



14 Days of Inspiration

Devotional for Homeschoolers



For the **heart** of your
homeschool

14 Days of Inspiration to Start Your Homeschool Day Off Right

The decision to homeschool your children is a big decision, and like all decisions it comes with responsibility and purpose. Homeschooling can be full of laughter and joy as you watch your child blossom and grow, but it can also be draining and lonely if you don't have the support you need.

Our goal is to equip on your homeschool journey. We want you to know that you are not alone, no matter how isolated you may feel. Thousands of families are traveling this same road with you - be encouraged!

This short 14 day inspirational devotional is meant to jump start your day before you begin. We urge you to start your day immersed in His Word so that you are meditating on His words while you go about your day! **Remember that God has called you to homeschool, so He will give you all the tools that you need on this journey!**

Starting each day by focusing my heart and mind on Christ and on why I do what I do has a profound effect on my entire day. These short devotionals are written to help and encourage you to start your days that way as well! ~ Leslie Nunnery

Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."



DAY 1

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 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.

You have a critically important job! The opportunity to teach your children to love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, and might is arguably THE MOST IMPORTANT job in this world, for you are training future leaders and world changers. You are shepherding hearts. You are educating a generation of believers that will almost certainly have to be well-grounded in their faith in order to stand. There is no one else in this world that can reach the hearts of your children in the same way you can, for God chose YOU to be their mama. What an amazing truth!

Do you ever get weary in what you do? Me, too! I think that Satan knows that if he can turn our eyes onto ourselves and make us focus on how weary we actually are that he can render us less effective in our mission. Why do you think he would care so much about our little family that he would even mess with us? It is because he knows that for every child who grows up loving and desiring to serve God wholeheartedly, his job in the future becomes even harder. Satan is not pleased at all with the discipleship you are doing day in and day out. (And, being the rascal that I am, knowing that I am making the old deceiver angry makes me very happy!)

Today's encouragement is simple: Relish your task! Thank God for the great calling He has given you. Focus on those young hearts today that you get to shepherd and see how the weariness that you have been feeling can fade to excitement in the mission of teaching your children diligently!!

Dear Lord,

Thank You for allowing me the privilege to teach my children diligently. Help me to keep that task ever before me, and not to grow weary in well-doing. Give me energy and wisdom for the task that sometimes seems so beyond my ability. I pray with the Psalmist today that you will fulfill that which You have called me to do and that You will not forsake the work of Your hands.

Amen.



DAY 2

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

When we brought our first child home from the hospital we were in awe of this little human being that God had created through us. Like all new parents we had a steep learning curve, but with time, encouragement, and love we traveled the parenting highway step by step.

We are instructed by God to train up our children, to teach them right from wrong, to know God, and to have a good relationship with them. A great place to start training your children to know God is **to model prayer with them**. Children are enthusiastic and their faith has no bounds - so introducing prayer is a wonderful way to introduce your children to their Heavenly Father!

Start each homeschool day with prayer. Rejoice in the day, thank God for the blessings of your children, and petition Him for your cares. Pray out loud so your children can hear your voice, and through your voice, hear your relationship with Jesus. Then, allow your child to pray as well. Help him to grow comfortable conversing with His Heavenly Father. Starting your homeschool day with prayer accomplishes much. A day that starts with a focus on seeking the face and will of God for that day tends to run much smoother. We have noticed that not only do we accomplish more on the days we start with prayer, but we also have better interactions within the family. It is all about your focus!

What a powerful beginning to training up your child! Did you know that you can download a [Free prayer guide](#) for moms through our website? We pray that it will be a great help to you and your family. Do you have other ways you have found to incorporate prayer time with your children into your day? I would LOVE to hear about them! Send me an email to LSNunnery@teachthemdiligently.net to share your ideas. It would be great if I could compile a list to share with other Teach Them Diligently families.

Dear Lord,

Thank You for a new day. Thank You for the blessings that You have given us so graciously. I pray that You would watch over me today as I teach my children. Give me words that will reach their hearts, and help them to grow closer to You. Help us as a family to seek Your face in prayer as a vital part of our routine.

Amen.



DAY 3

Titus 2:1

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.

Why? Why is sound doctrine so important for us to teach? The Apostle Paul urges us to teach it, but why should we base our homeschool days on this verse?

Sound doctrine is important because our FAITH is based on the fact that Jesus Christ died for our sins and that through His death we gain eternal life with Him. This is the basis of the entire Gospel story!! Change even a teeny part of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the basis of our faith shifts.

