

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!"](#)

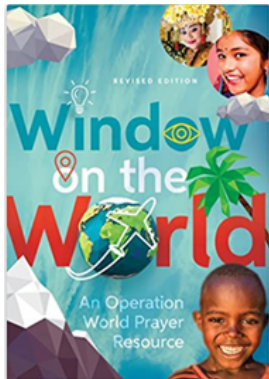
May the Lord bless your homeschooling adventures for His glory,

— 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."](#)

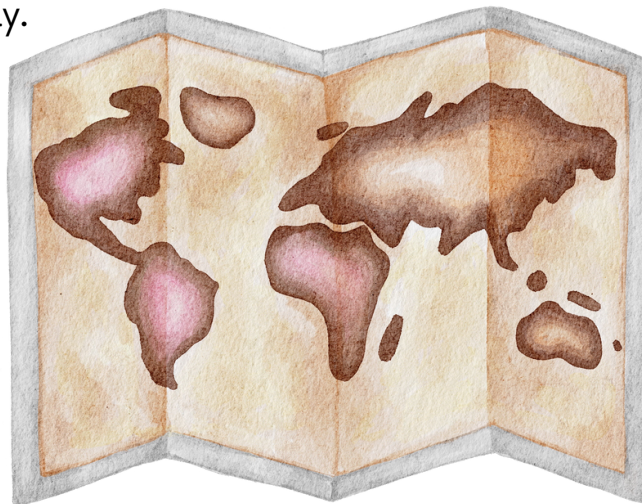
Music Study

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.



September Morning Time Plans



Travel
United States

Scripture

Throughout the month, read and discuss the Gospel and the Great Commission. Focus on the memory verse: Acts 4:12. Read about Christianity (pgs 198-199) from WOW book.

Map Work

Learn and memorize the 50 States and Capitals. Older students should draw and label the USA from memory. Read about the United States (pg 8-11) from CAofGW or visiting [USA Facts for Kids](#) website.

Poetry

Read, discuss, and memorize "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Art Study

Study the painting, "Townsend's Warbler, Arctic Blue-bird, Western Blue-bird" (plate 393) and learn about the American artist and naturalist, John James Audubon.

Music Study

Listen to marches composed by Phillip Sousa. Learn more about the composer. For added fun, learn the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "God Bless America."

Nature Study

Learn about native birds of America.

Math Work

Fun math picture books to read at the beginning of the school year: [I'm Trying to Love Math](#) by Barton, [Math Curse](#) by Scieszka, [A Day With No Math](#) by Kaye, and [G is Google: A Math Alphabet Book](#) by Schwartz.

Read Aloud

Read [How to Make Cherry Pie and See the US](#) by Marjorie Priceman, [Discover the States ABC](#) book series by Davidson, [From Sea to Shining Sea; A Treasury of American Folklore and Folk Songs](#) by Cohn, and/or one of the following chapter books: [Little Men](#) by Louise May Alcott or [Little House on the Prairie](#) by Laura Ingall Wilder.

Cultural Connections

In the kitchen, make Baked Alaska Flambe (Western States), Beignets (Southern States), Clam Chowder (Northern States), and Buckeye treats (Midwestern States). Then play two Native American counting and strategy games: Picaria and the Stick Game.



Artist: John James Audubon
Birds of America
1827-1838, United States
Watercolor



Week One

- 1). Print in color the "Townsend's Warbler, Arctic Blue-bird, Western Blue-bird."
- 2) Show it for 5 minutes. Tell students to study it. Look for details.
- 3). Turn it face down. Ask students to describe the painting from memory.
- 4). Turn the painting face up again. While they are looking at it, ask them to describe it and to pick out details they didn't mention.
- 5). Discuss the painting. What is it? When is it? Where is it? What do they like about it?

