



WORKSHOP Descriptions

Thursday, May 31, 2018

HOMESCHOOLING 101 MINI-CONFERENCE

1:00-2:00 p.m.

What's This All About and Where Do I Begin?

Polly Lilly

This workshop will help you think through the important steps needed to successfully homeschool. Polly will include how to overcome some of the challenges and challenging questions that many will meet as beginning homeschoolers. The diverse approaches to homeschooling will be presented as well as examples and stories from her 17 years of home educating her children and 6 years as a supervising teacher. Polly will cover some common roadblocks and misconceptions about “what school should look like” and also discuss many of the stages that homeschool families experience as they walk through the years. Resources will be shared, with time for interaction and questions as well.

2:15-3:15 p.m.

Homeschooling with Confidence: Understanding Iowa's Homeschool Law

Scott Woodruff

Everything you need to know about the Iowa homeschool law so you can homeschool with confidence. Home School Legal Defense Association attorney Scott Woodruff will offer a thorough presentation of the basics for beginners, with time for veterans to ask their unanswered questions.

3:30-4:30 p.m.

Can Homeschooling Really Turn Out Well?

Homeschool Graduate Panel

Wondering if students can emerge from a homeschool education with the skills they need to function in the real world? Can home-educated students succeed? Hear the answers from the mouths of homeschool graduates.

THURSDAY'S CHILD MINI-CONFERENCE

1:00-2:00 p.m.

Teaching Struggling Learners at Home: Nuts & Bolts for Success

Faith Berens

This workshop offers practical resources, lists of materials, and curricula to equip you as you work with a struggling learner in your homeschool. Faith explains multi-sensory teaching methods, direct instruction, modeled teaching, and “scaffolding” instruction. She also shares ideas for designing a unique home instruction program tailored to your child’s specific challenges.

2:15-3:15 p.m.

Developing and Drafting SEPs (Student Education Plans)

Faith Berens

Does your child have a learning disability or severe special needs? Have you pulled your child out of public school where he used to have an IEP (individual education plan)? Participants of this workshop learn the purposes and benefits of an SEP (student education plan), the homeschool version of an IEP. This workshop also provides guidance on drafting an SEP. Participants look at sample student education plans and receive a template of a Student Education Plan as well as a resource list of books that will assist them in drafting their own homeschool student education plan.

3:30-4:00 p.m.

Real-Life Stories from Parents Who Home Educate Special-Needs Students

Parent Panel

Wouldn't it be nice to hear the stories of real-life homeschooling parents who are educating children with special needs? Now you can! We've assembled just such a panel to share their experiences and answer your questions.

1:30-6:30 p.m.

Used Curriculum Sale & Small Business Expo – Free Admission for Shoppers

Friday, June 1, 2018

8:00 a.m. Conference Opens

8:15-8:45 a.m.

Grant Wood AEA Professional Development Activity Orientation Workshop
Iowa licensed teachers who have registered for our teacher credit course can attend this orientation workshop for information on the course. Attendance is optional for those who have participated in our AEA teacher credit courses in the past as long as 15 contact hours can still be obtained.

8:45-10:00 a.m. Friday Morning Keynote

Becoming MomStrong

Heidi St. John

Today's mothers are living in challenging times. We're facing things that our mothers could never have imagined. Many moms are struggling with fear of the future and worry about raising children in today's culture—but God says loud and clear, "Do not be afraid! Be strong and courageous!" Mom, you have a mission. Your mission (should you choose to accept it) is to raise the next generation of teachers, doctors, judges, police officers, grocery store clerks, attorneys, nurses—and parents. Yes! You are raising the next generation of parents. Look around. It doesn't take very long for one generation to hand the baton to the next. And, as mothers, we've got to be ready to prepare our children for whatever they may face as followers of Jesus Christ. Heidi will challenge us as she talks about what it will take to "Become MomStrong" —drawing on truths from God's Word to answer the tough questions this generation of kids is asking and prepare moms to meet the challenges head-on.

