

~Wholehearted Wisdom~

Cultivating Character, Curiosity, and Calling in Christ-Centered Education

Edition #5

HomeschoolCompanion.org

May 2026

What's New in Homeschooling

1. AI Tools Continue to Expand in Education

More homeschool families are using AI writing assistants, tutoring tools, and lesson planners. The key trend? Parents are learning how to guide students to *think*, not just get answers. Expect to see more "AI + critical thinking" approaches this year.

2. CHAP Convention, June 11-13: Homeschool Companion will present two workshops on June 13.

Dr. Rose Gamblin presents Social and Emotional Learning in a Digital Age from 12:15 to 1:00.

Vaughn Jennings presents Enhancing Your Learning With Technology from 3:15 to 4:00

We will also have a booth all three days. We would love to meet you.

3. Microschools on the Rise

Across the US: Small learning communities (microschools) are growing fast. Families are teaming up to share teaching responsibilities, reduce costs, and build strong social environments for students. Any church can have its own microschool by partnering with Homeschool Companion. Contact us for more information.

4. Hands-On Learning is Trending

Project-based learning is becoming a favorite: students creating podcasts, videos, businesses, and even publishing books as part of their education. Students can learn these and more in the 26/27 school year.


5. Trade Skills Are Making a Comeback

Homeschoolers are increasingly blending academics with real-world skills like cooking, carpentry, coding, and entrepreneurship.

Teaching Tip of the Month

"Start With the End"

Before planning lessons, ask:

 *What do I want my student to create, explain, or demonstrate?*

Then build backward.

Instead of "Read Chapter 3"

Try this: "Create a 2-minute video explaining Chapter 3 in your own words."

This simple shift turns passive learning into active mastery.



Homeschool Fun of the Month

Public school teachers have their students raise their hands to go to the bathroom.

Homeschool teachers present a math lesson... while making a sandwich... explaining fractions using their sandwich... And soothing the crying baby at the same time."

🙏 Devotional Thought: “God Works Through Small Beginnings.”

“Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.” Zechariah 4:10



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It's easy to think something only matters if it's big.

Big results.

Big achievements.

Big moments.

But God often works differently.

Jesus didn't start with a crowd. He started with a few people.

A seed doesn't look like much. But it becomes something powerful.

In homeschooling, the small moments matter:

- A short conversation
- A simple prayer
- A lesson that finally “clicks.”

These are not small to God.

They are how He builds something lasting.



💬 Reflection

What small moment today could God be using that I might overlook?

🙏 Prayer

Lord, help me see the value in small beginnings.

Teach me to trust that You are working—even in the quiet, ordinary moments.

Guide our homeschool to grow in wisdom, faith, and love.

Amen.

💡 Idea Corner for May: Try one of these in your homeschool.

- 🌱 Start a small garden (science + responsibility)
- 🎤 Record a short “what I learned this week” video
- 📖 Rewrite a Bible story in modern language.
- 💰 Create a mini business (lemonade stand, baked goods, crafts)
- 🐦 Set up a hummingbird station and study about them. Teach love for all of God's creatures.



📣 Encouragement for Parents

You don't need a perfect system.

You don't need a perfect schedule.

You just need to be present, intentional, and willing.

What you're building matters more than you can see today.