

Welcome to Empowering
Homeschool Conversations,
your authority in
navigating the world of
homeschooling diverse learners.

Featuring Peggy Ployer from
Sped Homeschool,
Annie Yorty from AnnieYorty.com,
Leilani Melendez from Living with Eve,
Stephanie Buckwalter from eLARP Learning,
and Dawn Jackson from Dawn
Jackson Educational
Consulting and Tutoring.

With over seventy five years
of combined homeschooling expertise,
experiences and perspectives,
this group is eager to
share their wealth of
wisdom to empower your
homeschooling journey.

So grab your favorite mug,
settle in and get ready for
insightful discussions,

valuable insights and practical tips.

Give your homeschool the
power boost it needs to
successfully educate the
unique learners in your home.

Hello, everyone.

Welcome to Empowering
Homeschool Conversations.

I am Leilani Melendez,
your host for today.

So today we are going to
talk about homeschooling by faith,
not by comfort.

And my guest today is Dani Ward.

She is a wife, mother,
and passionate encourager
of faith-filled family life.

Currently in her homeschooling era,
she has fully embraced her
role as a homemaker after
transitioning from a full-time career.

With a heart for faith, family,
and intentional living,

Dani creates resources to
help parents nurture their
children's faith,
including a family Bible
study designed to spark
meaningful connections at home.

New to the digital product space,
she shares her journey on Instagram,
and her tag is at Raising Homemakers.

She offers encouragement,
biblical wisdom and
practical tools for Christ
centered parenting.

When she's not creating,
Dani loves experimenting in the kitchen.

Diving into health and
wellness and soaking up the
outdoors with her adventurous crew,
whether camping, biking, skiing,
or paddle boarding.

She thrives on creating
memories and embracing
every season with joy and purpose.

And I'm reading those and

I'm so jealous because I

always wanted to ski.

Yeah.

So anyway, thank you, Danny,

so much for joining our show.

Um,

I'm going to just jump right in to the

questions and because our topic,

I think is pretty cool.

It's, um,

homeschooling by faith and not by

comfort.

And I think, you know,

I guess I should just ask you,

what does it mean to

homeschool by faith rather than comfort?

Yeah.

Thanks for having me.

Um,

For me and my journey,

I've just come to realize

that homeschooling by faith

just means saying yes.

Even when everything just
feels hard and that you're not qualified,
it's just choosing
obedience over the ease and the comfort.

And I think when we do a
deeper dive into dissecting
what these things are that
we're calling comfortable,
you start to kind of realize
that they're not like I tell
my kids all the time you
have to choose your hard
because both scenarios are
going to be challenging.

For instance,
like we're really active like
we were my intro with
skiing and mountain biking
and all these things and at
one time those were all new.

We didn't you don't just
come out on the on that board.

down the mountain skiing,
it took a ton of work and
practice and hurdles and
getting over fears.

And the same goes into
learning or teaching your kids.

Some of us have some
educational backgrounds,
and that's how we got more
into the decision to homeschool.

But for a lot of us,
we don't feel equipped.

We don't know what we're doing.

We're trying to figure it out.

And, um,

when we just take a breath and

slow down and just kind of

see that we can do things

that they're going to be challenging, um,

but to get over those hurdles and, um,

it's not always going to look easy,

but we've been called to do this.

And I think when you lean

into that piece and just remind yourself,
like,
It's going to be uncomfortable.
It's going to be messy.
There's going to be some
days that you just think,
what am I doing?
Why am I doing this?
But no matter what, it gets easier.
Like I think of like school
drop-offs and the, hey,
just put your kids in school.
It's easier.
And then I kind of unravel
that a little bit in my mind.
Like, is that easier?
Is that the easier choice?
to then you have to wake up
early and get lunches made and drop offs.
And I think both scenarios
have their challenges.
But for some reason,
we try to convince

ourselves that one version
is comfortable than the other.

Does that make sense?

Yeah, it was actually,
what would you say would be
an example of that?

Like a situation in your home,
homeschooling, that

is not comfortable but

you're doing it by faith um

for me it's been teaching

like for example a subject

that you think you maybe

aren't that great at like a

math I despise math math is

is my uncomfortable space

but when I set when I sit

down and I take it slow

with my daughter and she's also not

math oriented.

That isn't her favorite subject either.

I just break through that

discomfort and just find

that the more we work at it, you know,

it's a slower progression

than maybe I want it to.

