

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white and purple striped short-sleeved shirt under a long black dress, stands barefoot on a sandy beach. She is holding an open book and looking down at it. The background shows the ocean waves and a clear blue sky.

20+ Books for The Jesus-Loving Homeschooling Mama

Bonus Titles for:

- Special Needs
- Marriage
- Education

Life, Abundantly

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“Do not let the endless succession of small things crowd great ideals out of sight and out of mind.”

-Charlotte Mason

I have no idea how many books I've read in my life, but I can promise you that they have shaped who I am and the way I live- drastically. The way I speak to my husband, the way I teach or discipline my children, the way I pray and seek the Lord- have all been shaped by books. Books are powerful because words and ideas are powerful. Allowing someone else's ideas into the most intimate places in our heart is a precious thing- a thing we must always approach with discernment.

Charlotte Mason tells us that ideas build upon ideas. And so the ideas that we develop are often rooted in the ideas that we have received from others. We receive ideas through conversation, articles, books, music, movies, television shows, and even our social media feeds.

“None of us can be proof against the influences that proceed from the persons he associates with. Wherefore, in books and men, let us look out for the best society, that which yields a bracing and wholesome influence. We all know the person for whose company we are the better, though the talk is only about fishing or embroidery.” -Charlotte Mason

I've created this detailed book list in order to accomplish a few goals:

- If you aren't much of a reader, I want to give you a narrow list (from the billions of books ever written) to help you get your feet wet. I encourage you to watch what God will do in your life through inspired, theologically

sound works.

- If you are a reader, I want to share the titles and authors who have spoken profound truth into my life. These are books I've returned to again and again- as an old friend- with new revelation each time. These are authors that I've researched and read widely and feel comfortable in their interpretation of scripture.
- If you are an avid reader, I encourage you to check these selections out as I love finding overlooked gems I've never noticed before.

Finding Time to Read

I'm often asked- *How do you find the time to read?* I want to outline my own goals and routines for reading across several topics at one time and for finding time in my day to do so.

I don't do it perfectly, but when I stick to this plan, I see the fruit in my marriage, parenting, and faith:

1- I read for 15 minutes each day. We can ALL find 15 minutes each day because almost ALL of us waste wayyyyy more than that doing some mindless social media scrolling.

2- To the point above, if you find yourself opening your social apps mindlessly and scrolling away time in order to have a break, I encourage you NOT TO. That "break" is not refreshing your spirit. That "break" is probably creating conflict, frustration, or discontent. Install an app like "Stay Focused" (android) and limit your social time. Even have someone else password protect it so you can't turn it off. (We won't discuss how I know that's a thing ;)) And by doing this, you'll have PLENTY of time for reading.

3- During your 15 minutes of reading, spend 5 minutes on 3 different books. A wise friend whom I admire gave me this advice a while ago, and it's life-changing! Choose one parenting, one education, and one marriage book.

Spend 5 minutes in EACH of those *everyday*. This will encourage your spirit in all areas of your life, invigorate your desire to be a blessing to your family, and keep you from getting hyper-focused on “fixing” one area of your life.

4- Choose 1-2 special days of the week, in which you will set aside 30 minutes just for reading. You’ll be fleshing out your reading circle with one or two different genres during this time. Choose from one of the other topics like general faith or enjoy fiction from an author whose worldview is grounded in Truth.

5- In this way, you’re getting in 2-2.5 hours of reading each week. This is time that you might have otherwise spent mindlessly scrolling, fretting, worrying, or generally doing something that ISN’T nearly as life-giving to yourself or your family as reading is.

6- Do NOT forget that this daily and weekly time of reading excellent, encouraging non-fiction is NOT a replacement for your time in the Word. If you don’t have a daily habit of worship, prayer, and reading God’s Word right now, I BEG you to begin there before you add anything additional to your plate.

A general tip that I want to share (that is from my own philosophy) is that *you don’t have to finish a book*. Sometimes we read several chapters and just can’t connect with the author, their style of writing, or the content. Sometimes a book can be SO convicting that we need to stop and mull over a portion of the text for weeks (or longer). Sometimes we can know in our Spirit that those first three chapters are EXACTLY what we needed to know on this topic, and we don’t have to go further than that. *That’s OK*. The book police will not show up and arrest you for letting a book go. Just shelf it- you may come back to it later, when you NEED to. Share it with a friend or return it to the library. Every books IS NOT for every person.

How to Afford to Read Widely

Books can be considered a “guilty pleasure” or “splurge” by many of us, but I want to encourage you in both thinking a little differently AND making the most of your budget in this area.

Just as I don't look at grocery delivery service as splurge like I once did (the joys of mothering little ones!), I also no longer look at purchasing books as a splurge. What I've realized as I've approached the freeing middle years of my life is that my time is VALUABLE. ***I am valuable***- to me, to my family, and to my Creator. Just as investing in grocery delivery makes me a happier, more sane woman (with a better fed family), so does being well-read make me a happier, more loving mother and wife. It makes me a better steward of time, resources, and relationships. Any dollar I spend on a well-written book that gives life to me in some area is an investment in my family and my faith. That's never a “splurge.”