9:30 a.m. Conference Exhibit Hall Opens

10:30-11:30 a.m. Session I

Incorrigibly Cheerful: Finding Happiness that Lasts Beyond Circumstances

Eric Ludy

Christians ought to be the happiest people on earth. But somewhere in the generational transfer of historic Christianity the art of ever-and-always-joyful living seems to have been lost. This session was put together with the singular objective of bringing back the robust and vigorous joy to the believer - the sort of joy that sings songs in prison cells, shouts "victory" when being fed to wild beasts, leaps when falsely accused, and whispers love to those that spit in our faces.

Charlotte Mason and Her Methods

Sonya Shafer

Join Sonya for a practical and encouraging overview of the simple, yet effective, methods used in the Charlotte Mason approach. You will learn about Charlotte and experience using her methods for yourself during the session.

Taming the Techie Monster

Leah Neiman

No parent intentionally plans to let technology take over their home. Yet that's often what happens if we don't have a family plan for it. How do we approach technology in our homes so we raise kids who understand how to use it wisely and avoid dangers? What steps do we need to take to protect young children while on devices and computers? What are things we can do and share as parents so our kids always feel our home is their "safe haven"? Leah will share tips and guidelines for parents.

Am I Going to Survive This Strong-Willed Child?

Susan Lovig

Parenting isn't boring. It can threaten one's sanity, especially if the Lord has gifted you with a strong-willed child. Are you struggling through those early years of training with the 45-minute several-times-each-day battles? Have you been praying to the Lord, begging for a little insight, or at least a good idea? Come and be encouraged. Your strong-willed child has been specifically designed to change the world. Your task is to help them learn how to use their stubbornness for good - and not evil! The path is not easy, and no one can lessen the task ahead of you, but the rewards are incredible.

Five Areas Defeating Christian Young People

The Mally Family

How can we have Christ-centered families in an ungodly world? How can parents pass on a biblical foundation? In this session, the Mallys will share biblical answers to five areas which are defeating many Christian young people in today's world. They will share practical ways to encourage the next generation to be strong for the Lord in their youth, avoid rebellion during the teen years, and have direction for their life and ministry.

Homeschooling with Confidence: Understanding Iowa's Homeschool Law

Scott Woodruff

Everything you need to know about the Iowa homeschool law so you can homeschool with confidence. Home School Legal Defense Association attorney Scott Woodruff will offer a thorough presentation of the basics for beginners, with time for veterans to ask their unanswered questions.

Miracles in American History

William J. Federer

In times of crisis in America's past, leaders arose, calling the country to courage and faith. Hear fascinating stories from the French & Indian War, Revolution, Barbary Pirate Wars, War of 1812, Cholera Epidemic of 1849, Civil War, World War I & II, Apollo 13. You will be inspired and challenged!

What Every Student and Parent Should Know Before College

Daniel Currier

Is college in the future for your homeschooled student? Daniel Currier, of iApologia, wants you to consider that the college culture can promote and encourage many bad ideas. This talk address some of them and how parents and students should respond to them.

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall

Noon – 12:45 p.m. – Lunch with Exhibitors – Exhibitor Workshops – Session II

Training the Brain to Retain

Maria Wilkening, Classical Conversations

Knowledge is not only a beauty to observe, but also a treasure to own. We want to create a storehouse of knowledge for our children to keep for the rest of their lives. Proverbs 3:13-14

Make Colleges Want You

Gene Walter, OnToCollege with John Baylor

Colleges desperately want students with three essential attributes. These students earn top-dollar scholarships and graduate with minimal or no debt. Learn how your student can become part of this select status.

Tutoring: A Valuable Resource in Managing Your Home School

Jill Evola Vokt, Tutor Doctor

Private, personalized, and home school supportive tutors can bring relief to your schedule, expertise where it is needed, and an additional set of eyes and ears to help your student become a competent learner. Jill will explain how tutoring will benefit your family. She brings 35 years of teaching expertise, including 10 years of homeschooling, to the presentation.

The Importance of Play

Kris Kain, Discovery Toys

When we think of childhood, we often think of play. Yet, when we become homeschooling parents, we can sometimes shift our focus away from this important component of childhood. Kris Kain, with Discovery Toys, will help you to reconsider this important element in our children's lives and learning.

