

Morning Time Plans



Travel
UNIT

Welcome,



Pour yourself a cup of coffee, put your feet up, and take a little coffee break with me. Let's talk about Family Style Learning using simple Morning Time plans. Our family found the simplest way to homeschool was to learn as much as we could together as a family. We found the easiest way to do this was by setting time aside each morning to do our Bible, memory work, and humanities together. In our home, we called it family time; you may call it Morning Time, Circle Time, Table Time, Basket Time, or something similar.

Each morning, our family would gather at the table for breakfast and devotions. Then we would congregate on the couch and floor in our family room for our family-style lessons. I would read aloud to the kids while they drew something, built something, or created something with their hands. After discussing the book or chapter we read, we would work on memory work, read some poetry, learn a folk song or hymn, write in our journals, play a game (usually math-related), learn about an artist or composer, draw in our nature journals, discuss current or historical events, do some map work, maybe do a science experiment, and from time to time, read a little Shakespeare.

Did we cover all of these things each day? No way! After family devotions and read-aloud, we would do 2 or 3 of the things mentioned as a family before taking a break and moving on to independent work. In this resource, I have compiled for you our Morning Time Plans we did over the years. Each monthly plan suggests topics to read, discuss, memorize, learn, teach, observe, and do.

Use what you like and what appeals to your family. Skip the rest. Each month is "grab and go." Scripture, memory work, poetry, map work, and art prints are printer ready. Links are provided for geography, art, science, and music studies. All you need to do is collect picture books and chapter books to read (I share some of my favorites), print what you need, and start. For more ideas on how to use Morning Time Plans, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #130, "Simple Homeschool Solutions: Let's Get Loopy!"](#)

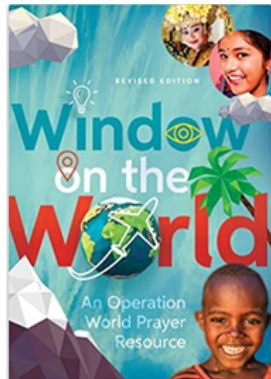
May the Lord bless your homeschooling adventures for His glory,

— Carrie —
DE FRANCISCO



Family Devotions

Start each day in prayer and worship. In this year's Morning Time Plans, you and your family will be "traveling the world." As you "travel," spend each week praying for missionaries around the world. Pray for the people and cultures around the world that do not know the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Learn about different world religions and compare them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I recommend using the book, Window on the World: An Operation World Prayer Resource (WOW) by Operation World Resources and edited by Molly Wall and Jason Mandryk. From, October through May, I will suggest countries and cultures to read about from this book during your family devotional time.



Map Work

Create a Map Work Binder for each child (or add these pages to their Memory Work Binder). Each month, print the maps to be learned and memorized. Print one blank map and one labeled map for each child. Place the blank map and labeled map back to back inside a sheet protector. Then place each sheet protector into the Map Work Binder. Another alternative is to purchase Transparent Menu Covers. For younger students, print extra copies of the labeled maps to use as coloring sheets. Each day, trace with a dry-erase marker the labeled map. Once or twice a week, try to label the blank map. Once the country or continent is memorized, try drawing and labeling it from memory. Each week, pick a country to read about in Children's Atlas of God's World (CAofGW) by Froman or in The Travel Book Atlas (TB) by Lonely Planet. For example, if the monthly continent focus is South America, then pick 3-4 countries to read about that are located in South America. For more ideas on how to "travel the world" and do simple map work, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast Episode #69, "Passport to Learning."



Read Aloud

This is the heart and soul of your family-style learning and morning time. It doesn't really matter which classics or picture books you read; the idea is to spend at least 20 minutes a day reading aloud to your children. However, it is a time (and sanity) saver to read to the entire family books that are related to the topics you are studying in history, science, art, and music. Each month, I suggest a few classics to read as well as give links for recommended picture books. Don't let my recommendations add extra stress to your planning. I often found I could go to the library at the beginning of the month with only a list of topics I wanted to cover, and I could find an abundance of picture books to check out. I personally made more work for myself trying to find the exact books recommended in teacher guides and packed curriculum. Start with the suggested books in each month's Morning Time Plans and then check out or purchase any other treasures you find along the way.