Sound doctrine is important because we believe in the MESSAGE of the Gospel as it is woven throughout scripture. We believe the accounts of creation, the miracles, the flood, the wandering in the desert, and every other detail noted in the Bible. To discount a part of these teachings is to discount the Lord God himself!

Sound doctrine is important because it helps us know TRUTH. In this crazy world, the ability to know truth from falsehood, good from evil is so very important. Impressing upon your children the correct way to Jesus Christ will set them on the path He has laid before them.

Sound doctrine is important because at the end of it is LIFE. *“Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing, you will save both yourself and your hearers.” 1 Timothy 4:16*

The Bible should be the rock your homeschool days are built on. Begin with His Word and end with His Word. Show your children the miracles that God performed and share with them how much Jesus loved them!

Dear Lord,

Thank You for today. Thank you for Your amazing love - so much love that You gave Your Son to bring salvation and hope to this broken world. Help me today as I share Your love with my children and with others You bring across my path. I pray that Your love, grace, and healing hand will be felt as our world struggles to find You.

Amen.



DAY 4

Romans 12:6-7

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;

When I was in high school, my guidance counselor suggested I take a series of tests to determine what exactly I should major in when I attended college. Every test I took came back and said that my strength was in teaching. The irony was, teaching was the last thing I wanted to do. Just the thought of getting up in front of a group of children made me nauseous. Instead I chose vocal performance and never gave teaching another thought, until we had children and idea of sending my girls to public school made my throat tight.

God 's plan is always best, though! He knew, way back when my 17 year old self had her whole future mapped out, that eventually I would be teaching! Thankfully I'm not teaching a classroom full of children, but I am teaching my girls and trying to keep my 18 month old out of the craft closet while I do.

Every single person has special gifts from God, and no two gifts are the same! My gifts of encouragement, organization and learning are the perfect complement to teach my daughters, just as YOUR gifts are exactly what you need to teach your children. If you don't know what your gifts are, call a friend (or text, or email, or facebook - you get the idea!). Ask them what they believe your strengths are, and then you can build your homeschool up from there.

God always puts in our hands exactly what we need to do His will. Don't be afraid to use your gifts and talents in ways that you feel are a stretch! God gives grace for every hour, and His plans for you are way better than anything you would have ever imagined.

Dear Lord,

Thank You for today. Thank You for making me the person You have created me to be. Help me to embrace the gifts that You have given to me. Help me use these gifts as I nurture and teach my children. Give me boldness to live for You and to offer what You have put in my hands to Your service.

Amen.



DAY 5

Deuteronomy 32:2

May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb.

Have you ever had a day when nothing is going as planned? I have, and believe me I was counting the minutes until Daddy came home so I could go lock myself in the bathroom and have a good cry.

Sometimes we assume that as Christians we will have easy days, and we wonder if we are being punished when things go bad. God never promises us happiness, success, or health - but what He does promise is to never leave us, forsake us, or forget us. He promises to refine us, to strengthen us and to love us. Those are promises that we can cling to on the days that are never ending.

So the next time the washer breaks down when you have a week's worth of laundry to do, or the toddler redecorates your bathroom with toilet paper and shampoo, or your six year old wants to pour their own milk and dumps the gallon on the floor - remember the promises that God made to you.

Keep your words gentle. Yes, discipline needs to be taught, but it can be taught gently with love, instead of with shouting and tears. Laugh at the mess (no crying over spilled milk, right?) and thank them for trying to be a helper.

Don't believe for a second that God is punishing you by breaking your washer, or think that He has forgotten you when you lock yourself in the bathroom for a good cry.

God LOVES you!! He does - and it's in the messy that He meets us. Every single time.

Dear Lord,

Thank You for today. Thank You for grace, for patience and for your everlasting love. Help me to emulate Your love with my children, especially when I am short on time and patience. Be near me today and guide my words and my actions.

Amen.



DAY 6

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

I am a very independent person. I like to do things my way, and I like to have everything planned out just the way I like it. When we decided to homeschool, I went out and bought a planner and filled it in from September through May (in pen!) with everything planned out in our days from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Every. Single. Day. (I feel like I can hear you snickering from here!!) :)

I don't think that lasted a week! What I forgot to factor in on my planning was LIFE. Our first week we had a new baby arrive, our van needed repairs and suddenly my well thought out days went out the window. I learned quickly that we needed to be able to go with the flow and that sometimes even the best intentioned plans need to take a back seat to everyday life.