Writing with Rhythm: A Handwriting Curriculum that Works

Cathy Angel, Making Reading Heavenly

Come experience how to transform your child's handwriting proficiency! This curriculum enables your young writer to be fluent and neat. The program starts by helping students learn the letter names as they do whole body movements, write in the sky to enable them to learn the strokes, and finalize their learning by following a beat to get strokes on paper! In less than ten minutes per day, you will see great growth and strong skills!

Two-Minute Bible

Brian Young, Master Books

Learn to share the entire Old Testament in two minutes! Brian teaches how to "sign" the Bible using hand signals. With the addition of this wonderful learning technique you can walk through the Bible and remember it. Great for children and adults.

The Interesting History of Income Tax

Bill Federer, Iowans for Tax Relief

Did you know there was no income tax in America till the Civil War? and that it was repealed afterwards? Or that the Supreme Court declared income tax unconstitutional in 1895? Or that the first permanent income tax in 1913 was a 1% tax on the top 1% richest people? When did paycheck withholding start and what caused outsourcing. Hear eye-opening information.

The Challenge of the New Atheism

Jim Stearns, Reasons to Believe

Our volunteer apologist, Jim Stearns, will help us prepare to deal with the new atheism. Christians are well aware of atheists' Biblical errors, but their scientific and philosophical distortions are less obvious. Jim will show that when examined critically, their arguments become evident.

1:00-2:00 p.m. Session III

Fearless: Living Impervious to the Frets, Forebodings, and Anxieties of Life

Eric Ludy

Anxiety has become a familiar houseguest to a strong majority of modern-day Christians. Many of us accept it as a personality issue, rather than addressing it as a dangerous enemy. The Bible teaches a life of fearlessness. And to many of us, the idea of fearlessness sounds wonderful, but wishful. This session was built to train the Body of Christ in how to cultivate the fearless life that laughs at empty bank accounts, mocks disease, chuckles over impossibilities, and smiles at the future.

When Less Is More:

A Call to Simplicity in Your Schedule, Your Home, and Your Children's Education

Sonya Shafer

It's easy to get caught up in the mentality that we've got to add more. We must do more, we must get more, and our children must study more. More, more, more! But the funny thing is that when we keep adding more, we usually end up with less of what really matters. Come discover the richness that simplicity can bring to your schedule, your home, and your children's education.

Learning with Technology

Leah Nieman

Technology is developing faster than research can analyze and report its effects. We are introducing technology into the lives of kids, often before we can know its long-term influence. And that causes confusion and fear for parents, educators, and those who work with today's kids. In this session, we'll look at important facts we do know and present strategies for integrating technology into the lives of our kids. This session is perfect for parents, teachers, mentors, and leaders who want to ensure kids are exploring high-quality digital content. You'll leave with guidelines as well as tips and tricks for keeping up with the latest educational trends. Most importantly, you'll learn how to use technology to benefit those important kids in your life.

Can I Really Homeschool?

Susan Lovig

Have you begun to wonder if you can really do this? Or if perhaps you are doing more damage than good? Or maybe you are considering whether or not to begin homeschooling, but it seems overwhelming? Come and hear encouraging, practical thoughts from a (gasp) former public-school teacher who now homeschools her own brood of four. God does not make junk, nor did He give you the wrong child! If He has put it on your heart to homeschool, He will provide a joyful way. We'll cover surprising facts about your ability to homeschool versus what professional teachers can do, where and how to start in each of the major curriculum areas, and where to find the resources you need to make your own homeschool perfect for your family.

Making Brothers and Sisters Best Friends

The Mally Family

Many parents say that one of their biggest struggles in homeschooling is the bickering and fighting that occurs between their children. In this session, Sarah and Grace Mally, co-authors of the book, *Making Brothers and Sisters Best Friends*, will share how they have worked through pride, offenses, and irritations in their relationship, and learned to become best friends. This presentation, including ideas, insights, stories, and personal testimonies, is recommended for the entire family.