Math Morning Time

Math and games were a consistent part of our morning time routine. While math was usually what my children did during their independent work or one-on-one with me later in the day, I did incorporate math during our morning time through picture books and/or games. Each month, recommended math picture books will be given to read aloud during your morning time. Over the years, I collected quality math picture books to include in our home library. There is an abundance of picture books that teach counting, shapes, and adding skills so I only purchased the ones my kids loved to read over and over again. Then each month, I would get from the library a ton more. New ones come out every year. Surprisingly, there are a ton of math picture books that teach higher-level math skills such as fractions, multiplication, division, probability, decimals, measurement, ratio and proportions, geometry, and even algebraic concepts. This year while "traveling the world" during Morning Time, I highly recommend using the [Count Your Way Through Country Series](#) by James Haskins. Listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #19 "Math Morning Time: Tame Those Math Tears and Fears."](#)

Check out my [Math Games PlayList](#) at my Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Help YouTube Channel. I share over a dozen simple math games you can play with a deck of cards or a pair of dice. There are games for all math levels, including algebra.



Memory Work

Create a Memory Work Binder for each child. Each month, print the scripture memory verse, poem, song, maps, and/or passages suggested for memorization. Print one of each for each child. Place the memory work pages inside sheet protectors. Then place each sheet into the Memory Work Binder. Another alternative is to purchase [Transparent Menu Covers](#). When you read, recite, or memorize verses, poems, or passages, they are easy to find and use. You can also use dry-erase markers to highlight or underline keywords. For more ideas on how to incorporate memory work into your days, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #116, Memory Work: A Podcast To Remember](#).

Poetry

My kids did not enjoy poetry so I had to be intentional about including it. I did this by including at least one poem and one poet in our Morning Time Plans each month. Because this was not an area of interest for my children, I made sure I kept poetry time light and enjoyable. Keep it simple. Read the poem with your family and simply enjoy it. It's really that easy! If you want, ask your children to close their eyes while you are reading the poem. Then after, they can narrate what they pictured in their minds, or they can draw an illustration that goes with the poem. Ask what they liked about the poem and what they didn't like. Focus on a new vocabulary word heard in the poem. If you have time, print the poem and place it in your child's Memory Work Binder. Each day or each week, recite the poem and memorize it line by line. For fun, read the poem with different accents. With older kids, you can analyze the rhyming pattern (if there is one). Teens can look for literary devices in the poem such as personification, alliteration, similes, and onomatopoeia. If your child loves to write, then try creating a few original poems about the same topic or using the same rhyming scheme. I honestly think poetry should be read for enjoyment; it doesn't need to be over-analyzed. For more ideas on how to have fun with poetry, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #93, "Poetry Tea Time."](#)



Nature Study

At the beginning of the year, let each child pick out a new drawing journal.

This will be his/her nature journal for the year. Each week, nature study suggestions and activities are given in the Monthly Morning Time Plans. Feel free to do some, all, or none of them. You can use the activities to supplement whatever you are already doing in science, or they can be your sole science "curriculum" for the year. In the Nature Study section of the Morning Time Plans, drawing, painting, and watercolor instructions, videos, and links are given. The primary objective of doing nature studies is to appreciate God's handiwork in creation, to improve observation skills, to inspire curiosity, and to get outside.

After spending time in nature and drawing something that piqued your child's interest, you can stop there. However, if you want to include more, give your child a verse, poem, or inspirational quote to copy next to his/her drawing. If your child is older, he/she can research the item drawn and write facts about it next to his/her drawing or they can spend time labeling the parts of their drawing. The goal is to observe and enjoy nature. For simple ways to incorporate Nature Studies in your week, listen to past Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast episode.

Art Study

Print in color the masterpiece for the month. In our morning time plans, we scheduled two weeks for our art and artist study. If you would like to learn about the artist and his/her work once a week during the entire month, then search the internet for 2-3 other masterpieces by the artist to use. The first week, start with the masterpiece given in the Morning Time Plans. Then each of the following weeks, focus on a different masterpiece by the same artist. Use the same procedure described in the Morning Time Plans on the Art Study pages. Since we purposefully chose famous artists, it will be easy to research the artist on the internet and to find quality picture books at your local library about each artist to dig deeper into his/her life and works. I highly recommend building your own home library of artist picture books. Check out some of our favorite artist picture book series: [The Katie Books](#) by James Mayhew, [Anholt's Artists Books For Children](#) by Laurence Anholt, [Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists](#) by Mike Venezia, and [Smart About Art books](#). We also invested in many art and artist card games and board games to play during our Morning Time. It was a great way to review artists we have learned about and to introduce new artists not yet covered. For more information on how to do simple art studies, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #15: "Let's Talk Art Studies: What Are They and How To Start."](#)

