words that YOU have to share give a glimpse into the depths of YOUR heart and the hearts of those we love. So, yep! Why not journal a bit today?

Scrapbooking

Love Scrapbooking???



Love Scrapbooking? BUT, need MORE practical help and ideas? Well! We are proud to announce that we have enlarged our ministry even GREATER! Cindy has developed her own weekend retreat JUST for the Scrapbooking Gals out there! (Actually EVEN if you are NOT a Scrappin' Gal, you will LOVE THESE RETREATS!!!) The weekend is full of great fun, laughs, ideas, free give-a-ways, and girl-stuff! Our Scrap-A-Latte Retreats EVEN include a Pajama Party and all!!! you want LATTE'S and CHOCOLATE!!!

If that is not ENOUGH, you will be thrilled to know that EVEN if you cannot make it to our Retreats, you can still join us online! We have a brand new E-ZINE called SCRAP-A-LATTE that is FREE by email! In fact, we are planning to also have layout ideas, practical articles, interviews, sales specials, and much, much more featured through SCRAP-A-LATTE! All you have to do to sign up is email us at time4tea@hiwaay.net. We will add you on to the list!

Speaking of "sales specials," you are going to LOVE our NEW product line of great heirloom, archival albums, papers, idea books, organizers, scissors, paper cutters, punches, stamps, stickers...etc!!! Each month, we will have the very best products on the market available for you at our workshops AND by mail! Let us know and we can be sure you are on the SCRAP-A-LATTE list so you can stay updated!! You will LOVE these Scrapping tools a LATTE!

Finally, we are busy here at Rushton Family Ministries helping Cindy update our current website AND develop a website devoted JUST to Scrap-A-Latte! It promises to be a WHOLE LATTE ideas and encouragement for Scrapping! In addition, Cindy has developed a manual with the ins-and-outs of Scrapbooking! You are SURE to love it! It will be available in the very near future with tapes and videos from our workshops!

We think you will LOVE it!!



Time for Tea!!



Did you enjoy our magazine? We also produce another great magazine: **Time for Tea Magazine!**

We are right in the middle of our seventh year of publishing **Time for Tea**. The best way we can describe our magazine is that it is just a HUGE CONTINUAL TEA PARTY across the miles!

Want to know more about **Time for Tea**? Each issue features articles written for the purpose of ministering to YOUR heart! Articles range from topics covering developing a closer walk with the Heavenly Father to ministering to the heart of your husband to disciplining our children with a Godly heritage to ideas for homemaking from the heart to ideas for developing the impact of YOUR Home Ministry to great encouragement for Home Businesses to wisdom that can truly encourage you to become a vessel that God can use! Each issue is jam-packed with timely articles that are designed to give you a time for renewing your mind and refreshing your spirit during your *Time for Tea!*



One-year subscriptions are available for both of our magazines (see information in this issue about subscribing to **Homeschooling The Easy Way!**) for **\$15.00 each** or **\$25.00 for both (US, \$25/\$40 International)** Regular Mail OR FREE by email.

(Let us know if you would like to receive TFT or HSEW complimentary via email and we will gladly add you on the list!)

When you subscribe, you can also purchase our **Article Reprint Books** for a discounted price (see below)! These you won't want to miss as they capture all the past SIX years of **Time for Tea!**

A **sample issue** of either magazine is **\$4.50** or FREE with any order placed with our ministry. Please specify which magazine sample you prefer.

Our prayer is that when you join us during

that quiet moment of your day, you will be encouraged and fed in your soul, mind, and spirit! Our greatest desire is that you will be encouraged by ALL of our resources to seek to follow the Lord as a godly wife and mother! Grab a copy (AND your cup of tea!) today!

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Drop us a call or an email and we will send our current CD-SAMPLER for FREE! We change our CD's with each issue! (because we also include our most updated pricelist with the CD AND because I want EVERYONE to read the newest issues!) Just drop a line, we are happy to send you (OR your whole support group) copies!

Our Email Version of HOMESCHOOLING THE EASY WAY...

If you are online and want a FREE subscription to our magazine, just email us with your address and we will gladly add you to the list! Online subscriptions receive all of the wonderful articles and updates that are included in the printed format. (Clip-art, photos

and extra quotes are only available in the printed/CD format.) Each issue is sent directly to you via email. PLUS! Let your friends know about us too! We are happy to add them to our list too!

Back Issues??? Yep! We Have ALL Of Them!

Want to read our back issues of *Time for Tea*? They are all available in our Reprint Books! We now have FIVE! reprint books in all (the first two volumes are combined into one book).

Topics Included In Each Volume:



Volume One/Two... Includes the following articles: Nature Studies the Natural Way, Nature Studies to Remember, Nature Studies...Who Me?, The Seasonal Table, A Spring Visit to Mother Nature's Toyshop, Setting up a Nature Notebook, Our Favorite Resources, Writing a Process of the Lord, Encouraging our Young Writers, Copywork...Answers to Your Questions, Scrapbooking in the Homeschool, part one, Binderized! Using Notebooking in the Homeschool, Memories, Narration...Beyond the Test!, Narrating at Crooked Pines, In Charlotte Mason's Dictation Class, How to Use Narration, Samples of Our Children's Pen, Scrapbooking in the Homeschool...Part 2 The Process...PLUS MANY MORE!

