

The Gotcher Family's Homeschool Mission

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to prepare our children to become God's effective servants and inspire their hearts to follow Christ. Our goal for our daughters is that they grow confident in Christ and the unique role that God created them to fulfill for His greater glory.

We believe that God has created us each for His purpose, to further His plans for our world at this point in time. God has created us uniquely to both give Him glory and to share His gospel with others in a spirit of love. We will pursue God's wisdom first, as revealed to us through His Word (the Bible), and as we develop our skills to serve the Lord for His greater glory, we will examine everything we learn in context with God's word so that we can use acquired knowledge to further His purposes, rather than building up riches and achievements for ourselves in this temporary life. When making decisions about how to invest our time, we will evaluate how the activity in question complements this mission.

Our homeschool will focus on education in these areas:

- *Spiritual development:* Bible memorization, personal & family devotions, Godly character
- *Learning life skills:* manners, socialization, communication, good stewardship, responsibility
- *Learning practical skills:* reading, writing, grammar, math, art, music, speech, homemaking
- *Learning about our world* (history, science, geography) using the Bible as our standard of truth
- *Healthy physical development:* nutrition, exercise, hygiene, God's design for beauty, modesty
- *Developing our gifts:* strengthening those talents and areas of special interest that edify the Lord
- *Holy Spirit-inspired service:* Giving, volunteering, serving, witnessing, sharing

As parents, we will seek God to direct our paths through His revealed Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit. We also understand that although we will pursue God's best in accordance with His Word, we are sinners who fall short of the glory of God. Our goal isn't perfection or "arriving" to a state of accomplishment, but to live in constant pursuit of God's will, with Christ as our example.

If at any time we feel led to make changes to our plans, we will do so immediately without being bound by traditional school calendars or concern about "wasting" money. All purchases will be made carefully & prayerfully. Whenever possible, we will sell curriculum that we no longer use. We will also regularly evaluate all enrichment activities and cooperative schooling we participate in, and if necessary, discontinue anything that doesn't support our mission.

Scriptural Foundation:

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
— Proverbs 22:6

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." — Proverbs 3:5-6

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" — Mark 8:36

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."
— Matthew 6:33

“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” —Deuteronomy 6:6-9

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” — Psalm 119:105

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” — Romans 3:23

“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” — Psalm 119:11

“And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” — Joshua 24:15

“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.” — Psalm 139:13-16

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ — Matthew 28:18-20

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” — 1 Corinthians 12:4-10

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. ... Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

— Matthew 7:13-14, 24-27