Dyslexia Demystified

Faith Berens

In this workshop, Faith (1) defines what dyslexia is and what it is not, (2) discusses the different types of dyslexia as well as levels of struggle (mild, moderate, severe), and (3) offers hope by sharing the types of necessary teaching methods, research-based interventions, and programs that you can implement in your homeschool. Faith offers hope and encouragement in addition to tricks and strategies to add to your teaching toolkit!

Ideas for Co-ops

Natalie Schneckloth

Does the idea of a homeschool co-op sound intriguing – and overwhelming at the same time? Would you like to be involved in a co-op, but you don't think you can because you're an introvert or you live

in a rural area? Let homeschool co-op enthusiast Natalie Schneckloth fill you with encouragement! She wants you to know that co-ops are about community – not just socialization. She'll share her experience in reviving a struggling co-op and offer ideas and suggestions to help you develop a strong co-op with a plurality of leaders and people invested in the success of the community.

Foreign Language: How to Work It into Your Home School

Sara Carothers

You want your children to learn a second language, but when your focus is on the core subjects and the only language you speak is English, how is it even possible? Sara Carothers, a Rainbow Resource consultant and former French teacher, encourages homeschool parents to try a foreign language by making it easier than often thought. From pre-k to high school, it's not too early or too late to work a second language into your homeschool day!

2:00-2:30 p.m. Exhibit Hall

2:30-3:30 p.m. Workshop Session IV

Fearless Mothering: Five Things Every Mom Needs to Go the Distance

Heidi St. John

These are tough times for mothers. Internet predators, ISIS, struggling economy, failing school systems. How can we raise our children to be strong in the face of such obstacles? Join Heidi for an hour that will encourage and equip you.

Laying Down the Rails

Sonya Shafer

Discover the secret to smooth and easy days: Habit training. Learn how to instill good habits, which habits Charlotte Mason encouraged parents to cultivate in their children, and practical tips for cultivating The Top Three.

Using Teachable Moments to Guide Your Children

Heidi Franz

Googling "Teachable Moments" leads to almost one million results! But what are teachable moments and how practical are they? In this session with ABC Jesus Loves Me creator Heidi Franz, learn what teachable moments are, when and where they occur, and why they are so important. Whether your child is very young or will soon be ready to leave the nest, you will learn to recognize these God-given, seemingly mundane, moments, and discover how to turn them into learning opportunities.

Figuring Out Learning Styles

Susan Lovig

How does your child naturally absorb information, and what does their brain do with it afterward? No, it's not really a black hole in there... Why is Kyle so jumpy and fidgety? Why does Mary always doodle in the margins? Why can't Carol stop commenting when I'm reading aloud? How can I turn those tendencies around to actually speed up their learning? Why do some of my children focus on details but miss the big picture, and others can't find details with GPS and a guide dog? I study best at a neat desk in a quiet room, but my spouse thinks the greatest thoughts in the midst of absolute chaos. How can we be so different, and what do my children need? Getting a handle on all of these aspects makes it so much easier to understand how your student interacts with their homeschooling, as well as why you are reacting the way you do to your student! Come for a fun, lively, fact-filled session that will forever impact the way you teach!

Preparing Young Ladies for Their Teenage Years *The Mally Family*

Sarah and Grace Mally will share from their perspective as daughters about how parents can win their daughters' hearts. Sarah and Grace are very thankful for the emphasis their parents put on discipleship during their homeschool years and, in this workshop, they will share some of the specific choices their parents made that they are especially grateful for. Sarah and Grace will also share practical ways to encourage young ladies to be strong for the Lord in their youth, avoid rebellion during the teen years, have direction for their life and ministry, and maintain strong relationships with parents.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities *Faith Berens*

This workshop addresses a crucial, but frequently misunderstood, topic related to special-needs homeschooling. In this power-packed workshop, Faith explains the difference between accommodations and modifications, describes 504 Accommodation Law, and answers homeschooling parents' most frequently asked questions, including:

- Can I give accommodations to my child on end-of-the-year standardized tests? What type of documentation is needed to do so?
- How do homeschoolers apply for special testing accommodations for college entrance exams? What documentation is required by the College Board and ACT in order for my high schooler to be considered for and granted special testing accommodations?
- Should high school students with disabilities discuss and disclose their diagnosis during the college application process?
- Can my college student receive accommodations? What accommodations are colleges required to provide to students with disabilities?