But money doesn't grow on trees, so we all have limitations. Thusly I want to share how I make my book habits align with our financial budget:

1- I use SCRIBD! Scribd is like “Netflix for books.” It's an app that costs \$8.99 per month in which you can read or listen to ANY book they have available. You can read as much or as many (including audiobooks) as you like. My husband hit a wall at 30 hours of audiobooks from one genre in one month, but that's the only limitation we've found. 90% of the books I want to read are on Scribd in ebook or audio. You can only read/listen from a device in which the Scribd app can be installed, and you don't “own” the books- you're simply borrowing them.

Unlike hoopla or other library options, you don't have to wait for other people to finish the book. You just search, click, read. You can also refer friends and earn free months for each one who signs up! In this way, I NEVER pay! AND, it keeps me from buying “duds.” Sometimes I really don't like an author that

everyone else loves. By reading on this app first, I can know if I feel like I need to own the physical book to get the most benefit from it.

2- Library! Of course you can check out books at the library, but many libraries also offer apps like Hoopla that allow you to check out ebooks and audiobooks for free. And some libraries will order books upon request.

3- Friends! Don't forget you have friends who like to read. Reach out to a few and ask them to share any that you have on your list. It's fun to read a book that a friend has read- you can chat about it together.

I hope that all of that was an encouragement to make time for something that can bring such LIFE into your heart and mind. We can never grow weary of learning more of God's character or his works- all for his glory!

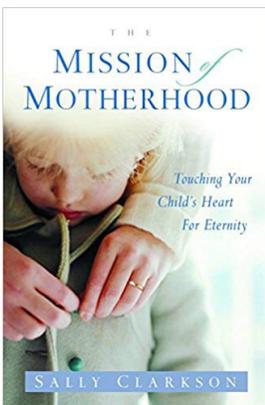
Go forth and read, sweet friend!

In Christ,
Erin

Motherhood/Parenting

This collection of books is near and dear to my heart. I have intimate heart-ties with them as they fundamentally shaped the way I parent my children. I have returned to several of them multiple times for a boost of encouragement. I also admire and adore the authors and have read (and trust) their full body of work.

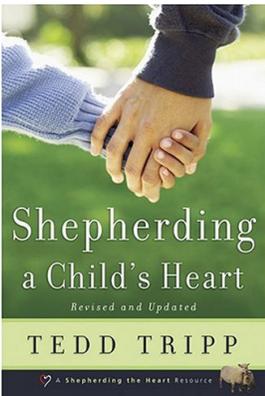
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The Mission of Motherhood* OR *The Ministry of Motherhood

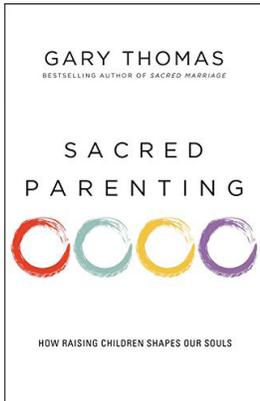
by Sally Clarkson- No calling is greater, nobler, or more fulfilling than that motherhood. Every day, as we nurture our children, mothers influence eternal destiny as no one else can. Tragically, today's culture minimizes the vital importance of a mother's role. In "The Mission of Motherhood," Sally Clarkson helps you rediscover the joy and fulfillment to be found in the strategic role to which God in all his wisdom has called you, for a purpose far greater than you can ever imagine. **Note: Both of these books, along with basically everything that Sally Clarkson has written, are at the heartbeat of my parenting. I admire her so much and have virtually (maybe creepily?) adopted her as my "spiritual mother." If you've never read Sally, be ready to be convicted, encouraged, and motivated to love your Lord and lead your children well.**

2



Shepherding a Child's Heart by Ted Tripp- This book is about how to speak to the heart of your child (Luke 6:45). Written for parents with children of any age, this insightful book provides perspectives and procedures for shepherding your child's heart into the paths of life. **Note: This book is a staple in the home of almost every Christian parent I know. It's TRANSFORMATIVE. If you only read ONE book prior to the teen years, make sure it's this one.**

3

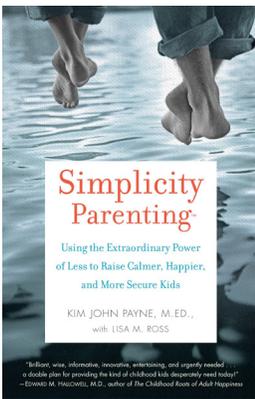


Sacred Parenting by Gary Thomas- Parenting is a school for spiritual formation, says author Gary Thomas, and our children are our teachers. The journey of caring for, rearing, training, and loving our children profoundly alters us forever... even when the journey is sometimes a rough one.

