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# abekamazing

HOMESCHOOL | *We make it easy so you can make it amazing.*



## God's Hedge of Protection | 8

Homeschooling Through Trials and Loss

SPRING 2019  
ISSUE 1  
VOLUME 3

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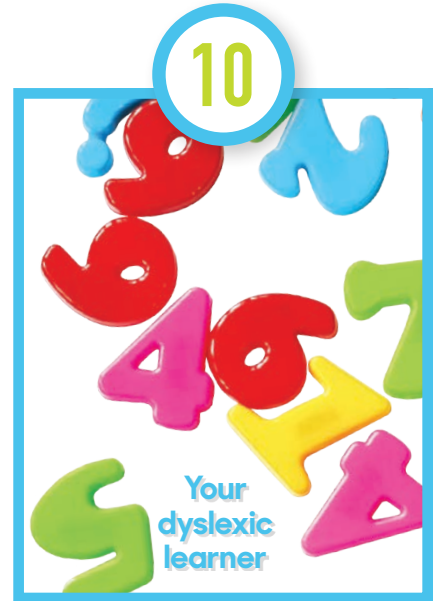
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**PREPARE TO BE AMAZED**



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# HOMESCHOOLING THROUGH TRIALS AND LOSS

*Dear Friends,*

**B**y the time I was seven, my parents were divorced. We lived in a tiny duplex, and money was tight. As the older of Mama's two girls, I realized we were in trouble. Mama was sad, but I didn't know what to say. We needed money, but I didn't know how to get any. At the time, I couldn't even talk to the Lord. I assumed an Almighty God heard only memorized prayers, and I had nothing memorized for this. My second-grade heart was overwhelmed.

Then I learned a valuable truth.  
Mama taught it to me.

It happened one day when a kind old man gave Mama three stale doughnuts. They were in a bag when she picked us up from day care. Mama talked about the glorious doughnuts and the kindness of the man all the way home. Her description was so enticing that I had to peek inside the bag. I was shocked to find three stale doughnuts.

By the time we got home, Mama was talking about how much fun we'd have eating them. It was a doughnut party for three, she said. Just wait till we put them in the oven!

Mama's attitude was contagious. She said our duplex would smell delicious, and she was right! Weren't we the luckiest trio on earth?



My little  
sister and I

My sister and I squealed with delight while looking in the oven window. I can still see my doughnut sizzling on its plate and the happy faces of my mother and sister. I have never eaten a better doughnut.

Mama would not become a Christian for several years, but she stumbled upon this biblical truth: *in everything give thanks*. Why would a loving Father say *in everything*? *Everything* includes job losses, miscarriages, hospital stays, sickness, cancer, and even death. How could He ask for gratitude from grieving people?

*Could thankfulness be good for us?*

**Did God make  
a secret pocket  
in the heart of a  
grieving soul?**

For those who grieve, did God create a secret pocket in the heart? If gratitude accumulates there, will it transform a heart in pain to one at peace?

Perhaps you find yourself homeschooling during a time of great trial, loss, or discouragement. This issue of *Abekamazing* is for you.

**We can't know what you're going through,  
but we are hoping to turn on the oven and warm  
up the doughnuts!** ■

*Tabby*

**Tabby Hershberger**  
Senior Editor

[amazinghomeschool@abeka.com](mailto:amazinghomeschool@abeka.com)

**Scripture that will warm your heart:**

Psalm 34:17 *The righteous cry,  
and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them  
out of all their troubles.*

Exodus 14:14 *The LORD shall fight for you...*

# TEACHING HOMESCHOOLERS HOW TO

# Help Others

by Bethany Russell



*Everyone knows someone in need of help or encouragement, but how do we teach our homeschooled children to be others oriented? Start by telling the truth.*

## Tell the Truth

Don't sugar coat or lie about the situation. Children need to be prepared. This will help them learn how to pray. It will also give them a front row seat when miracles happen. Use this opportunity to teach your children how to give God the glory no matter the outcome.

## Teach Awareness

Teach your kids to observe. My oldest daughter has learned to know and remember what people like. All of my children are picking up on that. They know which child at church loves basketball and which one enjoys animals. They can also tell you which adult loves coffee or who enjoys craft shops. When children learn to become aware of needs, they begin to invest in people. They are learning to care.

