

Work it Out... Bringing Your Children Into The Mission.



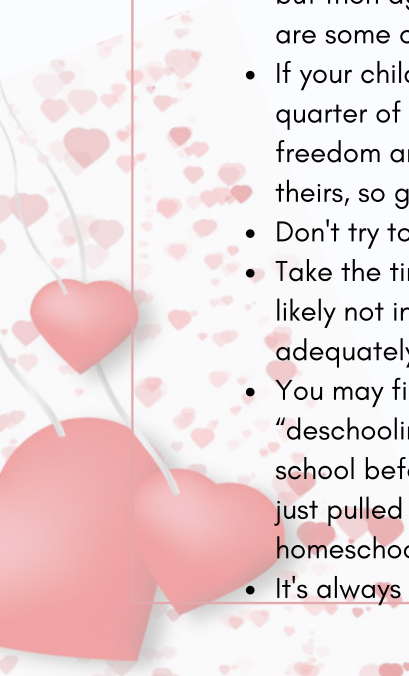
How to get the most out of this worksheet...

- *Take time to watch the corresponding video first. Grab a journal or open a fresh online document and start working these questions out. These worksheets are not editable by design-- rather, they give you a little room for brainstorming before you take to really working out your vision and dreams for your family.*
- *Really take time to think through the questions here and thoughtfully answer each one. The questions are here to help you think through things that you may not have taken the time to truly consider before, and you'll be amazed at how much clarity you'll get just by stopping to write down what's in your heart for your children*

Remember that God can work in your children's hearts just as He did in yours, but also don't lose sight of the fact that you're not dealing with an adult— you're talking to a child, whose perspective is so much more limited than yours. Be gracious. Get their ideas for what they'd like to see regarding homeschooling. Work together on some of the specifics, so they feel like you're taking their feelings and thoughts into consideration. Being listened to by mom and dad while they're young goes a LONG WAY towards building super strong relationships with your children as teenagers and young adults— AND it will start your homeschool off on the right foot.

Before you start writing, let's review some of the important points from this lesson:

- You are about to be given the gift of a LOT more time to spend investing in your child and building on your relationship with him. Be sincere and transparent with your child. Let them know why you're doing what you're doing and what you hope to gain by it.
- Get your children engaged in the mission in whatever way is appropriate at their age and stage.
- There is no checklist for homeschooling that made it super easy and similar for everyone... but then again, since the completely personalized nature and freedom of homeschooling are some of its strong suits, would we REALLY want a checklist to follow?!?
- If your children have been in "traditional" school, and especially if they spent the last quarter of school "learning at home," you'll want to help them make the transition to the freedom and awesomeness of homeschooling. It could definitely rock your world and theirs, so give yourself plenty of time to make that adjustment.
- Don't try to recreate school at home.
- Take the time to get to know your children better. Remember, up to this point, you've most likely not interacted with them in this exact way, so allow yourself enough time to adequately transition into your new educational arrangement by spending time together.
- You may find yourselves in a situation where you need to start school with a little bit of "deschooling." If your children have had a rough time with however you have approached school before, whether you were homeschooling with the wrong focus and heart or you just pulled your children out of a traditional school environment, the first step in your new homeschool year may simply be to change their perception of what school is.
- It's always a good idea to kick off the school year by reading aloud together... a lot!



Have you already started bringing your children into the mission? As you are agreeing together on your "why," and constructing your mission statement, start talking to your children about it. Help them also get a vision for what you're doing as a family. I can't overstate the power in doing that! As they get older, the decisions you are making will make a lot more sense to them in context of the over all mission. Plus, you're likely to find that they will also start making decisions in light of that great mission. Brainstorm some ideas to kick off this year with all your eyes on the goal. A fall retreat was awesome for us... perhaps something like that would work for you! I'd love to hear what you come up with!



When you all understand your mission, take some time to see how your children think your school could be set up to best accomplish that mission. Through the years, some of our best ideas have come from the "mouths of babes," and when the ideas are theirs anyway, they're way more likely to buy in wholeheartedly! It's a Win-Win!

**Give lots of grace on those first days of school.
This is uncharted territory for everyone. Don't push too hard. Don't
plan too much. Relax. Breathe.
Don't fret if you start later than you planned.
You're learning, remember.
They're learning.
TOGETHER, you'll find your way to a new routine soon enough—
cherish these precious moments and don't worry about the small
stuff that doesn't seem picture perfect in the moment!**