Sacred Parenting is not a “how-to” book that teaches readers the ways to discipline their kids or help them achieve their full potential. Instead of a discussion about how parents change their children, Sacred Parenting turns the tables and demonstrates how God uses children to change their parents.

Note: You'll quickly find I love everything from Gary Thomas. His writing has transformed my marriage and my parenting.

4



Simplicity Parenting: Using the Extraordinary Power of Less to Raise Calmer, Happier, and More Secure Kids by Kim

John Payne and Lisa Ross- Today's busier, faster society is waging an undeclared war on childhood. With too much stuff, too many choices, and too little time, children can become anxious, have trouble with friends and school, or even be diagnosed with behavioral problems. Simplicity Parenting offers inspiration, ideas, and a blueprint for change.

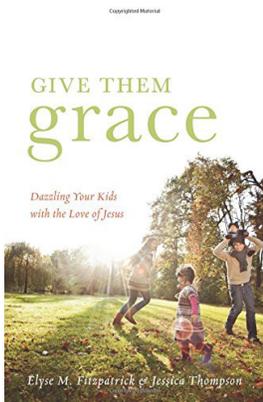
Note: This book is not written from a Christian perspective. I found it extremely encouraging in the area of honoring a child's development, but as with ALL books- put your discernment goggles on. I found nothing objectionable and plan to re-read it in 2020.

5

Give Them Grace: Dazzling Your Kids with the Love of Jesus

by Elyse Fitzpatrick- All of us want to raise good kids. And we want to be good parents. But what exactly do we mean by “good?” And is “being good” really the point?

Mother-daughter team Elyse Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson contend that every way we try to make our kids

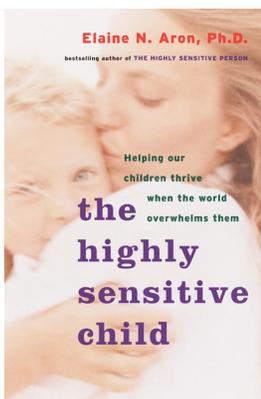


“good” is simply an extension of Old Testament Law, a set of standards that is not only unable to save our children, but also powerless to change them.

No, rules are not the answer. What they need is grace. **Note:** *As a young parent (and even now), I've always struggled with being more “lawish” than not. I think this book does a fantastic job of demonstrating that the ONLY transformative power we have in our lives is the saving grace of Jesus Christ. While I would not consider this book my parenting Bible, it's a great balance to my naturally authoritative parenting style.*

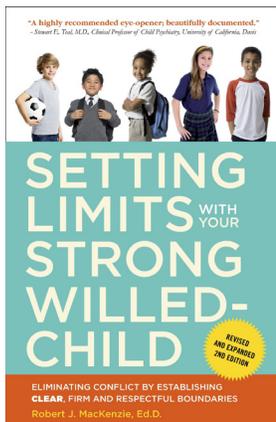
Bonus: Special Needs Parenting

As a mother of two daughters who were definitely considered (and still very much are) “sensory kids” or “highly sensitive children” from BIRTH, these books were a saving grace. I also have a daughter with learning disabilities. Understanding the unique ABILITIES of her brain has helped us embrace the challenges with gratitude for the ways God has made her special.

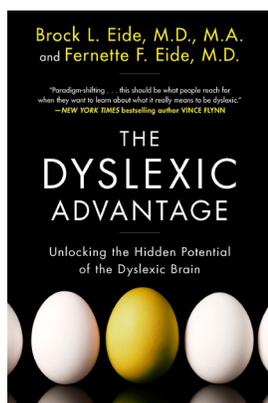


The Highly Sensitive Child by Elaine Aron- This book shows how HSCs are born deeply reflective, sensitive to the subtle, and easily overwhelmed. These qualities can make for smart, conscientious, creative children, but with the wrong parenting or schooling, they can become unusually shy or timid, or begin acting out. Raised with proper understanding and care, HSCs are no more prone to these problems than nonsensitive children and can grow up to be happy, healthy, well-adjusted adults. **Note:** *Having my first child born prematurely with multiple food allergies and a highly sensitive personality made for a nearly traumatic first few years of parenting. It was a few years before I realized that it wasn't “normal” for your child to cry 80% of the day. Learning about her sensory preferences (and food allergies) helped me to create an atmosphere that was soothing for her and conducive to our sanity. Understanding that she wasn't “defective” and that I TOO was an HSP was extremely liberating and helped me to do what I needed to do in order to*

embrace these differences.