## Make It Personal

Teach your children to find personal ways to give gifts by giving a person's favorites. For example, give a person's favorite cookie or milkshake. I have a friend who is excellent at this. She learned that an elderly lady could no longer cook her favorite meal of pinto beans. My friend made and delivered a pound

## PRACTICAL WAYS TO INVOLVE

# Your Kids



- ◆ Have your children make a special dessert or gift basket. Our gift basket comes in the form of little gift bags we buy for a dollar. There's just enough room for three snacks, a special drink, and one non-food item.
- ◆ Make oversized cards using poster board. The cost of poster board is much cheaper than cards.
- ◆ Teach your kids how to pack food by keeping disposable dishes on hand. Use cardboard boxes or laundry baskets to help with transport. Use a cookie sheet to fit inside the box between hot and cold items. It's a blessing not to have to wash and return dishes.



of pinto beans and corn muffins. It was a personal gift that made the elderly lady's day!

## Anticipate the Needs

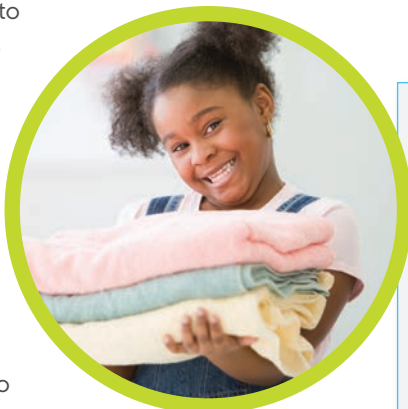
As someone approaches an illness, trial, or health issue, discuss it with your family; ask them for ideas about how to help.

Children need opportunities to *think* about particular needs and solutions to these needs. This is an essential part of helping a child develop a giving spirit as an adult.

“Children need opportunities to think about particular needs and solutions to these needs.”

## Give, In Secret

It is imperative that we teach our children to respect the recipient's dignity. Perhaps a person needs groceries, but they don't want anyone to know. It is important that we teach this concept to our children. This is also the perfect time to mention that we're ultimately doing this for our Lord, not for the praise of men. Consider doing some things like cleaning yards or shoveling driveways while no one is home.



- ◆ Choose a go-to meal that has 2-5 ingredients. Slowcookers are great for kid-assembly.
- ◆ Have your children help cook big batches of food that can be frozen in smaller portions. If there's a need, you will have a frozen meal ready.
- ◆ Consider breakfast food. Someone with an illness may have casseroles galore, but still need to grocery shop for breakfast.
- ◆ When shopping for others, include children in the choosing process or ask them to get items off the shelves.
- ◆ Consider gifting paper plates, cups, and plastic utensils with the food. It's a huge blessing.

## Be Considerate

Often people are exhausted, especially those dealing with chemo. Plan to drop your meal at the door. Consider waiting in the car with the motor running and letting your children deliver; it will go faster. If invited in, make your visit short. Caution your children to use quiet voices. If someone is in the hospital, deliver food to the family in a cooler with ice packs. That way they are not burdened to get home fast to put the food away. They can leave your cooler on the porch for pick up. If you feel sick or even have a baby teething, stay away! Don't further stress a sick person by making him guess if you are contagious or not. ■



**Bethany Russell** and her husband have seven children. She supports her husband's ministry by anticipating the needs of their Ohio congregation.



### HEROES AND HELPERS

#### Heroes and Helpers

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# What "Lawnmower Parents"

## Don't Know About STRUGGLES



Renee and  
her family

by Renee Bryant

**Experiencing struggle is necessary. It develops the ability to process emotions and the skill needed to solve problems.**

It's been a year since my husband went to heaven and our children were able to hug their daddy and say goodbye. Although my kids are grown, watching them experience this heartache is one of the hardest things I've ever done. The truth is, if we could protect our children from struggle—we would! Forget helicopter parenting. If we're honest, we'd mow our kids a safe path in front of every struggle and become (the current term) "Lawnmower Parents." But experiencing struggle is necessary. It develops the ability to process emotions and the skill needed to solve problems.

Here are five, simple thoughts that can help you and your kindergartner face struggles together.

### BE HONEST

Tell your children the truth about what's going on in words they can understand. Even if information needs to be edited, be careful to be honest. Give your children hope, but be kind and realistic.

### BE OBSERVANT

Children respond differently. Watch their body language or behavior. These are clues as to how they're handling the difficulty. A change in behavior may be a cry for help. Allow your child to experience emotions, but walk them through anger, frustration, bitterness, or sorrow. Give them an outlet: a physical activity, a "helping job," or an art project, all with attainable goals.

### BE PATIENT

Give your child time. Children may not know how to articulate their feelings. They may process their emotions randomly. Be gentle, but not over-protective. Encourage your child to communicate with you. The courage you display in facing your own emotions will show them how to walk through difficult times, too.

### BE FLEXIBLE

It may be necessary to modify your expectations during challenging times. Parental insight is key. You know your child best. Will the consistency of routine provide security? Is your child overwhelmed? Would changing the social or physical environment provide needed recovery time or space? Adjustments can be

temporary with the goal of getting "back to normal" when possible.