Challenges come up where she

doesn't want to do it.

She's refusing.

She's pushing back.

I'm frustrated.

I'm feeling like, oh,

how do I teach someone math

when I hate math?

But

when we continue to show up,

even through those uncomfortable moments,

you start to see little by little,

the dots start to connect,

things start to come together.

And yeah,

I just think having faith in that

and just trusting yourself

and knowing that it's

always worth it to just

keep pushing through.

And you mentioned that she
gets frustrated when she's doing math.

She does.

She doesn't, she's like her and I both,
you say a number and my mind goes blank.

I'm automatically her and I
both just numbers aren't our forte.

Like we're more creatives
and word oriented and stuff like that.

It's more of our strengths.

So in a way that's like
building your character,
having to push through all of that.

It definitely does.

Do you,

I mean,

you mentioned a little bit about
how you push through,
but is there any other tips
that you would give our audience that,
you know,
when you're in that moment and
you know you got to do math

in your homeschooling,
you're in that moment and
you know that you have to push through,
but you're running up
against a wall and you're
getting frustrated and angry.

Do you have any tips that
you could share with the
audience that you do?

Yeah, we take a break.

We pause.

We've put it away.

Deep breath.

I mean, it sounds silly,

but like deep breaths.

Sometimes we go for a walk because we need,

we both, either it's her or me, you know,

could be either of us need a reset.

I think resetting is the

best tool to use when

you're coming up against

something that's

frustrating or you just don't,

you feel like you're hitting a wall,

we'd like to go for walks.

Being outside has made a huge difference.

And doing school in general outside,

I feel like we,

I don't like to recreate the classroom.

I don't think we have to be

sitting at the table in

order to complete a lesson.

Sometimes it looks like

going to the park and being like, okay,

go do, you know, get out some energy.

Sometimes we get a little,

unfocused because we just

need to get out some of our energy.

So we'll play for a little bit,

take a break, get back into it.

And I find, um, for her and I both,

it just kind of relieves

that built up stress.

You got to reset and just

kind of come at it with a,

with a refresh.

Yeah.

And you mentioned to take
the first thing you said
was take a break.

And I was like, Yep,
because I think I don't know,
did you you said you were
full time career was your
career in teaching?

No,
I worked full time for an off road
business that did
power steering for racing.
So it was probably better.

Yeah.

Cause I was going to say like,
I know in public school,
there was always like this timeframe.

You have to get it done by a certain time.

And like the idea of taking
a break is so nice because
then you have to trust that
the Lord you're doing it by faith.

You're trusting that the

Lord is going to fill in

the gaps for you.

Yeah, absolutely.

Absolutely.

yeah so cool was there

anything any other examples

that you can think of that

you wanted to share or well

I think to kind of just

elaborate on what you said

that he fills in the gaps I

think that um that really

hits home for me and I know

those other moms that I talk to of just

bringing it to him and praying about it.

And the more we try to control,

the less control we ultimately have.

Um, and I just, yeah, I just, I,

I take a lot of breaks and

looking into the Lord and just being like,

what am I supposed to be doing?

Where, where are you guiding us?

And, um,

bring me peace on these days where

I'm frustrated and

overwhelmed and it makes a

big difference.

Yeah.

Yeah.

All right.

So let's talk a little bit

about trusting God.

How can we practically trust

God when we feel inadequate

to teach our children?

The inadequacy piece for a

lot of us pops in and it

seems to like hit when

you're not expecting it.

Like things are smooth

sailing and then all of a

sudden a hard day comes and

we start to unravel.

and the inadequacy of what am I doing?

Am I good enough for this?

And honestly,

I just have to reflect on

people in the Bible.

The Bible is full of stories

of people who weren't

by mainstream adequate.

You think of Moses who didn't speak well,

or David who was a shepherd boy, Esther,

terrified.

Ruth, she was a foreigner, or even Mary,

Jesus's mom, she was a teenager.

So none of these people were qualified as

being adequate.

So I just have to remember

that God chooses us on purpose.

And it was a calling,

homeschooling is a calling

that he's placed on me.

And there isn't this promise

of like perfect days.

We just have to remember our willingness.

And sorry.

Yeah.

that we were chosen, we're not perfect,
but we are faithful and we
can just keep going.

Yeah.

And then he, once again,
coming back to that,
that filling of the gap.