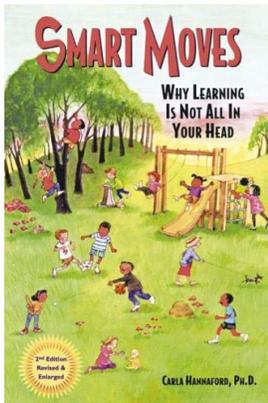


Setting Limits with Your Strong-Willed Child by Robert MacKenzie- Strong-willed children are not part of some conspiracy to make life difficult for others. They just do what strong-willed children do. They test harder and more often, resist longer, protest louder, use more drama, and carry things further than most of us would ever imagine. They're movers and shakers, powerful kids who bring out strong reactions in others. The challenges facing parents and teachers of strong-willed children can seem overwhelming at times. ***Note: Anyone else have a child that has to learn everything "the hard way" or always has to have the last word? If this personality type creates challenges in your family, you'll be grateful for the no-nonsense (REAL) solutions offered in this book. This book is not written from a Christian worldview, so I have found that utilizing the practical implications are very helpful, but always with grace as I share the gospel with my strong-willed children over and over again.***



The Dyslexic Advantage by Eide and Eide- Did you know that many successful architects, lawyers, engineers—even bestselling novelists—had difficulties learning to read and write as children? In this groundbreaking book, Brock and Fernette Eide explain how 20% of people—individuals with dyslexia—share a unique learning style that can create advantages in a classroom, at a job, or at home. Using their combined expertise in neurology and education, the authors show how these individuals not only perceive the written word differently but may also excel at spatial reasoning, see insightful connections that others simply miss, understand the world in stories, and display amazing creativity. ***Note: This book is worth its weight in gold if you have a child with dyslexia. It truly helps you to understand their differences in a positive light which helps you structure THEIR perspective of these challenges in a positive light.***

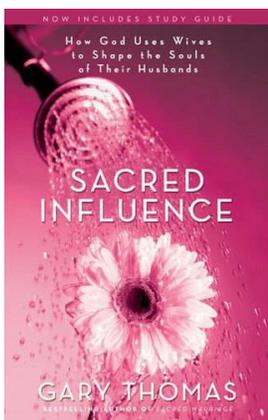
Bonus
SN



Smart Moves: Why Learning Is Not All in Your Head by Carla Hannaford- Examining the body's role in learning, from infancy through adulthood, she presents the mounting scientific evidence that movement is crucial to learning. Dr. Hannaford offers clear alternatives and remedies that people can put into practice right away to make a real difference in their ability to learn. She advocates more enlightened educational practices for homes and schools including: a more holistic view of each learner; less emphasis on rote learning; more experiential, active instruction; less labeling of learning disabilities; more physical movement; more personal expression through arts, sports and music; less prescribing of Ritalin and other drugs whose long term effects are not even known. **Note: I highly recommend this book for all homeschooling parents- especially for moms of wiggle worm little ones. This book lends the perfect wisdom and encouragement for making sure we keep play as PRIMARY in the early years.**

Marriage

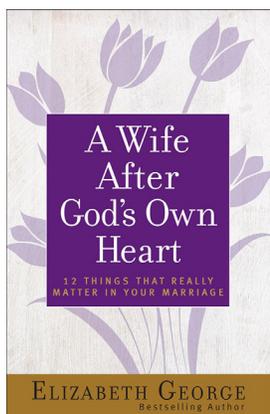
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Sacred Influence: How God Uses Wives to Shape the Souls of Their Husbands by Gary Thomas- If you're sick of all the ways you've tried to bring about change in your marriage- the silent treatment, nagging, one-way discussions, or pleading- it's time to set aside those broken methods for a Christ-based approach. This book demonstrates how women can inspire, influence, and help their husbands move in positive directions. Replacing your plan of action with God's leads to a marital transformation where both partners are moving in sync, the way God intended. **Note: I will hands-down tell you that this was the most influential book that I read in an early season of our marriage when I was new to Christ and on the brink of divorce. This book revolutionized the way that I looked at my husband, our relationship, and the profound impact that everything that I say and do has upon his heart and soul. This is my TOP marriage book- especially if you're struggling to respect your**

husband or hand poor marital role models to follow in your own life.

7

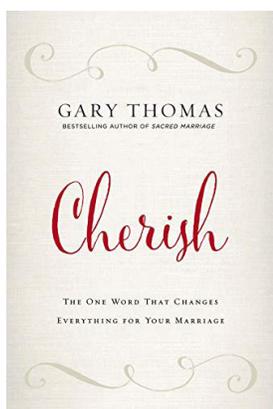


A Wife After God's Own Heart by Elizabeth George- This book reveals how you can have what every married woman desires—a wonderful marriage filled with mutual love, friendship, romance, and joy. The author shares the keys to having a great marriage, including...

- communicating to your husband more effectively
- understanding how to best support your man
- having more fun as a couple
- enhancing or rekindling marital intimacy
- honoring God together in your relationship

Note: I've read several books by Elizabeth George and have loved them all. My husband and I enjoyed A Couple After God's Own Heart together. I find her advice super practical and always centered on honoring Christ.