### BE CONSISTENT

Your love for your child is the best constant you can give. When you hurt, your child needs to see you respond genuinely; it's okay to cry. Allow your child to see you facing the situation, keeping perspective, and not losing hope. They will learn, in time, that they can do the same. ■



Renee Bryant taught preschool and was a nursery director for over 20 years. She has four grown children.

*Renee*



### Language 3

See [abeka.com/LanguageSupport3](http://abeka.com/LanguageSupport3)

### Language Development Visuals P-K4

See [abeka.com/LanguageSupport](http://abeka.com/LanguageSupport)



### Creative Writing grade 6

See [abeka.com/WritingSupport](http://abeka.com/WritingSupport)





# The Secret to **TEACHING TEENS:** *Relationship*

YOUR  
HIGH SCHOOLER



Katie Nagel is an ABA grad and former Abeka video teacher. She and her husband Cody now teach in a Christian school in California.

*What is the difference between a thriving, secure homeschooler versus a resentful, hurt one? Relationship! Parents who build a strong relationship with their teens do these three things.*

## Praise

Begin with praise; it's a healing ointment for your teen's insecurity. It reassures him of your unconditional love. It inspires him to attain new and higher levels of responsibility.

Praise is more important in the homeschool world because parents have additional roles of teacher and principal. If not reassured, **a critique of your teen's work may be falsely interpreted as a critique of his worth.** A teacher's voice reaches the mind, but a parent's voice touches the heart. An absence of praise promotes insecurity, and insecurity pushes teens to find someone or something else for affirmation.

## Protect

Teens need time alone with each parent to be listened to, loved, and enjoyed. When asked to respond anonymously, my students always say they want more undivided, *threat-free* time with their parents.

Teens fear a fun time that turns into a lecture. **They fear triggering a corrective confrontation.** To protect themselves, they sometimes won't open up.

Listen. Guard your response. Encourage. Don't throw correction out the window, but be clear about when it's fun time and when it's time to have a serious discussion. Separate the two, and your teen will develop a trusting relationship with you.

## Prioritize

Prioritize your relationships. God must come first, our spouse second, and our children third.

**The best thing we can give our teen is a strong marriage.** When we put our spouse before our teen, it gives them security and structure. After these things, our teen must feel more important than the demands of our schedule.

From birth to 18, we only get 939 weeks with our children. They go by fast. Build a strong relationship with your teen by praising, protecting, and prioritizing. ■

## How TO PRAISE *your* TEEN

**SAY** it

**WRITE**  
a specific note

**SPEAK**  
highly of your teen  
in front of others

**ACKNOWLEDGE**  
*your teen's heart by*  
understanding his intentions

**SPEND** quality time

Validate your teen's feelings by  
**UNDERSTANDING**  
not by giving in

Celebrate and admire your teen's  
**GOOD QUALITIES**

**SURPRISE**  
your teen with kindness  
(help clean his closet)

**PREFER**  
your teen in a way  
that makes him  
feel valued

**EXPRESS**  
physical  
affection



Katie and her sisters  
when they were  
teenagers



# Prepare to be AMAZED

**God's Hedge of Protection:** *through trial and loss*

Meet the Lehmann family—Mark, Kerri, and children Charity (husband Stephen Carlson and daughters Aleya and Madeline), Bethany (husband Max Edwards), Katelyn, Kristen, Adam, Noah, and Abe.

by Leah Meyer

As a child, Kerri Lehmann dreamed of growing up to become a wife and mother.

When she married her college sweetheart, it seemed as if her dreams had come true. The newlyweds settled in Indiana. While her husband attended seminary, Kerri taught at a Christian school. Not long after, the couple began expecting their first child.

## Overwhelming Loss

On November 9, 1987, Kerri's world turned upside down. Her husband



Phil, who was just 26, passed away suddenly in his sleep. He had suffered cardiac arrhythmia. Over thirty years later, Kerri still cries when talking about it. Yet she also remembers God's grace.

"When I was at my lowest and crushed, I felt overwhelming peace come over me. I know it was the Lord," she said. The coming days would not be easy, especially as she prepared to welcome her baby as a single parent, but God's grace covered her. "I could

tell my friends were praying for me," she remembers.

## A Hug from God

At times, Kerri was numb with shock. Other times, her tears spilled out. "After I would cry, I always felt better," she admits. "Crying is good therapy."

One day, the grief became unbearable. "I went to the cemetery—to Phil's grave," she said.

Weeping by his graveside, she cried out to God, "Please send somebody." Not five minutes later a car pulled in. "I hadn't told anyone where I was going," Kerri recalls. "A dear friend came, and she just held me and let me cry. It meant so much—that was a hug from God. He heard me, knew what I needed right then, and He sent someone."