And I was thinking too,
as you were talking about
your situation with math,
because I think it still applies, like,
you know, you don't like math,
but like a lot of people
just don't feel inadequate to teach math,
right?

Cause you know,
maybe they didn't get a
degree in mathematics or
something like that.

Or I run across a lot of
people that feel inadequate
because they weren't
trained as a teacher too.

So I don't know.

I just, yeah, that's just a really,
really good thought.

I love your quote.

The more we try to control,
the less control that we have.

I love that quote.

Um,

OK, so let me move on.

So battling comparisons,

I think that leads really
well into battling comparisons, you know,
because like I said, you know,
some people think they're
inadequate because they're
constantly comparing each
other to other people.

How do we resist the
pressure to make our
homeschool look like someone else's?

Comparison, as we all know,
the thief of joy.

But it really, truly is.

We have...

people at our fingertips
more than we used to ever,
ever had before being on
Instagram or TikTok or
Facebook and specialized
groups and podcasts.

You know,
we have all this information
hitting us and it's so easy
to spiral into that comparison because,
you know, you'll have
this advice and this advice
and this advice and you're
trying to do all the best things.

And there's just a fine line
between inspiration and comparison.

I found that I had to start
unfollowing some of these
pages because they left me
feeling inadequate and they
left me comparing my
journey to someone else's.

And I think we sometimes

need to take a step back

and remember like,

My kids are five and seven.

So I'm in the stage of

needing to be planting

seeds and nurturing.

And my nurturing season is

gonna be really long

because they're littler and

I'm not going to reap my

harvest until later.

So if I'm watching someone's

content who has older kids,

that's not a fair judgment

of where I'm at and what season I'm in.

So I started unfollowing

a ton of accounts that just didn't keep,

um,

keep me grounded and peaceful in my

thoughts.

And whenever I found myself

comparing and looking at

someone else's perfect, you know,
everything looks perfect on,
on Instagram and on
Facebook and all these, all these groups,
but I just have to remind
myself I'm window shopping.
I'm getting a glimpse of these people's
lives in there.
It's not real,
even though this is a social
media platform,
people aren't hanging out
their dirty laundry.
They're putting up the
highlight reels with the good things.
So, um, I think if, if anyone is,
is feeling that comparison,
you just have to remember
your home isn't like anyone else's home.
So your homeschool journey
shouldn't look like someone
else's either.
Um,

I love being inspired by people,
but if the second that
starts to creep in to where
I'm now trying to recreate
my routines to be like theirs,
I try to catch myself.
I'm getting better at the
beginning when you're in a
journey of something you've
never done before.
you follow all the accounts
and you read all the books
and those are really good things.
But before you know it,
they can turn into comparison.
So I think it's important to
remember who your kids are,
what their learning styles are,
and to just kind of tune
down that outside noise because
Like, um,
I've been talking a little bit
about chore charts recently on my,

on my feed and just how I
thought that was how you
got your kids involved and
that's how you get your
kids to participate.

And, um,
same with some people have really
elaborate systems or
a whole entire room
designated to homeschooling.

And I started to feel
inadequate there of like,
we don't have a special
room and we don't have the
desks and the planners and
the chalkboards and the, you know,
before you know it, you just compare,
compare, compare.

And I just hope that people
after hearing this podcast
can be reminded to
Just look at your own journey.
Look at your kids.

What are their needs?

Um, how could you be filling them?

Not,

not spiral into all of these perfect

personas that just,

you weren't meant to recreate.

Yeah, that makes a lot of sense.

And I like the idea of

unfollowing people and I, that's such a,

a thing.

Um,

I need to do that more, actually.

It feels it's kind of like the unsubscribe,

right?

Like you're getting a bunch

of junk emails.

And before you know it, you're like,

you know, I used to love this content.

And now it's not for me.

It's not for me or it's

making me feel bad.

And that's not a good place to be in.

Yeah, and, you know, yeah,

I think all of us need you.

And what's even funny is, like,

people that do put out some

of that content that are like, you know,

look what I did,

look how wonderful this is and stuff,

you know,

they themselves also feel

insecure in certain areas as well.

So some specifically are

doing it for that purpose.

You know, for the special needs community,

yeah,

what's really hard I've

noticed is when I see someone who is not,

it does not have a

disability or learning disability.

And I see the things that they're doing.

And then the reality hits

that that's not our journey.

And I,

I know that me personally,

I struggle tremendously with that many,

many times because there's things where,
you know,

I realize that my daughter is
going to be with me all the
time wherever I go.