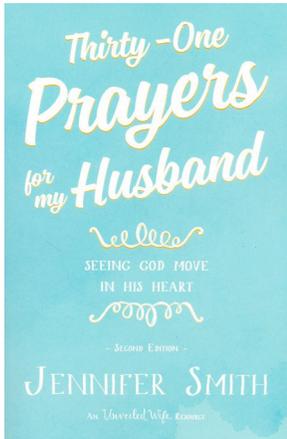
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Cherish by Gary Thomas- In a world desperate for marriage redemption, the act of cherishing is needed now more than ever. Thomas shows that although there are a countless number of marriages consisting of two people just going through the motions, there are real ways this pattern can be reversed: when husbands and wives learn to cherish one another in proven, loving, and everyday actions and words.

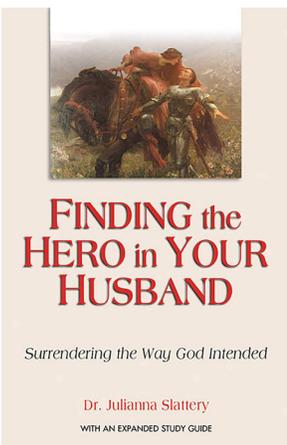
So how do you cherish your spouse? Thomas will show you how going out of your way to notice them, appreciate them, honor them, encourage them, and hold them close to your heart will bring hope, light, and life into your marriage. ***Note: I'm currently reading this book for the second time. I absolutely love Gary's poignant way of revealing truth (and God's Sovereignty) in all of our relationships. I've loved every marriage or parenting book I've read from him. If your marriage is on firm ground and going well, but you're looking to dig deeper and cultivate more intimacy, I highly recommend this one!***

9



Thirty-One Prayers for My Husband by Jennifer Smith-Prayer is one of the most essential parts of our walk with God. It is the gift God gave us to be able to have direct access to His throne room and communicate with Him. This book of 31 prayers is purposed to encourage and guide you as you pray for specific aspects of your husband's life. There is even free writing space for you to add your own thoughts and prayers to each prayer, to make them your own, and to lift up specific prayer requests your husband may have. **Note: I'm working through this wonderful prayer guide for the second time, joined by my husband as he reads the companion book. While I wholly believe in Spirit-Led prayer, this book is an excellent guideline for jump-starting (or rewarming) your prayer life for your husband. The prayer topics are broad and applicable to any marriage.**

10

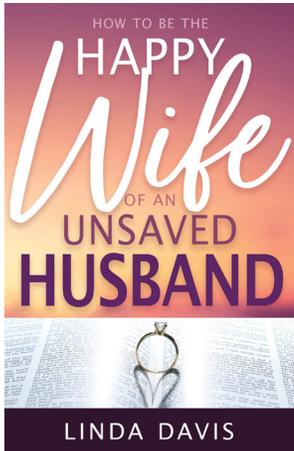


Finding the Hero in Your Husband by Dr. Julianna Slattery-As a psychologist, Dr. Juli Slattery knows firsthand that many women share the same frustrations about their husbands, whether they're newly wedded or celebrating a silver anniversary. As a Christian wife and mother, she, too, struggled with similar issues until she discovered the one simple truth about these seemingly insensitive and apathetic men: Each one of them is a hero.

As she explains, God has given women tremendous power in their relationships. Unfortunately, most women unwittingly either ignore their power or abuse it. Dr. Slattery also explores the maligned and misunderstood 's' word: submission. She explains what it is, what it isn't, how women can support their husbands while being true to their dreams, and practical steps women can take if they are living in a dictatorship. **Note: This book was another one that was profoundly influential in my first few years as a Christian wife (to an unsaved husband at that time.) I felt like my husband did not deserve my respect, and I balked at the word**

submission. This book coupled with Sacred Influence by Gary Thomas helped re-frame my entire mentality toward marriage and submission into a Biblical worldview that I fervently hope and prayer honors God today.

**Bonus
Marriage**

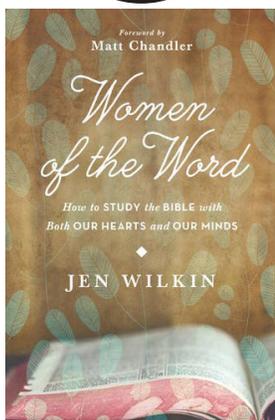


Bonus: ***How to be the Happy Wife to an Unsaved Husband*** by Linda Davis- Every time you get your hopes up, they come crashing down--shattering like broken promises. You crumble under the weight of your own disappointment. In despair, you cry out to God, "Why don't You do something? I need your help! Will You ever save my husband?"