## Becoming a Single Mom

As difficult as those days were, the darkest days still lay ahead as Kerri welcomed their daughter Charity into the world—without her husband. "Not only was I experiencing childbirth for the first time," Kerri said, "I was also experiencing it without a spouse." In the midst of her sorrow, Kerri became a testament of God's grace to the couples in her birth class. "At the end, everyone gave their story," Kerri remembers. "When I shared how the Lord is able to carry you through any trial, there wasn't a dry eye. We were so close after that."

## Life Begins to Bloom Again

Even in tragic loss, God was already at work behind the scenes. Shortly after Kerri and her baby moved back home with her parents, Mark Lehmann, a family friend phoned. He wanted to know if he could take her out to eat. She remembers, "I needed an evening out."

As the months passed, Kerri began to see Mark as a faithful presence. She couldn't deny that God was doing something special. About a year later, they married. "Mark adopted Charity," Kerri continues. "She has never expressed hurt in not



knowing her dad. We have prayed for the Lord to protect our children's hearts and minds."

## Homeschooling the Kids

During her homeschooling experience, Kerri put into practice many of the things she learned through her loss. "I've prayed over the years that the Lord would fill in where I can't. I believe the Lord wants us to trust Him to see our kids through and give them what they need for life," she says.

"In our human frailty we tend to fall prey to incidences in life that might handicap us. One of our family slogans is: 'Always adapt and adjust,'" Kerri relates. "The devil wants more than anything to destroy homes and families, but the Lord keeps us safe under His hedge of protection." ■



Kerri taught her children the things she learned through her loss.

## KNOW AN INSPIRING HOMESCHOOL FAMILY?

Tell us about them at [amazinghomeschool@abeka.com](mailto:amazinghomeschool@abeka.com). Include high resolution photos (>1.5Mb) if you have them.

## I Learned Not to Say...

- "Time heals the pain."  
(Only God can heal the pain.)
- "You will get over it."  
(No. It will be part of their lives forever.)
- "It's better; God knows best."  
(This is a knife to the heart.)
- "I understand."  
(Unless you have been through it, you can't.)

## I Learned to give a hug & Say...

- I love you;  
I'm here for you.
- I do not understand,  
BUT God does.
- Could I bring you coffee or lunch?
- May I pray with you or quote a Scripture verse?
- Say nothing and just LISTEN!

## OTHER RESOURCES:

Francie Taylor, founder of Keep the Heart, a teaching ministry to women, describes what to say to your spouse in her book, *Rough Patches*. Ponder the Path helps exchange a self-directed course for a walk with God. See [keeptheheart.com](http://keeptheheart.com).



# Dyslexia:

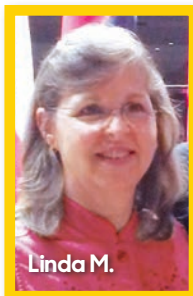
## My Personal Experience



Tracie G.



Jessica G.



Linda M.



Val R.

*One of the most unrecognized sources of learning disability is dyslexia. Often, children with dyslexia struggle in a traditional school setting. Homeschool moms and a teacher offer help by presenting their personal experience.*

by Laura  
Allnutt

### What Is Dyslexia?

Research suggests that dyslexia is genetic. Many successful political leaders, entrepreneurs, actors, scientists, and musicians have battled dyslexia without letting it hinder their auspicious careers. It affects the brain's decoding ability. The learner struggles to associate the sounds of a word with the signifying letters. One mother had this to say, "Dyslexics are truly amazing; they think in 3D images (such as letters made from refrigerator magnets or clay), which serves them well in life

except when they are forced to interpret 2D images (such as flat letters drawn on a page). Some dyslexics are highly visual and need charts and videos. Others learn with songs and audiobooks. Some prefer a multi-sensory approach. Dyslexics see what the rest of the world can't see, and conversely, they have trouble seeing what the rest of us easily see." — Tracie G., Oregon

### What Helped Us!

Another mom described what helped her son, "My son struggled with learning the alphabet. I teach music for a living and couldn't teach him the alphabet song. He struggled following more than one direction at a time, hated to write, and couldn't remember his address. At 8, he couldn't spell or remember simple sight words from week to week. We tried audiobooks and read aloud as a family!