Week Two

- 1). Learn about the artist John J. Audubon. Read the book, The Boy Who Drew Birds, by Jacqueline Davies.
- 2). John James Audubon (April 26, 1785 – January 27, 1851) was a French-American ornithologist, naturalist, and painter. He painted, described, and put in catalogues Birds of North America. He lived on the family-estate at Mill Grove, near Philadelphia. It was here that he hunted, studied and drew birds.
- 3). Audubon drew 435 life-size prints of North American birds. View other prints. Which ones do you like best? Do any of these birds live in your neighborhood? What do you notice about the details of each bird?



Townsend's Warbler, Arctic Blue-bird, Western Blue-bird



Drawn from Nature by J. J. Audubon F.R.S. F.L.S.

Townsend's Warbler.
SYLVIA TOWNSENDI, *Mitchell*
1. Male.

Arctic Blue-bird.
SIALIA ARCTICA, *Swainson*
2. Male. 3. Female.
Canadian Alps.
Placed in CAUSTOPHYS PARUSIDE.

Engraved, Drawn and Coloured by R. Havell 1837

Western Blue-bird.
SIALIA OCCIDENTALIS, *Swainson*
4. Male. 5. Female.

[Learn
More](#)

[View
Others](#)



Cuisine Spotlight: Alaska Western States

Baked Alaska Flambe

INGREDIENTS:

- Brownie Mix
- 1/2 Gallon of Favorite Ice Cream Flavor (soften)
- 6 Egg Whites (room temperature)
- 1/2 cup of Sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon of Cream of Tartar
- teaspoon of Vanilla
- **Optional 2 TBS of dark rum for "flambe"



DIRECTIONS

1. In a rectangular baking glass, prepare brownie mix according to the package directions and bake.
2. While the brownies are cooling (place in the freezer to speed up the process), let your ice cream soften. You don't want it runny.
3. Spread the ice cream evenly over the cooled brownies. Freeze for several hours.
4. Make the meringue. In a medium glass or metal bowl, stir egg whites, sugar, cream of tartar and vanilla with a hand mixer until blended and peaks form.
5. Use a small icing spatula to swirl the meringue over top of the ice cream layer. Freeze for at least 3 hours or overnight.
6. When ready to serve, heat oven to 500°F. Bake for 3 to 5 minutes or until meringue peaks start to turn golden brown.
7. Cut and serve.

For fun, flambe (or set your Baked Alaska on fire) and call it a science experiment too!

Before cutting the Baked Alaska into serving pieces, pour 2 tbs of dark rum over the top of the meringue. Using a long-handled lighter set it on fire.



Cuisine Spotlight: Louisiana Southern States

Beignets

INGREDIENTS:

- Can of store-bought biscuits
- Large bottle of vegetable/frying oil
- Box of Confection Sugar



DIRECTIONS

1. Open the can of store-bought biscuits. Separate the biscuits. Cut each one in half.
2. Heat oil in a large pot (or fryer).
3. When the oil is hot, carefully drop 3-4 biscuits into the oil and deep fry.
4. After 2-3 minutes (or until one side is golden brown), use a metal slotted spoon to gently flip the beignets over.
5. Fry for 2-3 more minutes (or until the other side is golden brown).
6. Using a slotted spoon, remove the beignets from the oil. Place on a paper towel to absorb the excess oil.
7. Repeat with the rest of the cut biscuits.
8. Pour the confection sugar into a large bowl.
9. While the beignets are still slightly warm, roll them in the powdered sugar until they are completely covered.

**Optional- You can sprinkle the beignets with confection sugar instead of completely coating them. **

For the adults, make a cup of cafe au lait (half coffee and half warm milk). Dunk the beignet into the cafe au lait before eating it.