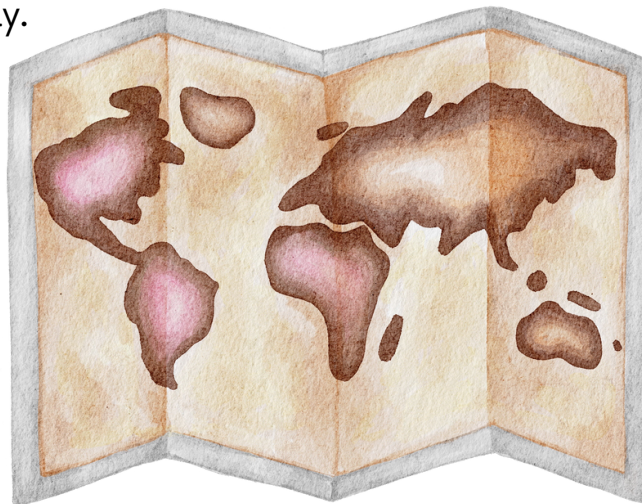
Music Study

In this year's Morning Time Plans, I combined Composer Studies with Folk and Hymn Studies. You can learn a lot about a culture or time period by singing, listening to, and learning American folk songs and folk songs from around the world. In addition, traditional church hymns are full of biblical truths, doctrine, and bible verses. While listening to, singing, and discussing lyrics of traditional hymns, your family will be learning about God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In September and December, I include a composer study. During the remaining months, your family will learn a new folk song or hymn related to the places and cultures discussed that month.

For a composer study, create a playlist of the composer of the month. Start with the musical piece or symphony listed in the Monthly Morning Time Plan. Spend one week learning about the composer, his or her life, the musical era of his/her work, and one or two musical pieces suggested in the plans. Use your playlist throughout the month. Use it as background music when playing, drawing, cooking, eating, driving, cleaning, and resting. The idea is to infuse your family's day with beautiful music. Just listen and enjoy. Eventually, your children will begin to recognize the composer's style or the style of a particular musical era.

For a folk song or hymn study, print the folk song or hymn for each child and place it in his/her Memory Work Binder. Each morning, start with family devotions and worship by singing the hymn together. For fun, listen to and sing the suggested folk song from another country during Morning Time or throughout the day.



October Morning

Time Plans



Travel
North America &
Canada

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Scripture

Focus on the memory verse: Exodus 20:3. Throughout the month, read about Animism (pgs 194-195) and pray for Inuit tribes, Greenland, and Iceland from WOW book.

Map Work

Learn and memorize Canada's 10 Provinces and Capitals. Older students should draw and label Canada from memory. Read about Canada (pg 16-19) from CAofGW or by visiting [Travel Guide for Kids](#) website.

Poetry

Read, discuss, and memorize "[A Child's Song in Spring](#)" by Edith Nesbit. Older students can read and discuss "[Birches](#)" by Robert Frost

Art Study

Study Haida Art & Totem Poles and learn about the art of the Inuit People (native Canadians).

Music Study

Listen to "[The Land of the Silver Birch](#)," which is a Native Canadian Folk Song.

Nature Study

Learn about the tundra, arctic animals, and polar plants.

Math Work

Recommended math picture books by Greg Tang to read this month: [The Grapes of Math](#), [Math For All Seasons](#), [Math Fables](#), [Math Appeal](#), and more. If you can borrow from the library, read [Count Your Way Through Canada](#) by Jim Haskins. It is out of print but worth the read.

Read Aloud

Read [The Giant Bear: Inuit Folktale](#) by Jose Angutinngurniq, [The Polar Bear Son](#) by Dabovich, [Mama, Do You Love Me?](#) by Joose, and other picture books about the Inuit people and arctic animals and/or read the chapter book, [Anne of Green Gables](#) by Lucy Maud Montgomery.

Cultural Connections

In the kitchen, make Canadian classics such as Baked Bannock Bread, Maple Syrup Sweet Potatoes, and Canada's signature dish, Poutine. Then play, Hubhub, an Inuit counting game, and explore geometric principles by building a sugar cube model of an igloo.



Cuisine Spotlight: Canada

Bannock Bread is a simple no yeast fried bread that is fast and easy to make and so delicious to eat. It is perfect for camping, breakfast or a side dish.

Bannock Bread

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup water
- vegetable oil for frying



DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, salt and baking powder.
2. Then add the olive oil and whisk together with a fork, gradually add water and stir until the dough almost holds together.
3. Move to a lightly floured flat surface and gently knead about 10 times just until the dough comes together (the dough will be sticky).
4. Divide into 5 balls and flatten with the palm of your hand. Fry in hot oil on medium heat until golden brown on both sides (and cooked on the inside).
5. Drain on a paper towel-lined plate and eat warm or at room temperature.

Enjoy!