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(Subscribers save \$5 more... just let us know when you order! YES! Email subscriptions count too!)



Volume Three... Proverbs 31 for the Homeschool Mom, Letters We LOVE, Education is an Atmosphere, Homemaking on

Top Huckleberry Hill, Great Resources for Homeschooling Homemakers, Education is a Discipline, Unschooling and The Charlotte Mason Approach, The Formation of Habit, The Importance of Routine, Charlotte Mason on Habit!, Schooling or Educating? How to Get Free From School At Home, Testing for Life in Your Homeschool: Seven Natural Vital Signs, Preparing Your Home for a Lifestyle of Learning, A Christmas Tea Party!, At Battle, Education is a LIFE...Even for MOM!, Time for Tea With All of You! (Letters from Subscribers!), Worldviews... For Such a Time as This!, Education is a Life, The Presentation of Living Ideas, Choosing Resources for Read Alouds, The Process of Learning: God's Way, Making a Toddler's Lifestyle a Learning One, Real Education: Charlotte Mason Style, Jumping Into The Charlotte Mason Approach, Making Plans While Following Delights, Preparation for Your Future Writer, From Tribulations to Hope, Relationships...Ahhh, Marriage!, What About Teaching the Older Child???

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Volume Four... Stepping Up To The Call... Time for Pruning??; Hedge of Thorns (Narration by Elisabeth Rushton); Letters We LOVE; Iron Scouts of the Confederacy (Narration by Matthew Rushton); Matthew's Bookshelf; In the Herb Garden: Calendula; Developing Your OWN Philosophy of Education; Commitments of a Homeschooled Pre-teen By Matthew Rushton; Digging Deeper into the Study of Education; Education is a Science of Relations...Relations with God; Stepping Up To The Call...Daily Manna; Come Home... It's Time for Tea; Friendship Quilt: A Treasured Heirloom Keepsake; In the Herb Garden...A Little About Rosemary; Cherishing Your Marriage; How to Break Your Child's Heart in 10 EASY Steps; Time for Tea; Stepping Up To The Call...Fill Your Cup with Vision; Focused: A Story and A Song; Fill Your Cup FULL of Romance; Teatime Thoughts from Teatime Treasures; Would the PERFECT Mother Please Step Forward; Making "Not Back To School" Special; Scheduling Our Days to the Honor and Glory of God; Our Simplified Approach to Real Learning.

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Volume Five... Teatime Thoughts; Exodus; Quick Tips for EASY Record-keeping; The Story of My Knife Business (by Matthew Rushton); Give Me A Burden, Lord...YOUR Burden; Mentoring One-on-One: A Note from Debby; Teatime Thoughts...

Dessert for the Soul; Tired from the Journey? SIT DOWN!; I AM: Everything We Will Ever Need; Fill Your Cup Back Up; The Zombie You Live With; The Students Write: A Notebooking Acrostic; A Sampling from NOTEBOOKING! YES! YOU CAN BE A BINDER QUEEN: Timeline Notebooks; Let Us Strive for the Gold; Betty's Bits; Trials or Stepping Stones. Ministry at Home: A Ministry of Rest; and from each issue, Letters We Love.

Item# TFTRP-05...\$20.00
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Volume Six...Includes the following articles: From My Heart to Yours; The Great I AM: Abba Father; God is Our Portion; Through the Seasons in Life; Tea Time???

Some Funnies Just to Lighten Your Heart; Lessons I Learned Along the Way; The Struggle to Honor Our Husbands; Kitchen Korner; From a Mother's Heart...Enjoying the Journey; Lord, I Want To Know What Love Is; The Great I AM: Ishi, Our Husband!; Seeing The Unseen; Dreams For Sale; Purity The ONLY Way; Some Funnies To Lighten Your Heart: Coffee!; Betrothed in the Desert; Kitchen Korner: Let's Have Tea!; A Letter to a Newlywed; Marriage: It's A Covenant Thing!; A Wise Woman Builds; Preparing for Christ; Assorted Non-Sense to Give You A Giggle!; Consider the Sixty-Six Books of the Bible; Making Memories at the Mall; Real Excuse Notes Written By Parents; A Heart for the Home: Awesome Activities; Great Christmas Read-Alouds; Just What IS Godly Womanhood?; Kitchen Korner; Letters We Love, Answered by Matthew; What Counts?; Some Funnies

Just to Lighten Your Heart! A Diet We Might Can Do; 1 Corinthians 13—The Christmas Version; Just TOO Busy; Teach Me Lord, That I May Teach; Build a Ministry—A Family Ministry.

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 (Subscribers save \$5 more... just let us know when you order! YES! Email subscriptions count too!)

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Sure thing! We are MORE than happy to help you with samples of our magazines to share with your friends, support group, or convention. We are SO grateful for those of you who help us to share our heartbeat!

Just email or call our order line us with your requests. CD-Samplers are FREE. Just give us a number and an address to ship them to...we will gladly send them out!

Need flyers or sample articles for your newsletters? Again, we are more than happy to help you! We typically send articles or flyers by email (flyers send great by attachments) so they are easy to insert into your newsletters. Of course, we have lots of great articles on our websites that you are free to use as well.

All we ask is for a blurb to help your families find us AND a sample for Cindy's notebook (surprised?). It is such a blessing for us as you share us with your friends and help to enlarge our borders!