



## Additional Information

### **The waves that may come your way... how your anchors will hold you fast**

A famous track coach once noted, “I had as many doubts as anyone else. Standing on the starting line, we’re all cowards.” I imagine that could be said of anyone starting any new endeavor, don’ ya think? There’s this huge unknown sprawling out in front of you— and there are probably going to be a gazillion reasons you’ll find to doubt what you’re doing or excuses to find for turning around and giving up.

That’s what we’re going to combat together today! Let’s look at a few of the big waves you’re likely to encounter along the way, so you’ll be on the lookout for them and have some idea of how to overcome them. Obviously, I can’t go through everything here, and that’s one of the main reasons I encourage you to join us in Teach Them Diligently 365. There, you’ll find weapons and resources to use against all these stormy situations, plus, you’ll be able to discuss any issues you may have with others who are eager to encourage you

and pray for you as you move faithfully forward.

The situations and questions we’re going to discuss are not in any certain order or importance... I just want to give you a heads up about some of the most common issues you’ll want to be aware of. Starting with...

How can I possibly tell my mom? Or how can I deal with it if my mom disapproves?

This was absolutely one of my big fears when we started out, and though I have always had a great relationship with my mom, I dreaded having this conversation with her.

We have to remember that generally-speaking, our moms (and dads) grew up in a very different world than we’re living in today. In our family, my mom’s memories of public high school included prayers in school, deep friendships, safety, and a sense of fun. Although she was never outwardly

against our homeschooling the children, it did take a while for her to actually see the fruit of our labors, and it took a lot of news stories that she had never paid much attention to before for her to be appalled at what was the new reality in schools today. Now, she sees a group of 4 children who are incredibly well-rounded, well-prepared, and conversant by the grace of God. She also sees a group of kids that's so tight knit they're a joy to be around, so she's now staunchly in favor of home education.

But that initial conversation won't be the only pressure point you may encounter with your mom (or Aunt Sarah, or a busy-body neighbor, or whatever...) You're likely to be peppered with questions for a long time that you're natural inclination will be to recoil from or even to get irritated that you'd be asked those things.

Through the years, I \*\*realized\*\* when my mom would ask me things or question what I was doing— that \*\*she was led by love for my children as well\*\*. She, too, wants what's best for them. Yeah, we can make the case all day that they're OUR children, so the decision is OURS alone, but a little

humility and seeing things from her perspective really goes a long way towards maintaining relationships and gaining her stamp of approval. (Don't forget that you may have thought you were crazy, too, when you first started to consider homeschooling!)

Telling our mom... or inlaws... or great aunts who want to know everything that's going on... shouldn't be an overwhelming thing. Be confident in the reason you are planning to homeschool and bring them in on your way of thinking.\*\* Help them better understand your mission in what you're doing.\*\* Pray that the Lord will direct your reactions towards them and protect your heart and your children's hearts through it all. Learn what you can and share that with them.

Encourage them to come to homeschool events with you or to watch courses like this to learn more. \*\*Allow them time to process the change from what they had expected\*\*—after all, you're unlikely to host PTA meetings in your living room, for example. BUT, you can rock the field trip action!! Perhaps you can even send them “school pictures,” or samples of the children's work just to keep them involved and give them the

taste of their grandchildren's school they had been looking forward to. Who knows, it may not be too long before your mom starts to believe in homeschooling as much as you do. Although homeschooling is quite wide spread and mainstream today, it's unreasonable to think that everyone you come into contact with will be in favor of the way you're educating your children. After all, you're still going against what we're trained to believe is the only way! \*\*Opposition may come in a variety of forms, but every single objection or interaction opens a door for you— and how you choose to handle yourself in those situations can be used to bring glory to God. \*\*

\*\*You're also likely to get uncomfortable looks and comments from complete strangers when you're out and about with your children\*\*. It's rather funny when you think about it how many people become experts in educating other people's children in those moments. I've watched with both anxiety and amusement as a variety of strangers and acquaintances have peppered my children with questions in an attempt to stump them or show what I'm NOT teaching them as a homeschooler.

I have to tell you about one of my favorite "testing" moments through the years. I admit that my carnality definitely took hold as I smugly watched this go down. My mom was hosting a family celebration, and so we had a number of relatives that had come into town. One such relative worked for a large state university at the time and had graduated from public school with a lot of honors bestowed upon her, so she took it upon herself to question my 8th grade son in front of everyone.