My son is always grabbing books on reptiles, and he is actually reading them now. Maybe not every word, but he is giving us facts left and right." — Jessica G., Alabama

A mom from Vermont added this, "Our son, Caleb, graduated at 19. He is dyslexic. Reading and comprehension were very difficult for him. Two years ago, we enrolled him in Abeka Academy. He was behind in several subjects. His 10th/11th grade year was very difficult and time intensive. I had to help him read some assignments. As he moved along, the reading and comprehension began to get easier, and now after two years, he has more confidence, loves his subjects, and is GRADUATING! Praise God." — Linda M., Vermont





# What Helped My Students? – Val R., Florida

A former teacher told us about her experience, "I know firsthand the struggles associated with dyslexia. My mother was told she was too dumb to learn. I was also labeled, but graduated college and became a school teacher anyway. I've had the opportunity to work with several dyslexic children. Here's what I learned:

**1 Determine how your child struggles.** Isolate a sentence. Ask your child to spell the letters of each word in the order in which he sees them. Do this twice to determine if words come and go. Notice if words are backward: saw for was or if certain letters are upside down: u's for n's or p's for b's.

**2 Check to see if color will make a difference.** A certain color of chalk helped one of my dyslexic students. That gave me the idea to tear out his worksheets and place them in a colored, see-through file. I experimented with a variety of colors. I learned that different colors help different children. For

instance, I had one student who was a medium blue and another who was a medium yellow. I am a dark green. When the color is correct, it makes a big difference. Colored products are now sold online. Search *color overlays*. While this helps with reading, worksheets cannot be written on while inside the color file. A mom of one of my students had the idea to buy her child colored lenses for his glasses. It worked! These lenses are also sold online.

**3 Cursive handwriting is easier than manuscript for a child with dyslexia.** Because many manuscript letters look the same or are closely related, cursive is often part of dyslexia therapy and is recommended by the International Dyslexia Association. When writing cursive, a child must use hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. This aids in overall recall. Cursive may also help dyslexic children group letters into words rather than processing individual unconnected letters.

**4 Children with dyslexia need more movement.** Reward with activity. Keep a jump rope handy; have your child walk and read. Sports such as gymnastics or martial arts help. A dyslexic child who learns to control his body will also learn to control his mind.

**5 Children with dyslexia need more praise.** Even when a little hurdle is achieved, praise and reward your child!" ■

## Helpful Resources:

National Center for Learning Disabilities  
[ncl.org](http://ncl.org)

Dyslexia on Teens Health  
[kidshealth.org/en/teens/dyslexia](http://kidshealth.org/en/teens/dyslexia)

International Dyslexia Association  
[dyslexiaida.org](http://dyslexiaida.org)

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from the Nitrogen Cycle video DTA



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Five Keys for

## Homeschooling

THROUGH

Trials

by Jill Dewhurst



*All of us must endure trials and days overwhelmed with pain and emotion. Life continues through hardship, and though we maintain our roles as wife, homeschool mom, and friend, our bodies have a tangible response to stress.*

It was 3:30 in the morning on December 9, 2010. The combination of recurring low-grade fevers, an unusual rash, and suspicious blood work had led us here—to the pediatric

ER and to these words from the doctor, "Your son has Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia." By that afternoon, our 3-year-old, Will, had received his first dose of chemotherapy. For the next 3½ years, our lives would be controlled by rigid chemo regimens, protective isolation, and hospital admissions. When Will was ready for K4, our interest in homeschooling became a reality.

As we approached the final stage of chemo, our younger son Matthew was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. A few months later, my mom was diagnosed with a terminal illness requiring my parents' relocation close to me. Our schedule was frequently molded to accommodate her care. Two weeks after Will celebrated his last dose of chemo, my mom walked through Heaven's gates.

All of us must endure trials and days overwhelmed with pain and emotion. Life continues through

hardship, and though we maintain our roles as wife, homeschool mom, and friend, our bodies have a tangible response to stress. How can we counteract that response? Here are five secrets to counteracting stress: help, nutrition, exercise, physical rest, and spiritual rest.

### ➡ Accept Help

We often think that needing help makes us inadequate. Even the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 had maidens! If she accepted help, surely we can. Before Will was discharged from his first admission, ladies from our church had already arranged three months of family dinners and childcare for my 18-month-old during Will's daily 8-hour infusions. What a blessing they were to us! When help is offered, accept it with open arms. Help comes in many forms. One of our family's greatest blessings was the gift of homeschooling. When





our lives were turned upside-down, we still controlled our school calendar and were able to balance academics around clinic schedules and hospital stays. Homeschooling allowed us to place our family first. Despite unconventional hours and locations, learning was accomplished.

## ➡ **Maintain Nutrition**

During stressful times, I had to learn to limit (not omit) simple sugars, both for myself and my family. When your body is experiencing stress, a stable blood sugar is your goal. Choose complex carbs such as sweet potatoes, vegetables, brown rice, and oatmeal.

An oncology nutrition intern shared this advice: eating a protein-rich dinner the night before chemo will lessen or eliminate chemo-induced nausea. From that moment, we ate scrambled eggs and bacon every chemo eve. I discovered that all of our emotions were steadier after protein-heavy meals.