Faith also shares a disability resource guide for teens and young adults.

Teaching Reading Is as Easy as 1, 2, 3 *Cathy Angel*

Can teaching reading really be as easy as counting to three? Cathy Angel offers three simple steps to effective reading instruction:

1. Students must practice hearing and manipulating the sounds of our language (phonemic awareness)
2. Students must have an understanding of how to break the code of our language (phonics and the six types of syllables)
3. Students should use instructional routines to ensure success

8 Components of a High-Quality Math Education *Ed Zaccaro*

Learn the keys that will help you give your children the opportunity to develop a well-rounded education in mathematics. Ed will stress mathematical thinking, rigor, depth, creative thinking, and problem solving. Help your children move from rote instruction to real-life math by showing them how math concepts are applied and how important math is in the world.

3:30-4:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall

4:00-5:00 p.m. Friday Afternoon Keynote

Made Excellent for Marriage - A Practical Roadmap for Romance That Lasts
Eric Ludy

Whether you are thirteen or have been married for thirty years, the practical gems delivered in this message can set (or reset) behavior patterns that lead to success in marriage - whether now or in the future. In a family-friendly style, Eric Ludy shares his unique depth of insight gained through traveling and speaking for decades and publishing over a dozen books on Christ-centered relationships.

5:00-7:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall

7:00-9:00 p.m. Friday Night Mixer

Fellowship time and refreshments on the Coralville Marriott Outdoor Terrace

7:00-9:00 p.m. Teacher Credit Course Collaboration Session

Supervising Teacher Resources

Sara Carothers

Saturday, June 1, 2018

7:30 a.m. Conference Opens

8:00-9:00 a.m. Moms & Muffins with Heidi St. John

8:00-9:00 a.m. Dads & Donuts with Eric Ludy

8:30 a.m. Exhibit hall Opens

9:15-10:15 a.m. – Saturday Morning Keynote

Raising William Wallace: Parenting with an Epic Outcome in Mind

Eric Ludy

Often our aim for our children's development is to see them "above-average" or "better than most." But when the Truth of our super-conquering Jesus Christ is infused into the training of our children, nothing short of "children that change the world" will do. In this session, Eric Ludy will pass along both a vision and a practical platform for beginning to think and parent with even greater boldness and purpose.

10:30-11:30 a.m. Session V

The Busy Homeschool Mom's Guide to Daylight:

How to Fit Your Size 16 Day into a Size 10

Heidi St. John

Tick-Tock. Have you ever experienced a series of days, weeks, or even months when you felt like you just could NOT get on top of all that you had to do? Homeschool Mom, if you're struggling with trying to do it all, you will enjoy hearing some of Heidi's favorite tips for managing homeschooling and homemaking...and still finding time to fit in "other things" (like alone time with your husband!) This is an opportunity to GET SET FREE from the expectations of others, laugh out loud, and learn how two words, BE INTENTIONAL, can make a huge difference in your ability to manage your home and your homeschool well.

Keep It Simple: How to Teach Your Whole Family Together

Sonya Shafer

Save time and money by teaching most school subjects to all of your students together. Join Sonya for practical strategies to lower your stress level, provide a well-rounded education, and help you and your children build sweet memories. Learn how to keep it simple by teaching your whole family together with Charlotte Mason methods!

Guiding Our Kids Through Social Media

Leah Nieman

Are your kids begging to join the latest social media craze? Are you feeling overwhelmed by all the options, and you're not sure you want to deal with the security issues and risks involved? Come hear Leah share insight she's gained from both her involvement in social media and guiding her children through the newly-chartered waters of teens and social media. She'll share the importance of walking closely with teens and having open, honest, and frank conversations with them. Social Media is part of their future. Prepare them by teaching them to be safe and responsible in what they share.