She started tossing at him these very detailed science questions as though she was administering an exam. Without so much as batting an eye, Payton responded by explaining the concept she was badgering him about with incredible eloquence. In God's providence, and to my great relief, she chose a topic that he had just studied in a middle school chemistry class where he had studied about the mole (the measurement, not the animal.) He even had a song to sing for her to help her remember the facts about it. She didn't ask any of my children questions after that. :)

But you know what, that was an incredible testimony to her and the

other family members who were watching it all take place... as we were the only homeschoolers in the bunch. That Payton could give an answer to her ridiculous questions was a great testimony to them— not to the power of homeschooling, although for many I'm sure that was their takeaway— but to \*\*the power of God at work through out homeschool\*\*. That experience made for a great conversation among the kids and me the next morning, too. We giggled about it, but ultimately turned praise to God for His preparing Payton to give an answer for the exact question she would ask— see discipleship opportunities come in many shapes and sizes when you're homeschooling.

Like I noted before, the opposition will come in different forms from different people, and generally there is an arrogance involved in what they're throwing your way. I can't tell you how many times someone I didn't know at all has stopped me to tell me how sorry they are that I'm stuck at home with my kids all day— IN FRONT OF MY KIDS! Or, they'll tell my children how sorry they are for them that they're stuck at home all day with just their family.

You remember those relationships we've talked about all along the way— they come into play in moments like these. I have stood in awe time and time again as my children have responded to situations like this with grace and wisdom far beyond their years. From the very beginning, we have tried to help them understand our mission and why we're making the choices we're making— so they're on the same page with us. And the fact of the matter is, because we are so focused on mission and building and strengthening those relationships with them, our children really do enjoy homeschooling!

It doesn't take much for us to understand that as homeschooling families in the world today, we can't expect our countercultural choices to be met with cheers. We have broken the control the world's system has on our children and on our family, and therefore we will be watched pretty closely and honestly judged for that choice. For this and countless other reasons, \*\*it's really, really important that we live and homeschool in a way that is above reproach, always ready to show that we're doing things decently and in order— and according to the law that does govern us. \*\*

Sometimes, the opposition you'll feel will be internal. Oh, how often fear threatens to derail what we're doing, so we have to be on guard against that pressure point as well.

Fear is one of the greatest tools that Satan uses to keep us all back from doing what God has called us to do. It shows up in so many different ways—fear of failure, fear of what other people are gonna say, fear of how your children are gonna react to you, fear of letting your spouse down, even that often unspoken fear of losing your freedom!

There are so many different fears that will be likely to be thrown at you, honestly on any given day if you're like me. Because of those fears, we can easily get derailed and lose sight of our mission if we give into them, so I wanted to give you a few quick reminders now— and encourage you to dive a little deeper with me later to really explore how to attack fear. It's a much bigger concept than our time allows today.

Number 1— Remember that the One Who called you to embark on this mission is also equipping you and walking with you as you complete it.

You're not going alone. You, my friend, are doing this in the power of the God Who called you to this mission— and He tells us throughout scripture "Do not fear..." Why? Because God is with us! Focusing on our almighty, unchangeable God is a great way to move out of a state of fear.

The second reminder for you about fear is that we can't allow ourselves to be paralyzed by fear. And that is so, so easy to do. There have been times through the years that I became so keenly aware and focusing on the dangers, the pitfalls, what society says my kids are going to turn out like... I was so aware of those things that they truly paralyzed me. Fear of messing up, made me miss conversations I should have had with my children... which only led to more fear, because I felt they were unprotected in those situations. When you're driven by fear, it clouds your judgement and makes it really difficult to move forward with anything.

This is where keeping your eyes set, FIXED, on God every single day and honestly where bathing your day in prayer is so important. You cannot allow the fear of the unknown, the fear

of what you hear, the fear of what could be, to paralyze you and make you not able to do what you are called to do that very day. Included in the resources with this lesson is a prayer series about prayer that will go a long way towards helping you fix your eyes on God each day and overcome the stronghold fear has on you through casting your cares on Him.

And, don't forget the stress that come come in your marriage as we discussed already. Please, please, PLEASE—commit yourself now to not allowing your marriage to be a casualty of your decision to homeschool. I know we've already talked about being on the same page and investing in your marriage, so I'm making the assumption here that you are moving forward together... but even still, whoever is actually carrying the primary load of homeschooling will be amazed at how much that can take out of you. And, if you don't prioritize your marriage, you'll be amazed at

how quickly you can allow wedges to come between you, destroying trust and killing passion.

These are just a few of the pressure points you'll encounter. We haven't even discussed financial struggles, relational hiccups within your family, etc. But the principles we discussed today will be just as applicable to those. Be humble. Keep your eyes on Jesus, and bathe everything in prayer. God is faithful, and He is not alarmed by the pressure points that come your way. Trust and rest in Him and keep moving forward with the mission. You're made it to the end of Module 2— WHOO HOO!! I hope you're gaining really good insight that will help you stand strong as you start or restart your homeschool journey soon. In the next module, we'll be looking at all that's involved in striving for success within your homeschool. I can't wait to see you there!