## ➡ **Get Exercise**

Consider exercise as a therapy for stress. It's tempting to say, "I don't have time for exercise; I can't even keep the dishes washed." However, aerobic exercise is a great stress reliever. Even stretching gently or finding a few minutes to take a walk can be therapeutic.

## ➡ **Wind Down**

Adequate sleep is a must. Try a soothing cup of hot chamomile tea, soft background music, and lavender essential oils before bedtime. Oatmeal and milk contain



tryptophan, the amino acid that produces melatonin, our body's natural sleep hormone. Make a bowl of oatmeal using milk to ward off insomnia.

## ➡ **Rest Spiritually**

During trials, spiritual rest can be elusive, though it is the most important element. There were many days when I could not feel God's comfort. How could God give me my son through adoption and then threaten to take him away? Some days I was overwhelmed, exhausted, and discouraged.

↓ During these times, I had to learn to trust in what I knew rather than in what I felt. Think about what you know. God loves you. God loves your children even more than you do. God has a perfect plan, and He promises never to give us more than we can bear.

↓ Immerse your mind in God's promises. Read Psalms. Read it again. When you find a verse that really comforts your soul, memorize it, write it down, and post it. Lamentations 3:22-26 was the promise that got me through each day. God's mercies are new every morning. God is faithful. Hope in Him, Homeschool Mom. Rest your weary head on your pillow knowing that His mercies will be waiting when you wake up.



Now I can look back with joy at these difficult trials and see God's strength, not mine. Without Him, I couldn't have homeschooled my boys when our lives were upside down. These trials were more than I could handle alone. Now I know that I can trust Him; He never abandoned me. God knows what you're facing. Trust Him. He will see you through! ■



**Jill Dewhurst** is a nurse, author, musician, and mother of two.



### **Favorite Bible Stories**

See [abeka.com/BibleFavs](http://abeka.com/BibleFavs)



### **Sing unto the Lord CD**

See [abeka.com/JoyfulNoise](http://abeka.com/JoyfulNoise)

# *The difference* **PERSEVERANCE** Makes

by Kim Smith

*Perseverance takes work; it takes a right perspective; and it takes a godly focus. Perseverance is a character trait that is first caught then taught. This is a trait that children need to see modeled every day. Four synonyms of perseverance help define it.*

## **1** **Diligence** *Attentive Care*

- Show your children that you care by keeping clutter to a minimum, grading papers quickly, and following up on their school questions.
- Maybe the best way to show attentive care is by keeping our

promises. If we promised it; we should do it.

- Pray for an eagerness to learn. Help your child decide to get his work in on time, to be neat, and to see his schoolwork as a personal reflection of a caring attitude.
- Teach your child to take care of his books and supplies and to clean his school area daily. This reflects personal interest and good stewardship.

## **2** **Insistence** *Refusal to Yield*

- Ask God for an "I won't give up" attitude. Your child will master some concepts the first time. Others will require much repetition. Take this challenge as a way to further develop your relationship. The extra time required is still time spent with your child. Make the most of it by applauding every success and cementing the idea that you are in this together.
- Refuse to yield your goals. Understand that your child's tears may just be a means of releasing frustration. Often, this release helps children listen better. Calm your voice and begin again. Try assisting quietly before reprimanding. Once successful, encourage your child not to overreact in the future.





- Help your child develop a work ethic even when the work gets hard. Teach him to ask questions, be willing to be shown, and to expect to give personal effort. Ask the Lord to develop a desire in your child's heart for hard work.

### 3 Grit

#### *Indomitable Spirit*

- Pray "Lord, you have called me to homeschool my children. Please help me not to give up when I am met with a poor attitude, laziness, or disinterest."
- Recognize your calling and the power that comes with it.
- Teach your children early that they can go to the Lord for help with their attitude, a difficult concept, or general frustration. Help them discover people from the Bible who overcame difficulties.
- Help your children learn that hard work pleases the Lord. He is preparing them for future responsibilities. Encourage them to rise to the challenge.

### 4 Steadfastness

#### *Steadily Directed*

- Take care of yourself physically. Being a homeschool mother requires a lot of hard work. There will be stress. There will be paperwork. And there will be confrontation. So, get a good night's sleep; eat a healthy breakfast; take vitamins; and exercise as you are able.
- Take care of yourself spiritually. Stay in the Word; keep faithful in prayer; seek wisdom from above. Ask for forgiveness when needed.
- Take care of yourself emotionally. Keep your husband current about success and failure. Connect with other homeschool moms who will understand and advise.
- Make sure your kids are sleeping enough. It will set them up to succeed in paying attention, listening, and completing assignments neatly and on time.