Cuisine Spotlight: Boston Eastern States

Crock Pot Clam Chowder



INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 lb bacon
- 1 small onion
- 2 medium carrots
- 1/2 bunch celery
- 1 bunch green onions
- 1 qt chicken broth
- 4 oz cream cheese
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 3 medium potatoes (or small red potatoes)
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 20 oz canned whole clams

DIRECTIONS

1. Dice the bacon strips into bite-sized pieces and fry. When crispy, remove and set the bacon pieces aside.
2. Dice all of the vegetables (except the potatoes). Saute them in the bacon drippings until they are almost caramelized. Remove and place the vegetables into the crock pot.
3. Cut the potatoes and place them into the crock pot.
4. Add the chicken broth, the clams (including all of the clam juice), and the seasonings.
5. Simmer all day. A half-hour before serving, add the cream cheese and heavy whipping cream.
6. Serve with bacon bits or croutons on top.



Cuisine Spotlight: Ohio

Mid Western States

Buckeye Treats

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 6 tbsp unsalted butter (room temperature)
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 3.5 oz dark chocolate bars, roughly chopped



DIRECTIONS

1. Beat the peanut butter and butter until smooth and creamy.
2. Gradually add the powdered sugar, vanilla extract, and salt. Continue to beat until smooth.
3. Using a tablespoon, divide the peanut butter mixture into 25-30 balls; quickly roll in your palms until smooth.
4. Place balls on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet and freeze for 30 minutes. Reshape balls once chilled, if needed.
5. In a microwave-safe bowl, melt the chocolate. Every minute, stir. Continue heating the chocolate until it is smooth.
6. Skewer 1 peanut butter ball with a toothpick. Dip the ball 3/4 of the way in the chocolate, leaving a small round of peanut butter showing. Allow excess chocolate to drip off.
7. Return the ball to the parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Remove the toothpick.
8. Chill the buckeyes until the chocolate is set, about 30 minutes.



Native American Stick Game

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

MATERIALS:

- 6 craft sticks (color doesn't matter)
- Markers (decorate one side of each craft stick)
- 20 small items (coins, beans, etc.)



Use markers to decorate one side of each craft stick. For fun, use Native American patterns..



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Gather 20 items (or tokens) and place them in a pile in the middle of all players.
2. One player grabs all 6 sticks and drops them to the ground.
3. If all six sticks land facing up, this player takes three tokens.
4. If all six sticks land facing down, this player takes two tokens.
5. If three sticks land facing up, and three sticks land facing down, this player takes one token.
6. If any other combination happens, this player takes no tokens.
7. It is now the next player's turn! He should drop the six craft sticks in the same method as player one and take either three, two, one, or zero tokens, depending on how the sticks land.
8. Play continues until one player collects a total of 15 tokens.

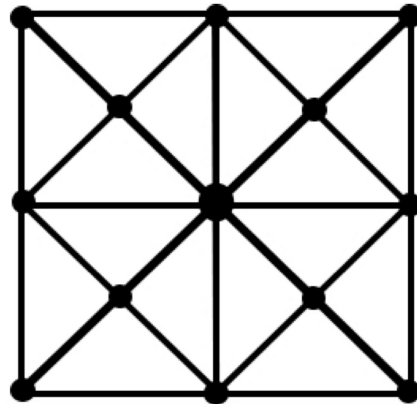
*When all of the tokens in the middle pile run out, players can take tokens from any of their opponents.



Native American Picaria Strategy Game

MATERIALS:

