

~Wholehearted Wisdom~

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



Edition #2

HomeschoolCompanion.org

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Welcome to Wholehearted Wisdom, the newsletter for educators, parents, and pastors who believe learning is about more than grades and test scores. We will explore how to cultivate character, curiosity, and calling through Christian classrooms, like yours

You may teach in a multi-grade Christian classroom or in a Christian home. This newsletter was written to encourage conversations that shape minds, strengthen hearts, and prepare students for lives of purpose. If you're part of a small Christian school, a homeschooling family, or an educator or parent who believes education is about more than academics, you are our kind of people.

We are here to support you. Everything we discuss in this newsletter is shaped by a few core values rooted in Christian beliefs and educational philosophy.

Christ at the Center of All Learning

We believe that true education restores the image of God in humanity and integrates it. One of our favorite authors wrote, "...*the work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in redemption, 'other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.'*" *Education*, p. 30.

Thank you for spending time with Wholehearted Wisdom. If this edition encouraged you, share it with a fellow educator or parent walking the same path. We invite you to keep cultivating Christian character, curiosity, and calling, as we pursue faith-filled learning that shapes lives for time and eternity.

Cabin-Fever in the Homeschool Classroom?



Check out Great Homeschool Conventions. They have a whole page of tips to defeat cabin fever.

Click on the logo above to read the tips.

Ditch the Textbooks and Teach Projects

I successfully taught multi-age, multi-grade students in Christian classrooms for MANY years and learned that textbooks are designed for one level. How do we teach multi-levels?

The answer is projects!

Let the older or more experienced students be the team leaders and the littles will usually follow.

This group has some amazing information:

<https://rockbyrock.com/>

You might enjoy this free digital booklet about project-based learning to provide more info about using this approach in your classroom.

[/https://rockbyrock.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Project-Based-Learning-in-Multi-Age-Settings.pdf](https://rockbyrock.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Project-Based-Learning-in-Multi-Age-Settings.pdf)

Or get this **FREE** Digital book, *A Guide for Humans Trying to Understand the Bible*, to share with teens:

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/0f0fc7e12e.html>

Below you can download the 25th Peferre edition of

["The Old Schoolhouse Magazine"](#)

Bringing Play to Multi-Level Learning

Teaching multiple grade levels simultaneously, whether in a one-room schoolhouse or at your kitchen table, presents unique challenges. Students work at different paces, grasp concepts differently, and need varying levels of support. What if the solution was simpler than we thought? What if it was as simple as playing a game?

According to resources shared by [Ditch That Textbook](#), gamification offers a powerful tool for multi-level classrooms. When learning feels like play, students naturally engage at their own level while working toward common goals. A spelling game can challenge your eighth grader with complex vocabulary while your third grader tackles age-appropriate words, and all within the same activity. Math facts races, reading challenges, and hands-on science experiments become opportunities where everyone participates meaningfully.

The research is clear: playful learning increases engagement, reduces anxiety, and helps information stick. For those teaching multiple levels, this means less time managing behavior and more time actually teaching.

Jed Dearybury, co-author of *The Playful Classroom*, offers a **FREE** mini-course exploring these principles. The course includes an hour of video instruction, practical examples you can implement immediately, and strategies for continuing to develop a playful learning environment. You'll even receive a certificate for one hour of professional development credit.

In our multi-level classrooms, we're already jugglers and miracle-workers. Gamification doesn't add to our workload—it transforms what we're already doing into something more joyful and effective for every student at every level.

[Click here to learn more about *The Playful Classroom* mini-course at Ditch That Textbook.](#)

Or you can purchase Jed's book at this link, <https://www.mrdearybury.com/the-playful-classroom>

Using AI as a Homeschool Tool

In a recent talk, homeschool Leilani Melendez, shares her honest reflections on using artificial intelligence, specifically ChatGPT, as a resource for homeschooling. While acknowledging that AI can feel "a little bit scary," she emphasizes that it's not going away and that Christian educators need to understand how to use it wisely.

Practical Ways AI Can Help:

- **Brainstorming and Planning:** Generate ideas for lessons, activities, and schedules
- **Curriculum Development:** Create lesson plans tailored to your children's needs (while checking all references)
- **Quick Research:** Find information faster than traditional search engines
- **Creative Activities:** Design engaging games and hands-on activities (she shares a wonderful example of teaching Leviticus 14 through relay races and interactive games for elementary students)

Important Cautions: The speaker stresses three critical reminders: (1) You remain in control—just because AI suggests something doesn't make it right for your family; (2) Keep private matters private—AI isn't a replacement for human relationships or counseling; and (3) Always verify sources—AI pulls from across the internet, so check that information aligns with biblical truth and comes from credible sources.

She particularly warns against letting children use AI to write papers and emphasizes that AI "doesn't have a soul" and should never replace human connection, biblical discernment, or the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your homeschool.

To hear the complete talk, follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ww_ZpcGb5e

Meet us at the Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP), convention, June 11-13, 2026, at Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA. We will have a booth and a breakout session on this subject. Comments or questions go to: VJennings@homeschoolcompanion.org