As you begin to plan out your homeschool, make sure to ask the Lord what He would have you teach. Perhaps you should add in a Bible study, or learn about Egypt or figure out a way for your five year old to understand a math concept. Pray about your planning and listen as He instructs you.

It's also very helpful to ask your spouse and your children as well. Your spouse may have a new perspective on what could be a great study, and your children will probably tell you exactly what they want to learn about! (Mine are on a dinosaur kick). An amazing perk of homeschooling is that we can tailor our lessons to our children! You can make any subject fun, as long as your child is interested in it.

God speaks to us in many ways: through answers to prayer, through a still small voice, through the eyes of a spouse, or through the lips of a child. Listen, and then plan.

Dear Lord,

Thank You for today. Be with me and guide me as I plan out our lessons. Help me to listen to You, to my spouse and to my children. Help me make learning fun and engaging for them, so that they will come to love learning about Your world as much as I do!

Amen.



DAY 7

Psalm 32:8

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

While you are teaching your children how to write, solve math problems, and read, you are also teaching them life skills - how to listen, to help others, and to obey His words. There are some days when the idea of teaching your children from the moment they wake until the time they go to bed is daunting, but it doesn't have to be.

We are called to teach our children diligently in the way of the Lord. We are to nurture them, instruct them, and guide them to listen to His teachings and to obey His laws. We are setting in place the building blocks for their lives on a firm foundation with the Bible as the cornerstone. If you are troubled or feel that you don't have the right tools to instruct your children, that is a lie. God has given these precious children to you because you are the perfect parent for them!

Our Lord is a loving God. As you go about your day instructing your children, make sure you do so with a loving tone. We want to build our children up, not tear them down. We want to celebrate the uniqueness that is them, not point out their flaws.

Even in discipline, you need to keep a gentle and loving tone. Our God did not thunder at us when we went astray, instead He sent a Shepherd to gently and lovingly guide us back to Him.

Dear Lord,

Thank You for today. Thank You for the precious children You have entrusted to me. Guide my words and my actions, Lord, as I strive to teach them Your ways and Your laws. Curb my tongue and help me to speak with words that will build my children up, instead of tearing them down. Help me to set them on a firm foundation with Your Word as the cornerstone.

Amen.



DAY 8

Proverbs 31:28

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.

Ahhh...the Proverbs 31 Woman. The woman to whom we all compare ourselves at one point or another. I remember reading these verses for the first time as a new mother, and I never felt more inadequate.

She brings good will towards her husband, she spins, she bakes, she handles finances, she is wise, she is beautiful, she is noble...the virtues list of the Proverbs 31 woman goes on. For many years I would skip over the verses extolling the wonders of the Proverbs 31 Woman, thinking I could never measure up.

I was wrong.

The Proverbs 31 woman isn't meant to make us feel inadequate. These verses are meant to encourage wives and mothers to become the best that you can be using the gifts and talents that the Lord has blessed you with. Honor your husband, love and praise your children. Use gentle words and a calm tone. Be frugal and careful with your finances. Plan your meals. Be wise with your shopping. Take care of your family.

We all have the capability to be the Proverbs 31 Woman! Remember that God has created us in His image, and we are all unique - so why do we try to become the same woman? We can't. But we can become the very best wife and mother we can be!

Dear Lord,

Thank you for today. Help me to see the person that you created me to be. Help me as I work to support my family - make me a helpmeet to my spouse and a loving encouragement to my children. I pray that I may continue to grow in my faith as your child.

Amen.



DAY 9

Proverbs 4:13

Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life.

Think back to your own school age days. Perhaps you went to public school, private school, or you were homeschooled. Think back on the first time a teacher made an impression on your learning. For me, it was Kindergarten, and it was while we were learning the Letter People. The Letter People were these huge letters that made sounds and were different colors and to a five year old they were super cool. The moment that stands out for me was when my teacher showed us the letter A.

I was enthralled because not only was it the first letter of my name, but it was my favorite color green! I remember tracing my letters so carefully and then running into my kitchen to show my parents my work. A singing, dancing letter A made me want to learn more.

It's important to think back on a time when the light bulb went on in your head. Learning should be fun! Many times when we are teaching our children we get caught up in what we *need* to be teaching, that we lose sight of the wonder of learning! We want our children to love learning and we want to be able to tailor their education to their specific needs, which is an amazing perk of homeschooling.