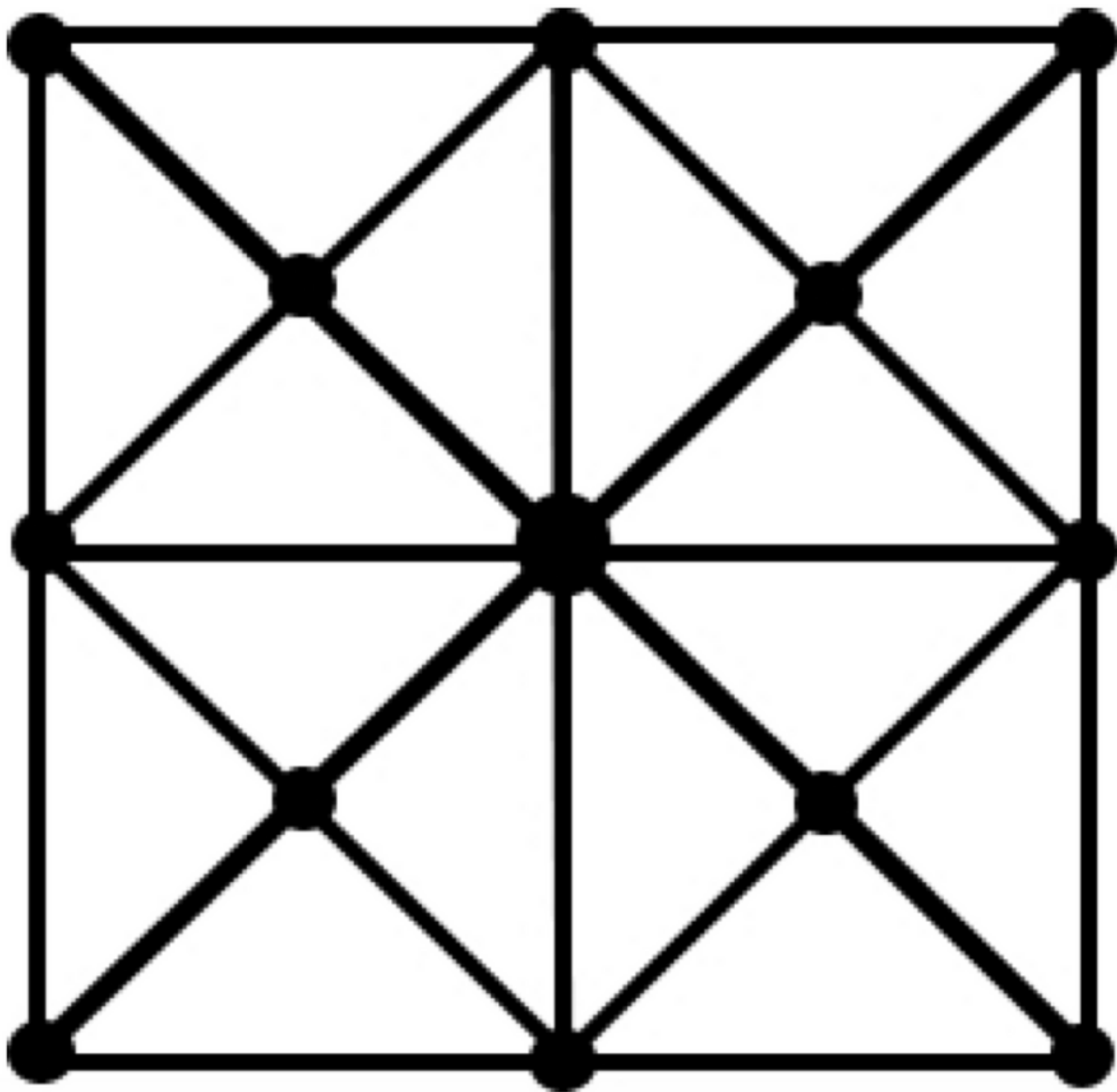
- Board (see next page)
- Two sets of markers with three in each set. You can use two types of dried beans or even checker pieces.



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Start with an empty board.
2. Players choose which color marker each will use and who will go first.
3. Each player takes turns placing one marker on the board until all of the markers have been placed.
4. They cannot place a marker in the very center intersection of the board during this phase of the game.
5. Once all 6 markers have been placed on the board, players take turns moving one piece along a line to a different intersection on the board. During this phase of the game, they can move their markers to the center intersection.
6. Players win by getting all three markers in a row, either in a straight line or diagonally.







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BOOK



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



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Morning Time
Travel Plans



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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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