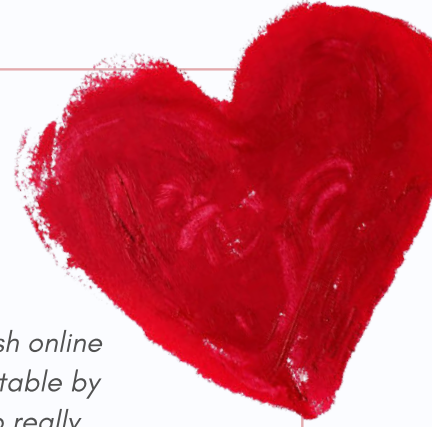


# Work it Out... Gaining Confidence Through Relationships.



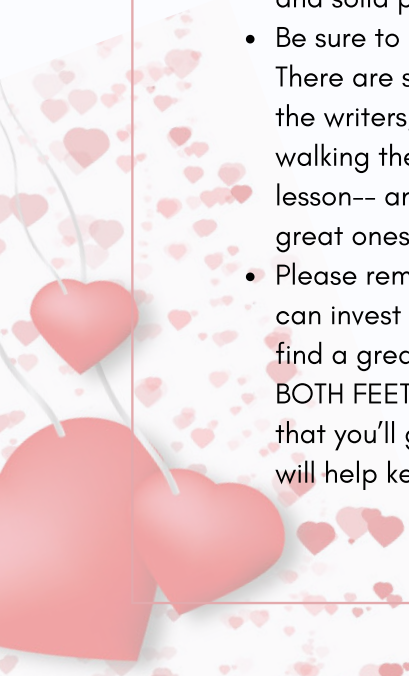
## How to get the most out of this worksheet...

- 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

You were NOT created to walk alone. You were created to live in fellowship, to be part of a group, to have friends, mentors, and others around you to carry your burdens and allow you to help them carry theirs, as Galatians 6 reminds us. Satan, the roaring lion that he is, would love nothing more than to have you feel isolated and alone. We've all seen enough wildlife videos to understand that the animal that wanders off from the safety of the pack is most vulnerable-- and our enemy certainly trades on that fact.

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

- If we're not proactive, homeschool moms and dads can easily fall into an isolation that almost overwhelms us because we are often walking a different path than many of our local friends and church family, so it's easy to feel like you're on the outside looking in sometimes.
- It's very important that we find people who understand us and the life we're choosing to lead for the sake of our family.
- It's important that we connect with others who'll invest in us and give us biblical counsel and solid practical advice.
- Be sure to exercise a lot of discernment as you sort through books, blogs, and feeds. There are some EXCELLENT influencers out there, and I'll be happy to point you to some of the writers, bloggers, and Instagram feeds that are definitely seasoned and have been walking the walk, so to speak, for a while now. Check out the list included with this lesson-- and feel free to send me a note with others to add. We're always looking for great ones to recommend!
- Please remember that isolating yourself instead of surrounding yourself with friends that can invest in your life and you in theirs is a recipe for failure. Pray that God will help you find a great support group both locally and virtually and plug in-- I'm talking JUMP IN WITH BOTH FEET! Glean everything you can. Grow, share, laugh, and explore. The confidence that you'll gain that way will absolutely overflow into the way you homeschool-- and that will help keep you on mission in the days ahead.



Think about the families you know that are a little farther along the path than you are. What do you notice about their children. David and I learned a LOT about parenting (both the good and the bad, to be honest) from watching those who were just a bit ahead of us and making notes about what we did and did not want to emulate. Are you a family studier, too? What are some of the things you have picked up on in your study-- things that you think would be well within your mission and things that you think you should avoid?



Is there a homeschool mom or dad you know that you could sit down with to ask your questions? With this lesson, I have included a sheet of questions you may want to consider, but I imagine the ones you come up with for your own family and your own circumstances will be even better. Pick up the phone and set a time to get together! I imagine your friend would be thrilled to help!

Who are the friends that you can approach to be your tight accountability and fellowship partners? You know, the friends who really get you and where you are in your mission. Identifying and investing in friendships like that go a long way towards making you successful in your mission-- and they can offer some great memory-making opportunities as well. When our children were younger, two of my dear friends and I set up a rotation where every week, their families would come to my house for school one day. Two of us moms would stay home and did school, lunch, and play with the kids while the other had the day off to do WHATEVER SHE WANTED!! It was the greatest experiment ever! If you got to go out, it was so refreshing and invigorating... if you stayed in, you had a day of fellowship with a dear friend, which was also refreshing and invigorating! I highly recommend setting up some sort of a routine like this. The kids loved it, and when our children were young, it gave the three of us much needed adult conversation in the midst of it. What ideas could you and your friends incorporate into your lives?

