

1. Better fulfill our biblical responsibilities as parents

- *Deuteronomy 6:6-8. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.*
- *Malachi 4:6. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.*

We have developed our own comprehensive curriculum of the things **we** think are important to learn, but over the years have not made much progress through it. When we do, the girls react very positively, and have even invited friends to join. Mark works only 40-hour weeks and only 10 minutes from home, so has time to do this.

2. Enable girls to better fulfill their biblical responsibilities as children

- *Proverbs 1:8. Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.*

Our girls respect us and know we can teach them a lot. They learn from us when we take time together. Cathy understands the girls and their needs, and Mark is a course developer and teacher.

3. Help girls see the importance and joy of lifelong learning

- *Proverbs 4:7. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.*

The girls are great readers and they are little distracted by the media and entertainment options around them. We don't want them to ever tire of reading and learning. Allow them to use their best times and study methods.

4. Help girls better enjoy their childhood & be optimistic about the future

- *1 Timothy 6:17. ... God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*

We are richly blessed as a family and don't have to horde every nickel. Childhood is a time to enjoy life and be happy and grateful. It's hard to learn and do that when much of your time is spent in school and homework.

5. Teach girls in the most-important life skills:

- a. Develop fruit of the Spirit: spiritual growth, obedience, humility & maturity
- b. Identification & development of spiritual gifts
- c. Studying Scripture & correctly handling it for life (2 Tim 2:15)
- d. Prayer & spiritual disciplines
- e. Worshipping & following the Lord
- f. Serving the Church
- g. Winning the lost
- h. Provide opportunities & coach the above

6. Train girls in practical life skills:

- a. Independent living, cooking, sewing & home/car maintenance
- b. Work-life skills, organizing, budgeting & money management
- c. Adulthood, womanhood, marriage & parenting
- d. Ongoing self-development
- e. Developing self-discipline & overcoming bad habits
- f. Keeping physically fit while recognizing their limitations
- g. Preparation for college
- h. Recognition of personal weaknesses, and how to address them
- i. Learning appropriate boundaries and how to say *no*
- j. Maintaining moderation, margins, and a healthy balance in all areas of life
- k. Provide opportunities to build these skills & coach them to excel

7. Expose girls to areas of potential interest:

- a. Relational: Meet new friends, including boys
- b. Apologetics: Worldviews & world religions
- c. Educational: Learning opportunities
- d. Geographical: Vacation planning, scenic travel, service/missions trips
- e. Spiritual: Areas of service
- f. Politics: Current events
- g. Ethics: Volunteering, making a difference (e.g. Crisis Pregnancy Centers, etc.)
- h. Historical: US founding fathers; Church history
- i. Physical: Sports & activities
- j. Leadership: Skills development
- k. Entrepreneurial: Business endeavors
- l. Artistic: Writing, acting, singing, performing, etc.
- m. Financial: Economics; Investing
- n. Identification and alignment of training around girls' personal goals and motivations

8. Help girls learn to be discerning & disciplined disciples, with a healthy attitude toward discipline:

- *Hebrews 12:1, 5-11...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.... you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*
- *James 1:2-4. Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*
- *Proverbs 18:10. The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.*

In the culture we live in, children need much instruction from godly parents to make wise choices. We want to train our girls so they will face their future as prepared as possible with their eyes wide open, yet boldly and confidently take reasonable risks. When they make poor choices, we will be there to discipline them as needed, and support them lovingly. We want them to have a righteous dissatisfaction with the status quo, to embrace change, and to be optimistic in the face of trouble. We want them to know personally Who their strong tower is.

9. Encourage girls to be and to do good:

- *James 1:22. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.*

While being a good student is our girls' immediate goal, their ultimate goal is putting into practice what they learn. Rather than knowledge for its own sake, their goal is to live a wise life in the fear of the Lord, so that when all is said and done, He will say "Well done, good and faithful servant."

10. Encourage girls to grow spiritually and take responsibility for their own spiritual health and growth:

- *Romans 12:2. ...be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

We want our girls to be conformed to the image of Christ, have the mind of Christ, and follow the leading of the Spirit in all that they say and do.

When asked why we have elected to homeschool, our brief answer will be:

- “Our family wants to do our own training;
We’ve had good family training sessions in the past and want to do more;
We’ll join groups for certain topics like Science, Spanish and band.”

We will do our best to avoid criticizing the girls’ previous schools.