Training Your Built-In Labor Force

Susan Lovig

The Psalmist says, "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!" Think about that. Arrows are not decorations. They are valuable, useful tools. The Lord has blessed you with children to raise and teach, so teach them how to be useful members of the family! Starting at a very early age, children desire to be helpful, valued members of the family. This seminar will give you practical ideas for how to organize and delegate your household chores to those willing toddlers and more capable older children. Starting on Monday, become the manager of your household rather than the servant, and avoid the daily battles with burnout and crabbiness that come from trying to do it all yourself.

Learning from Dad

Harold Mally

When Dad teaches, that's the "ultimate education!" Children respond most to what they learn from Dad. He is the most influential authority in their life. He is the pacesetter, protector, and provider of the family. What is the most important thing for a dad to teach? How can a busy dad find the time? This session will encourage fathers by giving them added vision and useful tools. It will address the essentials that fathers need to teach and will provide practical help, encouragement, and ideas.

Walking on the Homeschool Tightrope:

A Practical Guide to Balancing Life and Lesson Plans

Faith Berens

This encouraging workshop offers ideas for how to make homeschooling fit with your family's unique situation and needs as well as your teaching style and your children's learning styles. Faith offers suggestions for scheduling, time management, organization, and teaching children of different ages simultaneously.

It's Never Too Early to Start Preparing for College

Gene Walter

Planning for higher education from an early age is crucial. Learn what to do in the middle school, junior high, and high school years to prepare for college. This workshop will equip you with a step-by-step, year-by-year calendar of strategies that free your student to attend the best college at the lowest cost. Be pro-active with a game plan and reap the benefits.

The Right Worldview Prepares Students

Daniel Currier

Many hold an inconsistent and inaccurate view of how the world works. Daniel presents a foundation for building a consistent and biblical worldview to strengthen and equip students as persuasive Christian ambassadors.

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall

Noon – 12:45 p.m. – Lunch with Exhibitors – Exhibitor Workshops – Session VI

Experience Excellence in Writing

Jan Miller, Excellence in Writing

Come and discover award-winning Excellence in Writing, a method of teaching composition that really works. Using this program, students of all ages will learn to write stories, reports, and essays with style. This workshop will give you an overview of the program and show you how you can get started.

Textbook Inaccuracies

Brian Young, Master Books

Even Christian textbooks often misrepresent what science truly is. See how easily humanistic or evolutionary philosophies creep into the textbooks and why it is important to select materials that are sound biblically and scientifically.

Biblical Literacy: Teaching Truth to the Next Generation

Chawna Schroeder, Imagination Investigation

The Bible is the foundation of our faith. Without the Bible, we cannot know about God, how we should live, or even what is good. Therefore, biblical literacy is a must if we are to grow up spiritually. This class defines what biblical literacy is, breaking it into three intersecting areas: knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. Then we will discuss ideas and tools to integrate these things into our lives and the lives of our children.

Reaching a Post-Modern Generation

Pastor Josh Bingaman, Harvest Bible Institute

America is changing at an ever-increasing rate, from gay marriage to transgender pronouns. All of this is due to the emergence of postmodernism in our culture. Join Pastor Josh Bingaman from Harvest Bible Institute as he discusses the effects of postmodernism and how we can raise our families in such a culture.

Have You Got the Stones?

Bill Mellion, Christian Service Brigade

This seminar is designed for men, but ladies are welcome. God told Joshua to pick up 12 stones out of the middle of the Jordan as Israel crossed into the Promised Land. They were to be a reminder for future generations of what God had done. What "stones" from your life are you sharing with your son? How are you discipling him? *Are you* discipling him? Join us as we explore God's call for us as men to *make a difference* in the lives of our boys.

Visual Theology

Josh Byers, Visual Theology

We'll show you how to make the deepest truths of the Bible accessible in a way that can be seen and understood by a visual generation.

How to Teach Socrates

Maria Wilkening, Classical Conversations

As our children grow, they seek understanding of the world through questions, analysis, and comparison. Join us as we explore the art of leading our children toward truth through the skillful use of questions.

