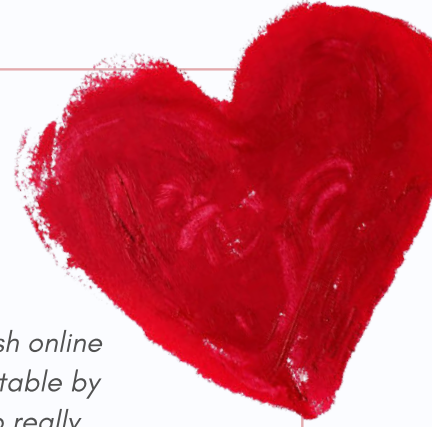


Work it Out... Co-ops, Extracurriculars, and Opportunities.



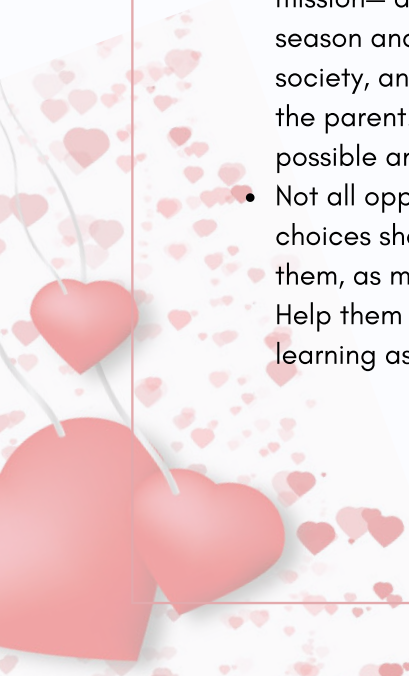
How to get the most out of this worksheet...

- 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

The opportunities afforded our children are truly endless— so endless, in fact, that they CAN become a problem if we're not on mission. Remember that every single decision you make regarding your homeschool needs to safely tether to the anchor of your mission and should be weighed in light of that— does it support your mission or does it make it harder to accomplish your mission? Keep that in mind as you evaluate all the opportunities that come your way.

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

- The opportunity to share ideas and experiences with other like-minded families is a valuable benefit of being surrounded by those who understand you and are walking the same path as you are.
- Your mission statement should be considered when you're choosing a co-op and what opportunities and extra-curriculars your children participate in. It can give you a lot of clarity as you're making choices between good choices and best choices for your family.
- When you find yourself in a season when your life is too busy and chaotic to focus on your mission— and I almost guarantee you will! — take a step back and see what fits for this season and what needs to be put on the back burner. We live in a children's-desire-driven society, and every parent wants to give good things to our kiddos. But, we also have to be the parent. We have to be the ones that help them understand that not everything is possible and sometimes they have to learn to wait.
- Not all opportunities should be a YES in all seasons. The process of making these tough choices should include great conversations with your children all along the way. Help them, as much as you can, understand your thought process. Bring them into the why. Help them think in terms of your family's mission statement. Teach them what you're learning as you do the same— that's all part of preparing them to be adults one day!



You probably have a lot of great co-ops and groups available to you in your area. If you are not already in one-- or if you didn't go through this exercise before you joined, take a bit of time to evaluate if the group is in line with your mission. Check out their website, statement of faith if they have one, ask good questions and find out what your children would be exposed to if they participated with that group.



Remember that time inventory we did? Are there things on that sheet-- obligations that you have taken on possibly in the wrong season because you want so much for your child? That's a noble reason-- and we all are prone to do that, but I encourage you to seriously evaluate if that is best for your child right now. If you are frazzled, running in so many directions that you aren't available or approachable, aren't investing in their lives, aren't having the same deep conversations, and maybe aren't even spending the time needed to truly educate them well, you may need to start making some hard decisions about what you're involved in. Remember, though, to include your children in the process-- let them pray with you about it, and allow God to grow them through the process as well. It can be a great discipleship tool!

I am SO PROUD of you!! You made it all the way through this course-- do you feel like you're ready now?

If you take nothing else from what we've talked about here, I want you to remember this-- **Since it's the creator God Who has called you to Teach Your Children Diligently, you were literally CREATED for this!!** By focusing on your mission-- and making every decision, whether it's big or small-- with that mission in mind, you'll find a lot of clarity and peace will come to your family.

Homeschooling families are among the most blessed I know, because they have the time and setup within their homes to truly get to know their children deeply and to invest all they have into pointing them towards Jesus and preparing them to serve Him one day. There is nothing you can do that's more important than that!

So, be encouraged! Be excited! Be ready! And be prepared to see God work in mighty ways in the days ahead. He's really good like that!