

wonder ... is all this "more" really what God had in mind when He called us to be different? Somehow, I don't think He meant for us to bring our children home only to have our home life hijacked by a worldly philosophy of education. I don't think God meant for us - or our children - to struggle under the weight of someone else's idea of a "proper" education.

I think—just maybe—He meant for us to be free.

- Free to read aloud. All day if we want to. Even with our high schoolers.
- Free to draw and create.
- Free to discover the beauty of Creation - unhurried - and without the expectation of a report that is due about our "discovery" at the end of the next day.
- Free to forget about preschool.
- Free to take a hot chocolate walk for no reason.
- Free ... to know Him more.

It's hard to do that when we're always on someone else's schedule.

If you are being held hostage by a burdensome curriculum or a program that promises to get your kid into college—and if you're wondering if this was really the life that God had designed for you, I challenge you to look at those first homeschool moms. They set the bar—and they did it without expensive "all inclusive" programs. They did it by faith. They did it because they knew God would provide for their every need if

they would only trust Him to guide and direct them.

These precious moms found out that God is faithful. He can be trusted. His mercies are new every day.

His yoke is easy. His burden is light.

Ask Him what He has for you and your children. If you are not experiencing the "life" you were looking for when you began your homeschooling journey, it may be that you're not giving the Lord permission to lead you there.

I know—because for all my trying— and even after I have experienced the freedom that comes from a more relational approach to homeschooling, I often find myself a hostage of homeschooling rather than a mom who is enjoying the gift that she has been given through homeschooling. It's easy, even for a mom who has graduated a few children, to wonder if she's doing enough.

If you're being held hostage today—ask the Lord to show you His heart for your homeschool. Because in following Him, you'll find the LIFE you're looking for.



*Heidi St. John has been married to her husband Jay since 1989. Together they have seven children from toddler to adult and have homeschooled all the way through high school. A favorite conference and radio speaker, Heidi approaches marriage and parenting with humor and grace. Her passion to encourage moms and set them free to be who God has created them to be will bless and encourage you.*

# TRANSFORMED

*by the renewing of your mind*

## Need help getting started?

Plan to attend our Homeschool 101 Conference on Thursday from 1:30-4:30pm, \$10 Admission.

## Homeschooling a child with Special Needs?

Check out our Thursday's Child Conference & Panel Discussion. Thursday 1:30-4:30pm, \$10 Admission.

## Ready for a whole weekend full of knowledge and encouragement?

Register for the full Homeschool Iowa Conference! All of the details online at [homeschooliowa.org](http://homeschooliowa.org).



# conference 2018 | May 31-June 2

Coralville Marriott Hotel & Convention Center