Share, Save, Spend: Implementing Biblical Financial Principles

Chris Wieting & Nolan Johnson, Thrivent Financial

74% of parents have some reluctance to discuss financial topics with their kids. Join Chris Wieting and Nolan Johnson financial advisors with Thrivent Financial to learn tips and tools to help your child learn good money choices from a Christian perspective.

1:00-2:00 p.m. Workshop Session VII

Defending Homeschooling

When Critics Say Homeschooling Parents Abuse Their Kids

Scott Woodruff

One day a terrible parent in your state may do something criminal to a child—and the media may push the narrative that because the child was homeschooled, more restrictions should be placed on homeschooling families. This session will analyze some real-life situations where this has actually happened and equip you to give a compassionate, common sense answer when family, friends, coworkers, or the local media assert that the problem is not enough homeschool regulations.

Inside a Charlotte Mason Homeschool

Sonya Shafer

Take a look at a typical day in the life of families who use the Charlotte Mason Method. You'll discover what the method looks like in everyday practice and gain lots of practical help and clear explanations.

Teaching the Little Ones in Your Care

Heidi Franz

It's easy to underestimate the learning potential of the toddlers and preschoolers in our care. In this session with Heidi Franz, creator of ABC Jesus Loves Me, learn age-appropriate and practical ways to build a solid foundation of learning through play and be encouraged at how fun learning can be for you and the child.

Once-a-Month Cooking

Susan Lovig

“What’s for dinner?” Of all of our chores, preparing meals is the least forgiving. It can’t be put off or done at a “more convenient” time. Or can it? This workshop will give you the tools to bring the beast of meal preparation under control – on your schedule. Topics will include an in-depth look at once-a-month cooking, bulk cooking techniques, co-op cooking, cooking by sales, food preservation (dehydrating, vacuum sealing, and long-term food storage), and meal planning. Susan believes in specifics. So you will walk away with her favorite freezer recipes, a knowledge of how to adapt your favorite recipes for freezing, and a list of great books/software/resources to get you going on Monday! Once you’ve experienced the savings in time, energy, money, and peace of mind, you’ll be hooked!

Community College Access for Homeschool High School Students

Daron Harris

Do you need help sorting through all of the potential ways to access community college offerings for your homeschooled high school student? What is Senior Year Plus? How about Post-Secondary Enrollment Option, Concurrent Enrollment, Career Academy, and other such possibilities? What are the eligibility requirements? How do I sign my student up, and are there deadlines? Daron Harris, from Des Moines Area Community College, will present the different community college programs and services that homeschooled students can access while in high school and answer your questions about how to help your high school student access them.

Tackling Tricky High School Issues:

Practical Help and Guidance for Homeschooling High School Students with Special Needs

Faith Berens

This workshop addresses some of the challenges associated with teaching struggling or atypical learners at home in the high school years. Do you have questions, such as, "How do I award my child with special needs a diploma?" or "What do I do since my child with dyslexia can't read typical high school level material?" Faith discusses alternative coursework, specialized curricula and learning materials, assistive technology, transcript options, possible graduation guidelines, high school programs for special learners, and post-high school options. She also offers tips for navigating the process of applying for testing accommodations for College Board tests.

How to Get into the College of Your Dreams

Gene Walter

Hear from a recent college graduate about his process of getting accepted to the college of his dreams. Learn about his ACT testing, college visits and recruitment, scholarship opportunities and the reality of graduating from college debt free. It is not only possible for the home-educated student to do well in college, but to thrive!

How to Be Immune to Bad Ideas in Society

Daniel Currier

Not every idea offered in the culture around us is good. How can we prepare our children to be discerning adults? Daniel presents the inoculation method, rather than isolation, for making solid ambassadors for Christ.

2:00-2:30 p.m. Exhibit Hall

2:30-3:30 p.m. Workshop Session VIII

Fortification: You Don't Need to Be Bullied Around by the Devil Anymore!

Eric Ludy

Many Christians nowadays find themselves entrenched in a fierce battle, but feel strangely lacking in both the armor and requisite weaponry to stand firm in the battle and win. In this session, Eric Ludy will train you in the mechanics of spiritual authority and in the practicalities of how to actually resist the Devil and build a Nehemiah-like wall about your life.