- Make the endless flexibility of homeschooling work for your child. Deviate from the schedule or workload when needed, but keep your homeschool steady. Often maintaining the schedule or workload at a slower pace or less demanding level will be enough to ease the load.
- Pray often with your children about specific issues bothering them. Children can pay better attention when their burden is shared.

Perseverance is sometimes not easily accomplished, especially during a trial or loss. Journal one perseverance goal for the week. Include a character lesson for your children. Teach by example. Show them that God can do amazing things through those who persevere! 🇺🇸



**Kim Smith** is a former teacher and Abeka consultant. She has two children.



## Encouragement as you PERSEVERE on your homeschool journey



Download these free wallpapers for your iOS or Android at [abeka.com/EncouragingWords](http://abeka.com/EncouragingWords).

TYLER  
homeschooled  
in Connecticut



EVELYN  
homeschooled  
in Texas



# Miles Apart Yet Side-by-Side:

*A thousand miles apart...  
yet Abeka gave them  
much in common.*

**B**oth were homeschooled with Abeka since elementary. They watched the same teachers in their Abeka video classes. Both chose teacher

Denis McBride as their favorite! And both were praying for their future spouse.

Evelyn says, "I even wrote my future husband letters starting when I was about 14. I would write about important events in my life, what I thought my future husband might be like, and what I imagined for our future."

to sit next to her. To my surprise, as I started walking toward my seat, I kept walking closer and closer toward Evelyn. We started talking about our favorite teachers and classes and never stopped."

With already so much in common, Evelyn said, "It not only felt like we went to the same school, but that we sat next to each other in every class!"

After graduation, Tyler wanted to get to know Evelyn more, so he sent her a Facebook friend request.

Evelyn remembers, "I noticed that Tyler sent me a friend request; so I responded with a message congratulating him on graduating."

That opened the door for an amazing friendship.

"Within two weeks, I knew that I really liked her," Tyler says. "And God put in my heart that she would be in my life forever."

## Side-By-Side Seating

In May 2014, Evelyn and Tyler both came to Pensacola for their Abeka Academy graduation ceremony. That's when they first met.

"I remember walking into the auditorium trying to find my seat," Tyler recalls. "I caught a glimpse of Evelyn and secretly hoped that I would get

*"It not only felt like we went to the same school, but that we sat next to each other in every class!"*



Graduating together

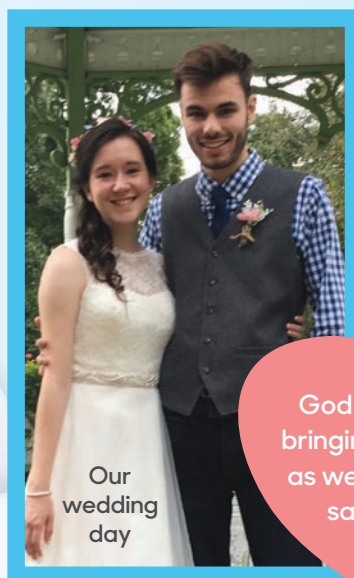


Sitting in the seats where we met





Our engagement party



Our wedding day



Our first home

God was already bringing us together as we watched the same Abeka videos.

## Building Their Love

Although their homes were far apart, their relationship began to grow.

Evelyn says, "It took Tyler weeks of gentle persuasion to get me to pursue a more committed relationship. I knew he was going to be around forever; God had already made that clear. I was just waiting for the green light to go ahead with this relationship. The green light came on July 2, 2014, less than two months after graduation."

They continued to build their relationship, eventually flying to visit each other and then getting engaged the following May. On September 24, 2016, the pieces of their love story came together at their wedding.

Evelyn finally got to share the letters she'd been writing since she was 14. She says, "It was really special. I got to give those letters to Tyler while we were on our honeymoon."

## Walking Through Life

Now, they're settled in Texas. Tyler started his own business in web

video production, and Evelyn works as an administrative assistant. They just moved into a new home and celebrated their second wedding anniversary.

This past May, they came back to Pensacola for their siblings' Abeka Academy graduation. They even took pictures seated in the auditorium seats where they first met! "It was really cool to be back in the building where we first met," Tyler says. "It brought back a lot of memories."

They know God brought them together. He led their parents to choose homeschooling and then to choose Abeka. God also heard the couple's prayers for a spouse.

God began answering these prayers while they watched the same videos and sat next to each other at graduation. Distance means nothing to God. He's only a prayer away from

any of us. Because of that, Tyler and Evelyn now enjoy life side-by-side. 🏡



Side-by-side forever

**abeka Academy** Homeschool Graduation 2019

To view 2018 ceremony see [abeka.com/SideBySideGrads](http://abeka.com/SideBySideGrads)

Send your graduate story to [amazinghomeschool@abeka.com](mailto:amazinghomeschool@abeka.com)

# BE A P.A.L.

by Charleen McNally

Many homeschool families have opportunity to minister to those in need. Teach your homeschooler how to serve others using the acronym P.A.L. (*Present, Available, Listener*).