This is the heart-wrenching cry of a Christian woman whose husband doesn't know Christ as his Savior and Lord. A great spiritual gulf separates them. It is difficult to agree on day-to-day decisions, let alone larger questions. Everyday life becomes a lonely and painful existence. **Note: This book was a profound encouragement during several years of marriage in which I had a relationship with the Lord but my husband did not. It gave me clarity where I was guessing and felt isolated. This book is filled with wisdom that helped me to stop being used as a tool of the enemy against my husband. If you're husband is not a believer, I HIGHLY recommend this book.**

Faith

11



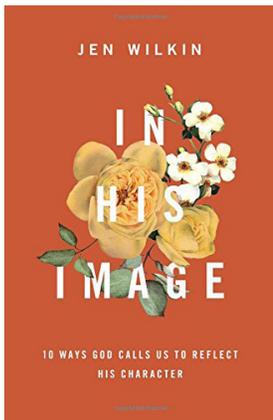
Women of the Word by Jen Wilkin- We all know it's important to study God's Word. But sometimes it's hard to know where to start. What's more, a lack of time, emotionally driven approaches, and past frustrations can erode our resolve to keep growing in our knowledge of Scripture. How can we, as Christian women, keep our focus and sustain our passion when reading the Bible?

Offering a clear and concise plan to help women go deeper in their study of Scripture, this book will equip you to engage God's Word in a way that trains your mind and transforms your heart. **Note: This is HANDS DOWN one of the most transformative books I've read in how to approach the Word of God. Through Jen's wisdom and**

no-nonsense approach, she helped me understand just how important it is to read the Word in an orderly, methodical, and intentional way. As a bonus, I've created a "cheat sheet" summary of the techniques used in Jen's book (with her permission) to use as a book mark in reading so that you can keep her method front-of-mind until mastered, after reading her book. (You can find that in my free Resource Library.)

12

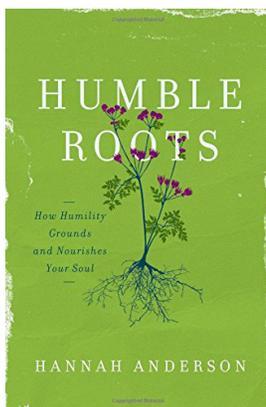
In His Image by Jen Wilkin- Sometimes we ask "What is God's will for my life?" when we should really be asking "Who should I be?" The Bible has an answer: Be like the very image of God.



By exploring ten characteristics of who God is holy, loving, just, good, merciful, gracious, faithful, patient, truthful, and wise. This book helps us understand who God intends for us to be. Through Christ, the perfect reflection of the image of God, we will discover how God's own attributes impact how we live, leading to freedom and purpose as we follow his will and are conformed to his image. **Note: This book and "None Like Him" are on my re-read list for 2020. I'm a HUGE fan of Jen Wilkin and have loved her books, Bible studies, and podcasts. I find her funny, practical, theologically sound, and always Spirit-led. You cannot go wrong with any of her work.**

13

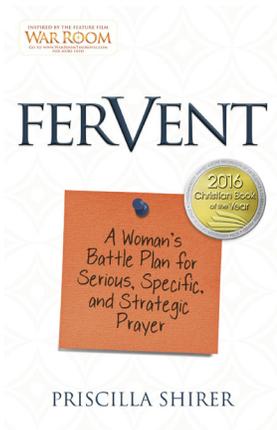
Humble Roots by Hannah Anderson- Fighting back her own sense of restlessness and anxiety, Hannah Anderson finds herself immersed in the world outside, discovering a classroom full of forsythia, milkweed, and a failed herb garden. Lessons about soil preparation, sour mulch, and grapevine blights reveal the truth about our dependence on God, finding rest, and fighting discontentment.



This book is part theology of incarnation and part stroll through the fields and forest. Anchored in the teaching of Jesus, Anderson explores how cultivating humility—not scheduling, strict boundaries, or increased productivity—leads

to peace. "Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden," Jesus invites us, "and you will find rest for your souls." *Note: This was my first read from Hannah and she has followed it up with "Made for More" and "All That's Good." ALL THREE are amazing, encouraging, wise, convicting, and on-point. However, "Humble Roots" is a personal favorite and a transformative blessing to my soul. Hannah quotes "Humility" by Andrew Murray several times throughout, and it is an excellent follow-up read to "Humble Roots."*

14

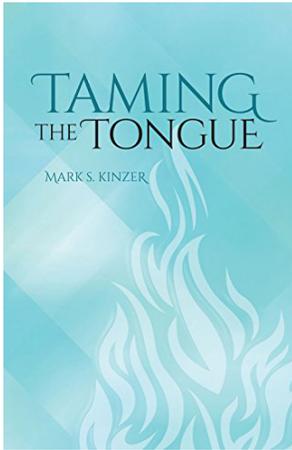


Fervent by Priscilla Shirer - You have an enemy . . . and he's dead set on destroying all you hold dear and keeping you from experiencing abundant life in Christ. What's more, his approach to disrupting your life and discrediting your faith isn't general or generic, not a one-size-fits-all. It's specific. Personalized. Targeted.