While you are teaching your child math, science and reading, be sure to ground them in God's Word. Help them to see the wonder in the world around them. Open their eyes to the miracles that happen every day, and they will grow up thirsting not only for God's word, but a thirst for continually learning!

Dear Lord,

Thank You for today. Help me as I teach my children about Your world and Your mighty works. Empower me to show my children Your works and help them see the miraculous world around them that You have created.

Amen.



DAY 10

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

I love this verse! We are called to share Jesus Christ's message as we teach our children with wisdom, through Bible verses and music, singing to God with our whole hearts.

What a great picture - a homeschool day where your child sits still, listens to you, and completes their work without complaining. It sounds magical, doesn't it?

While I would love to encourage you that most of our homeschool days are like that, in truth they aren't. My oldest daughter needs extra encouragement with reading and it takes her forever to complete her copywork. My middle child has a very short attention span and is more likely to be spinning around the table singing her ABC's instead of sitting and writing them. Meanwhile the 19 month old is emptying cupboards as fast as I can fill them, I forgot to turn the crockpot on and the washer is filled with 2 day old laundry. Real life is messy and crazy, and it's easy to forget that we are called to praise Him with singing daily.

The truth is, no homeschool day will ever be perfect - but your attitude can be. When you encounter obstacles, stop and pray. When you are feeling overwhelmed, stop and sing. Let your children see you model prayer and praise - and soon they will be praying and praising the Lord alongside you!

Take a moment and write out a list of your favorite hymns and/or praise songs and post it where you can see it on a daily basis. I have ours on the fridge, printed in brightly colored paper. I've added songs to our list and crossed out some older ones. Having these hymns close at hand helped me to sing right when I feel like crying. You will find a nice list of Daystarter verses on our blog as well as some very helpful prayer resources: [Daystarter Verses](#) and [Prayer Resources](#)

Teaching your child prayer and worship should be a foundation of your homeschool day!

Dear Lord,

Thank You for today. I'm so grateful for the amazing gifts that You have given to me, and I pray that I would be able to teach my children Your Words as we go about our homeschool journey. Be near me today, I pray.

Amen.



DAY 11

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

When we made the decision to homeschool our children, we discovered that we were constantly defending our decision over and over. Family and friends were perplexed that we would chose to keep our children home and go against the *norm* that was all around us.

In the beginning I was excited to explain our decision and had no trouble repeating our reasoning, but soon I was discouraged with all the negativity and the judgment that we were facing. I began to avoid talking about homeschool and learned to nod along with conversations about public school. I wasn't ashamed of homeschooling, but I was tired of constantly defending what I felt was a personal decision.

Sound familiar? It never ceases to amaze me how crazed the debate between homeschool vs private school vs public school can get! I really believe that people are so ingrained to do what is familiar, that the idea of changing to an unfamiliar path can be downright scary. I realized that instead of standing strong on the decision we made with God's leading, I was constantly trying to measure up to the very people who were so negative. I was trying to live IN the world, instead of living IN His Word.

Yikes!! The very reason I wanted to homeschool our children was to ground them in His Word, to make the Bible the foundation of our homeschool, and instead of standing firm in His promises I was worried about what people around us thought of our decision. Through prayer and encouragement we have arrived where we have a good homeschool support system and a good network with friends who are in the public school system. We have been able to bridge the divide and watch God work!

If you are feeling defeated, picked on, or persecuted about your homeschool decision - remember that you are NOT in this alone! God has led you on this journey, and He's not finished yet!

Dear Lord,

Thank You for today! Thank You for going before us on our homeschool journey and laying the path before us. Help us to follow Your path, and to take a step of faith when we can't see what lies in front of us.

Amen.



DAY 12

Titus 2:7-8

Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

In everything, set an example by doing what is GOOD. Not what is easy or what is normal, but what is GOOD.

To do good means to do something morally excellent, virtuous, righteous and/or pious. When God created the world, He said at the end of every day that “it was GOOD.” Our example of doing good works was set in place thousands of years ago, but we only need to look in the opening chapters of Genesis to read for ourselves:

And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. ~ Genesis 1:31

We ask our children to do a good job - so we as parents need to model what a good job is. A good job doesn't have to be perfect, pretty, or huge. You can model good works for your children in your day-to-day routine.