Homeschool P.A.L.S from around the country offer these amazing ideas.

## PRESENT

**During difficult times,  
don't watch from a distance.  
Initiate the help.**

**Lisa H. (FL)** suggests sitting with those bedridden so the spouse can sleep. She also includes the children of sick adults in her family's activities. Lisa has learned to ask specific questions. She knows most people will not ask for help.



**Katie C. (MA)** and her daughter bake extra chicken pot pies. "They freeze well," she says, "and are available at a moment's notice."



**Michelle V. (Africa)** and her girls clean the houses of friends in need.



**Tara C. (CT)** and her children hand deliver plants and chocolate.



### FROM THE RECEIVER'S PERSPECTIVE:

**Tiffany L. (MA)** was blessed recently by receiving a birthstone necklace in memory of the loss of her baby girl.



## AVAILABLE

**Drop what you're doing  
and respond to those in need.**

**Christiana J. (CT)** grew up as a homeschooler and often provided the music for funerals. "We include music education in our homeschool now," she says, "so our children can also minister through music."



**Larisa K. (MA)** and her family open their home to the children of mothers giving birth. They also take the older children of new moms for a couple hours to give Mom a break.



**Renee G. (CT)** includes those hurting in her own holiday celebrations. She and her children also like to help with basic home maintenance and lawn care.



### FROM THE RECEIVER'S PERSPECTIVE:

**Katie G. (FL)** has a child with cancer. The family has received baked bread, had grocery shopping done, and received music CDs and restaurant gift cards. Katie appreciates help making her healthy children feel normal. Mostly she appreciates phone calls after her child's doctor's appointments "to see how it went."



## LISTENER

**Wisdom is not a prerequisite,  
just a listening ear.**

**Becky D. (CT)** says that listening with the intent to understand, not with the intent to reply, validates a person's feelings and helps bear their burden. It provides them with renewed strength and courage to face another day.



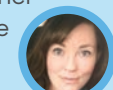
*Editor's  
Choice  
\$100  
Winner*

**Meredith H. (OH)** encourages listening skills by asking her children to do multiple things at once. I'll say, "Put on your pajamas, brush your teeth, and kiss me good night." Praise your kids for doing exactly what you said and in the correct order.



### FROM THE RECEIVER'S PERSPECTIVE:

**Sarah D. (MA)** recently lost her father. She appreciated the listeners who didn't make her put on a brave front.



**Charleen M. (CT)** provided help by buying all the homeschool books for a sick friend.

*Charleen McNally has  
been homeschooling her  
7 children for 18 years.*





# Is Video Homeschooling *Right for* Your Family?

by Tabby Hershberger

## When It Was Right for Us

We'd been doing Abeka parent-led for years. Our boys were 12 and 6 when we learned we were expecting a baby girl. This news came as I entered a new decade, and it was noted by the letters EM on my prenatal folder. I asked our midwife, "What's EM mean?" She whispered, "Elderly Mother."

## What's an Elderly Mother to do?

At the time, my husband and I owned a cottage industry. How would an *elderly mother*, already homeschooling two kids, who worked in the family business, and was expecting a newborn, find enough time? I needed some wiggle room! We knew there was none with our baby or the business. So, we turned to our sons' education, and video school became our answer! It offered the best of both Christian school and homeschool in three distinct areas:

1

### A Godly Influence

Children who attend school will spend 7 hours a day, five days a week being influenced by teachers and students, sometimes negatively. Even when it's not negative, parents frequently become their child's secondary influence. In either case, video school portrays everyone at their Christian best. Children receive exactly the education their parents purchased without any negative extras.

2

### Built-in Memory Work

Corporate recitation is the reason most children know the Pledge of Allegiance. Many homeschoolers don't have corporate recitation unless they use video school. These homeschoolers know the pledge, patriotic/fun songs, Scripture selections, poems, and important American documents—all by heart. Routine memory work also includes weekly spelling lists and arithmetic facts.

3

### Brilliant Teaching

Effective teaching is more than knowing concepts; it's being able to convey them. Abeka video has phenomenal teachers communicating in concise, meaningful words. Hours of preparation on my part would never make me as effective. Even the best Christian schools cannot guarantee this level of on-going teaching brilliance. For our family, video school was definitely the right answer! ■

Video  
Homeschool

See [abeka.com/RightForUs](http://abeka.com/RightForUs)

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## 2019-2020 Homeschool Catalog

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