So this book is your chance to strike back. With prayer. With a weapon that really works. Each chapter will guide you in crafting prayer strategies that hit the enemy where it hurts, letting him know you're on to him and that you won't back down. Because with every new strategy you build, you're turning the fiercest battles of life into precise strikes against him and his handiwork, each one infused with the power of God's Spirit. *Note: I'm aware that this type of fiery prayer guide is not everyone's cup of tea, especially if you fall into more of a reformed theological camp. That said, I found it firmly rooted in the Word of God. I experienced this book in the setting of a small group which was life-changing for me. Before reading this book, I was FEARFUL to pray aloud and never did it. After reading this book, I became a passionate prayer warrior. If your prayer-life needs an "amp-up", Priscilla is sure to give it to you!*

15

Taming the Tongue by Mark Kinzer- The Epistle of James says that anyone who considers him - or herself to be religious yet does not tame his tongue is self deceived. James says that such a person's religion is worthless. On the other hand, James refers to the person who tames his or her

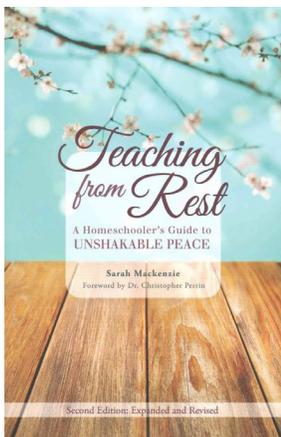


tongue as a perfect person. That's a stark contrast. There's a big difference between being a self-deceived person engaging in worthless religious practice, and being perfect or complete. If we take these words of the Bible seriously, we need to start taking our own words far more seriously than we normally do.

This book contributes to the conversation from a Messianic Jewish perspective, bringing to bear the powerful teachings of Yeshua and the apostles. **Note: This book was fascinating to me and broadened my understanding of the power of our words from a Biblical perspective far beyond anything I imagined possible. It opened my eyes to many lies I had believed about my words. God used it to change my heart (and mouth) drastically. I also LOVE the author's intimate knowledge of Jewish texts through his experience as a Messianic Jew.**

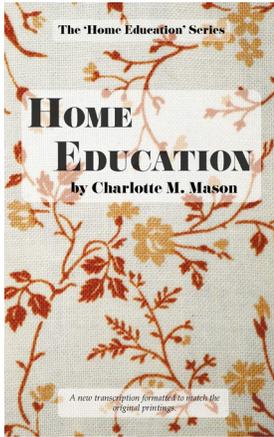
Home Education

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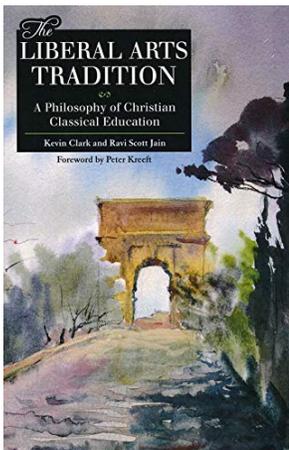
Teaching from Rest by Sarah MacKenzie- Those who have made the decision to homeschool their children have done so out of great love for their children and a desire to provide them an excellent education in the context of a warm, enriching home. Yet so many parents (mainly mothers) who have taken up this challenge find the enterprise often full of stress, worry, and anxiety. In this practical, faith-based, and inspirational book, Sarah Mackenzie addresses these questions directly, appealing to her own study of restful learning (scholé) and her struggle to bring restful learning to her (six) children. **Note: Aside from the Bible itself, I tend to refer to this as the "Homeschool Mom's Bible." The amount of REAL, raw, Holy Spirit-inspired honesty and encouragement that you find within this pages is paralleled by none. You will laugh, cry, and most assuredly say "Me, too." Sarah's perspective helps you get through the rough days and feel encouraged when everything seems to be going wrong. I have read this book at least 5 summers in a row to prepare myself with a wise and measured perspective as I approach each new year of homeschooling.**

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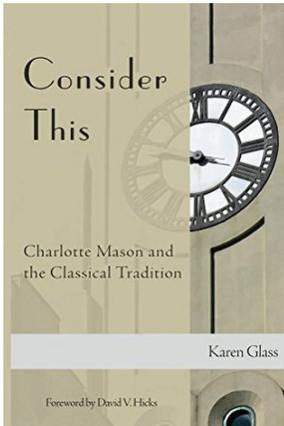
Volume 1: Home Education by Charlotte Mason- Home Education is the first volume in the series authored by Charlotte Mason herself in which she approaches the topic of earliest education, up until the age of 6. From birth until 6, she discusses every aspect of a child's life and development. She goes a bit further than age 6 in the second half of the book as she covers step-by-step reading instruction and a basic curriculum for several ages. If you are interested in a CM education, **please please** read Miss Mason's work itself rather than a paraphrase. Her own work is SO much more actionable. Volume 1 is the best place to begin, even if you have children older than 6. **Note: I encourage the Living Books Press edition available on Amazon as their pages align with the original page citations and make researching from various reference books easier.**