Flourishing in Motherhood

Heidi Franz

For many, parenting isn't quite what we imagined it would be. Because the reality doesn't match our vision of parenthood, it's easy to slip into survival mode, wishing days away. But God has more in

mind for parents! Join Heidi Franz, creator of ABC Jesus Loves Me, as she humbly shares what God has taught her in raising four children (two with ADHD and Sensory Processing Disorder). Be encouraged and equipped as Heidi tells how God led her from living in bitterness to flourishing in motherhood.

Online Classes: Knowing What You Need

Leah Nieman

Knowing what you need is the key to finding the perfect online class. Are you considering classes to fill the need for a social butterfly? Are you looking for your student to have accountability to another person for one or two classes, or do you want an online school that takes the full load off you? From online class terminology to sorting out what you need, we'll cover it all in this session!

Teaching Your Child (or Yourself) to Sew

Susan Lovig

Whether you are looking for meaningful projects to engage your beginning seamstress or money-saving ways to use your dusty sewing machine, this workshop will get you started. Susan's no-patterns-needed common sense approach to sewing is all about providing what your family needs while engaging your beginning seamstress in practical, skill-building projects! We'll cover the basics of using a sewing machine, discuss types/sources of fabric and thread, and then dive into a bevy of practical, economical, fun projects that teach the basic skills needed for sewing. Specific projects will include table napkins, washcloths, aprons, curtains, patching pants, hemming shorts, repairing jeans, and much more! Get ready to make that sewing machine earn its space! (No equipment necessary for this class.)

Families for the Kingdom of God

The Mally Family

It is easy to underestimate the tremendous potential we have as families for the Kingdom of God. In this workshop, the Mallys will share how important it is for every family to be serving the Lord together as a family team. When a family works together for the Lord, the young people are given motivation and vision. The family learns to overcome struggles and work in harmony, and mighty works are accomplished for God's kingdom. This workshop will give encouragement, direction, and practical ideas for developing a "ministry mindset" in children and ministering together as a family.

Keeping Your Family Safe During a Child Abuse or Neglect Investigation: Simple Strategies That Work

Scott Woodruff

You don't know when it could be you. Knowing beforehand what to do when a caseworker knocks on your door can mean the difference between quickly resolving a child abuse / neglect investigation and watching helplessly as a caseworker takes your children away and puts them in a foster home. After helping more than a thousand families in abuse and neglect investigations, Scott offers wisdom based on experience. This presentation includes an easy-to-understand explanation of the Fourth Amendment, six proven strategies, and instruction that may help you keep your family together should government agents appear on your doorstep.

Passion to Profession: Encouraging Young Entrepreneurs

Sara Carothers

You have a child with a passion: drawing, baking, caring for animals, nature, science, language, books, basketball! Explore step by step how to take that passion and turn it into a business/learning opportunity. Consider the possible lessons in organization, time management, prioritizing, budgeting, managing profits/losses, marketing, overhead, and beyond. Discuss creative ideas for incorporating their passion/business into your daily lessons!

The Greatest Mathematical Gift Parents Can Give Their Children:
The Ability to Solve Problems

Ed Zaccaro

The development of problem-solving skills is one of the most important aspects of a mathematics education, not only because they are an integral part of all higher mathematics, but because they also are important for real-world applications in eventual careers and in life. The strategies presented in this session will encourage students to change normal thinking patterns and approach problems in a different way. This will enable them to more effectively apply critical thinking skills to problems they encounter in their education and in life. This session will also give you the answer to the question frequently asked by children: When will we ever use algebra?

4:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Closes

3:45-5:00 p.m. Saturday Afternoon Keynote

Better for Best

Heidi St. John

Do you struggle to keep your heart tuned into God's voice through all the other "noise" of this life? In this Pinterest-perfect world where everyone pins their perfect life, it's all too easy to hold the Lord at arm's length until we do the "important" things. Learn the secret of developing an intimate spiritual life and why it makes all the difference in your family and marriage.

5:15 p.m. Conference Closes