Cuisine Spotlight: Canada

Maple syrup is a staple of fall in Canada, and so are sweet potatoes. So, it's no surprise that these two flavors go so well together. Throw some cinnamon into the mix, and we've got ourselves a Canadian party!

Maple Roasted Sweet Potatoes

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lbs sweet potatoes, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons pure maple syrup
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon



DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or foil. Grease with nonstick cooking spray.
2. Drizzle sweet potatoes with olive oil and toss until well coated. Make sure the sweet potatoes are in a single layer, not touching. Sprinkle with salt.
3. Place the pan in the oven and roast for 20 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, stir together the pure maple syrup and cinnamon in a small bowl.
5. Remove the pan from the oven and drizzle the maple cinnamon mixture over the sweet potatoes. Stir until sweet potatoes are well coated. Make sure the sweet potatoes are in an even layer on the pan.
6. Return to oven and bake for 10 to 20 minutes, depending on how crispy you like your sweet potatoes.
7. Remove the pan from the oven and place sweet potatoes in a serving bowl. Serve immediately.



Cuisine Spotlight: Canada

Poutine is a dish of french fries and cheese curds topped with brown gravy. It emerged in Quebec in the late 1950s. It's a Canadian favorite. It's basically Canada's version of loaded nachos!

Poutine

INGREDIENTS:

- Bag Frozen French Fries (Garlic Fries are even better!)
- Canned or Boxed Pre-Made Gravy
- Cheese Curds (from Wisconsin are the best)



DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Fry or bake the frozen french fries as directed. I like to fry or bake them so they are extra crispy.
2. Heat gravy in the microwave as instructed.
3. Microwave cheese curds for 5-10 seconds until warm.
4. On a serving plate, layer fries, then gravy, and top with cheese curds.





Cuisine Spotlight: Canada

When life gives a Canadian a bag of seal meat, they make Suaasat! Suaasat is a traditional soup whose main ingredient is seal meat. I'm sure you don't have any seal meat on hand but you can make this simple traditional soup without it.

Suaasat Soup

INGREDIENTS:

- cold water
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 cup of white rice
- 1 large white onion, chopped
- 5-6 potatoes
- spicy mustard



DIRECTIONS

1. Add all of the ingredients together and simmer for 1 hour.
2. For added fun, make some Bannock Bread and serve with the soup.



Native American Stick Game

Explore probability while playing this simple yet exciting Native American game.

MATERIALS:

- 35 counting sticks (craft sticks work well.)
- 5 pieces for "dice" (Coins work well.)

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1). Place the counting sticks in the middle where all players can reach them. They are used for scoring purposes only.
- 2). The first player puts 5 coins in his hand. Shake and drop on the floor or the table. The player earns points depending on how the coins land.
 - If all heads or all tails come up = retrieve 3 counting sticks
 - If 4 matches and 1 is different = retrieve 1 stick
 - If 2 or 3 matches = no counting sticks.
- 3) Players take turns until there are no more sticks in the center. Players count their sticks to determine the winner.



**Part of the fun is trying to distract your opponent when it is their turn. The game is sometimes called hubbub because early European settlers who witnessed it being played reported hearing players say "hub, hub, hub" over and over to distract and intimidate the other players. **





Arctic Ice House

Explore geometric principles while constructing an igloo model.

MATERIALS:

- Cardboard sheet
- Sugar cubes
- Sugar Glue (3 cups Confectioners' Sugar and 2 egg whites) or a hot glue gun.



INSTRUCTIONS

1. On the cardboard sheet, draw a circle with a 7-inch diameter. Make sure you leave a place for the opening of the igloo.
2. If you are not using a hot glue gun, make your sugar glue. Mix the sugar and egg whites so that a thick paste is formed. This will be the mortar of your igloo.
3. On the circle, lay the base of the igloo with one layer of sugar cubes, but leave an opening for the entrance.
4. Apply the "mortar" to the top of the cubes to secure them in place.
5. Continue to add layers of sugar cubes and mortar. Make sure you keep reducing the number of cubes in each row as your igloo grows upwards.

** Watch the attached video for instructions with mini marshmallows and canned icing.**





Don't forget to
check out other
Coffee With Carrie
RESOURCES



WEBSITE:



www.coffeewithcarrie.org

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BOOK



[Just Breathe \(and Take a Sip of Coffee\):
Homeschool in Step with God](#)



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SEPTEMBER: The United States

OCTOBER: North America & Canada

NOVEMBER: South America

DECEMBER: Europe

JANUARY: Australia, New Zealand & Oceania

FEBRUARY: Asia

MARCH: Asia and India

APRIL: Asia and Middle East

MAY: Central America & Mexico

SUMMER: Africa & Antarctica



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