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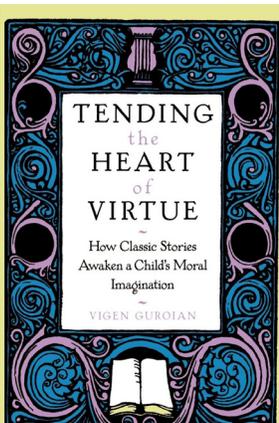
The Liberal Arts Tradition by Clark and Jain- "The Liberal Arts Tradition: A Philosophy of Christian Classical Education" introduces readers to a paradigm for understanding a classical education that transcends the familiar 3-stage pattern of grammar, logic, and rhetoric. Instead, this book describes the liberal arts as a central part of a larger and more robust paradigm of classical education that should consist of piety, gymnastic, music, liberal arts, philosophy, and theology. The Liberal Arts Tradition also recovers the means by which classical educators developed more than just intellectual virtue (by means of the 7 liberal arts) but holistically cultivated the mind, body, will, and affections. This is a must-read for educators who want to take a second big step toward recovering the tradition of classical education. **Note: This book is NOT a light read, however it's depth is beautiful. It's a delightful encouragement and a breath of fresh air. At this writing, this is not in stock on Amazon but can be purchased via Classical Academic Press' website or ChristianBooks.com**

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Consider This by Karen Glass- The educators of ancient Greece and Rome gave the world a vision of what education should be. The medieval and Renaissance teachers valued their insights and lofty goals. Christian educators such as Augustine, Erasmus, Milton, and Comenius drew from the teaching of Plato, Aristotle, and Quintilian those truths which they found universal and potent. Charlotte Mason developed her own philosophy of education from the riches of the past, not accidentally but purposefully. She and the other founding members of the Parents' National Educational Union in England were inspired by the classical educators of history and set out to achieve their vision in modern education. They succeeded—and thanks to Charlotte Mason's clear development of methods to realize the classical ideals, we can partake of the classical tradition as well. **Note: Step a toe into the Charlotte Mason or Classical education spheres online and you will find much legalism about it being "one way or the other." Take comfort that implementing a Charlotte Mason feast is most assuredly also (yes, simultaneously) a beautiful, classical education. Karen Glass draws these two worlds together beautifully and puts a homeschooling mom's heart to rest that these who educational philosophies are much more the same than some would have you believe. This book is an EXCELLENT read once you've whet your appetite for both educational philosophies. I encourage you to come to this work after reading the preceding two recommendations first.**

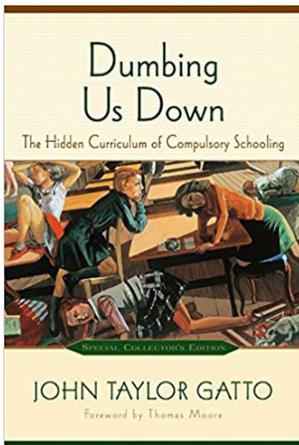
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Tending the Heart of Virtue by Vigen Guroian- Guroian illuminates the complex ways in which fairy tales and fantasies educate the moral imagination from earliest childhood. Examining a wide range of stories--from "Pinocchio" and "The Little Mermaid" to "Charlotte's Web," "The Velveteen Rabbit," "The Wind in the Willows," and the "Chronicles of Narnia"--he argues that these tales capture the meaning of morality through vivid depictions of the struggle between good and evil, in which characters must make difficult choices between right and wrong, or heroes

and villains contest the very fate of imaginary worlds Throughout, Guroian highlights the classical moral virtues such as courage, goodness, and honesty, especially as they are understood in traditional Christianity. **Note: If the Moral Imagination is a new concept to you or you've struggled with valuing books that can have dark or frightening themes (like Grimm's Fairy Tales), I encourage you to look through these familiar stories through this author's eyes. You'll never look at fairy tales or fantasy the same way again!**

**Bonus
Home Ed**



Bonus: ***Dumbing Us Down*** John Taylor Gatto- After over 100 years of mandatory schooling in the U.S., literacy rates have dropped, families are fragmented, learning “disabilities” are skyrocketing, and children and youth are increasingly disaffected. Thirty years of teaching in the public school system led John Taylor Gatto to the sad conclusion that compulsory governmental schooling is to blame, accomplishing little but to teach young people to follow orders like cogs in an industrial machine.

He became a fierce advocate of families and young people taking back education and learning, arguing that “genius is as common as dirt,” but that conventional schooling is driving out the natural curiosity and problem-solving skills we’re born with, replacing it with rule-following, fragmented time, and disillusionment. **Note: This is one of the first books I read in my foray into home education. While I don’t agree with the overt “unschooling” aspect of Gatto’s philosophy, I found his historical analysis of the educational system shocking and eye-opening. If you have hesitations about home education, wonder how we got to where we are, or have a spouse who questions homeschooling, this book is an excellent read.**