Show your children good works when you wash dishes, make lunch, fold the millionth load of laundry, wash the dog, vacuum the carpet, or mop the floor. Encourage your child to do their best in everything they try - and cheer them on! Remember that they will fall short (as we all do!) and remind them to try again using their best effort.

Read the creation story with them and show them where God says “it is good” at the end of the day. Encourage them to spend their days doing the best they can, so that when they lay down at the end of the day they are able to say it was a good day.

Dear Lord,

Thank You for today and for this wonderful world that You have created. I pray that You would be glorified through us today as we work toward doing good works in all things. Help me to be patient and use positive words to encourage my children as they grow in their faith.

Amen.



DAY 13

Deuteronomy 11:19

You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

One of the main reasons we decided to homeschool our children was so that we could base their learning on Biblical principles, but that isn't always the easiest path and with a single misstep we can be led astray from what we are trying to do.

Before there were formal schools, children were taught by their parents - and even after formal schools were established some children were taught at home. Just like a brand new parent, homeschooling comes with a learning curve, but you can absolutely come out on top.

You taught your child to talk, sit up, crawl, walk, run, draw, color and imagine. You taught them how to sing, to ride a bike, to hold hands and how to cross the street. You teach them daily how to pray, how to be a good steward of your home, how to care for pets, how to love each other, and so much more.

Teach your child the same way that Jesus taught us - with love, compassion and a firm knowledge that you are following God's teachings. Be firm in your faith, and your child will see that. Nourish your prayer life and your child will watch you grow. Be open in your struggles and your child will learn to work to succeed.

Jesus has given us all the tools we need to educate our children at home - we just need to look to him, ask for direction and trust His teachings.

Dear Lord,

Thank You for today. I'm nervous Lord, that I'm not the right teacher for my children. I know You have given me these children because I am the perfect mother for them, and because they are the perfect children for me. Be near me as I strive to impress your words and truth upon them, and help me to be the best teacher that I can be for Your glory.

Amen.



DAY 14

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The Apostle Paul was an amazing teacher. He was so grounded in his faith, positive that his call was exactly what God had planned for him to do that even in prison he never faltered. The end of this prayer urging the Gentiles to know Jesus and begin a good relationship with him is simple and heartfelt. Paul felt the urgency that without sharing the good news of the Gospel many people would die and never know the Living God, Jesus Christ.

As you go about your homeschool days, remember Paul. His fire and thirst for Jesus are an inspiration to us all, especially on the days when everything is going wrong and you are questioning where you went wrong on your homeschool journey.

Stand strong! Have faith! Be firm in your convictions! The Lord God himself has called you to homeschool your children. He has already gone before you on this journey. He knows every misstep, every leap of faith, every tear and every cheer. He is rooting for you to succeed!

Jesus loves you. Jesus loves your children. Jesus wants only the best for you! He never promised that this life would be easy, but He did promise us that we will never walk alone, and that, my friend, is an amazing gift. Even in our weakest moments we are not alone!

Dear Lord,

Thank You for today. Thank You for Paul and his faithful service to you. Help me, like Paul, to be on fire for you! I pray that I may spread Your Word and love to my children, and that they in turn will spread Your Word and love to others. Cover us in blessings as we work for Your kingdom.

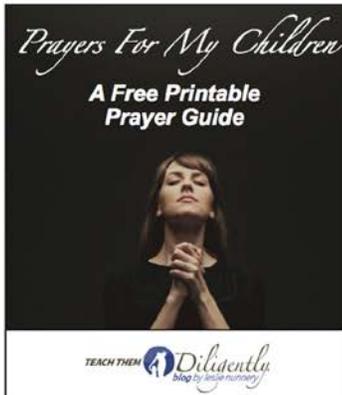
Amen.



We would like to give special thanks to Aurelia Good for her work on this ebook. You can learn more about Aurie and her "Good Life" on her [website](#).

Check out these helpful resources too!

Free Prayer Guide



Verses that help guide you as you pray for your children each day. These are things you would want to pray for yourself, your husband and your friends as well.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Teach Them Diligently 365



TTD 365, a place to receive reliable homeschool information in bite-sized portions --complete with an easy to follow schedule.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Homeschool Conference



Register for Teach Them Diligently Convention to enjoy fellowship and encouragement to give you the boost you need to keep on the path God has called you to.

[CLICK HERE](#)

If you don't find what you need, feel free to send us an email at office@teachthemdiligently.net or give us a call at 1-800-223-9491.