I know that she's not going
to be able to do certain
curriculums that I'm really
excited about doing with
her or certain activities, you know,
that things don't interest her.

And also like our day looks different.

I think that kind of speaks into that.

the mom that has a child
with a learning difference.

I don't know if you can
think of any scriptures or
anything that can just kind
of encourage a mom in that
kind of situation.

Let me think.

I know I didn't prep you on this question.

It was like, as you were talking about it,

I was just like,
thinking about, you know,
like the unfollowing and the,
the ones that I end up in
following or the,
the things that bother me in that way,
if I unfollow them, which I usually don't,
cause I just don't hit the button.

I just close my phone and
get mad and frustrated or
feel guilty or something like that.

But that shouldn't, I mean,
it's hard cause all of us go through that,
but instead of getting mad
or feeling guilty, you know,
what would you say?

I think unfollowing and muting,
because sometimes it's your
close friend where you
don't want to unfollow or
you can't unfollow because
you're a close friend.

But sometimes you need a

break from just their content.

Because again,

we live in such a weird world.

social media is so weird

that you get to see

everyone's updates all the time.

And I don't know that we're

necessarily meant to be in

the know or see everyone's

stuff all the time.

So I've, I've put myself on like a timer.

I only allow a certain

amount of time on Instagram

or social media platforms.

And I, I,

there's a way to put it into the

settings on your phone

where you put yourself

You know, I do two hours a day,

which is a ton if you start

adding that up and then

realizing how much time

you're spending on these apps in general.

But I give myself a timer.

I don't go past it.

I mute or unfollow the
accounts that are bringing
me frustration.

Then I kind of, I try to analyze, like,
why do I feel this way
after looking at this?

And, you know,
I'll bring it to the Lord of just feeling,
you know,
inadequate or frustrated or in a
comparison storm.

And I just,
I think it's okay for us to
give ourselves a break from
just constantly scrolling
and looking at other people's lives.

Mm-hmm.

yeah okay another thing that
uh we talked a little bit
about in the beginning that
kind of applies I don't

know if it does or not but

I'm still gonna ask it but

um you do these bible

studies right you create

these bible resources and

is it is it like on

characters or is it on situations

So this Bible study is the

fruit of the spirit.

Okay.

So it's so different to

learn different characteristics.

Okay.

So, I mean, just coming from that, there's,

there is different

characteristics that we can

draw from that when we're

scrolling through social media,

like we could be joyful for

them or I don't know.

I was just kind of thinking

along those lines.

I think flipping the script,

like you have a negative
thought and replace it with a positive.

I think,

That's kind of what you're explaining.

And I think that's a really good point.

When you're feeling negative

and you fill in the gap

with gratitude or flip the script,

I think is a really good,

healthy exercise for all of

us to replace it.

Replace it with truth,

whether it's biblical truth

or replace it with

you know positivity and it's

a good way to yeah which

definitely biblical truth

like there's so much in

there that remind us who we

are as opposed to who they

are and who we're not yeah

and our identity is not in

whether or not it can do

this or look this way or be

this way or do this our

identity identity is in god

himself so yeah

Okay.

So next question,

what are some practical ways?

Oh, nice.

I like this question.

Okay.

So what are some practical

ways to keep Christ at the

center of our homeschool,

especially on difficult days?

On the difficult days,

I go back to the basics.

I'll put on worship music in the

my kids love to color.

So I created some scripture

coloring pages.

So we'll pull those out and

just color and hang them up

after we're done.

I'll pray out loud with my kids.

I,

the more I have brought my kids into

what I'm thinking, I've,

I've realized it's helping

them communicate how they're feeling.

So if I'm,

If I'm frustrated, I'll tell them,

mommy's feeling frustrated

and will you pray for me?

And I kind of allow them and

it keeps us Christ-centered

because it's showing them

that they have the ability

to pray and to stop and

pause and look to the Lord

in frustrating moments.

I'll even do the same if a

lesson is just not going

the way I thought it would,

I'll pray together.

I just ask the Lord to help us.

And being Christ-centered

doesn't mean perfection.

It means just inviting him

in into the messy parts of our day.

And I think making small,

intentional decisions and

inviting him in and letting

him lead is just kind of

where I land on hard days.

Okay.

I love the idea of praying together.

And it's kind of funny that

you bring that up because

I've been reading a book

about the idea of family

praying together and getting,

and the fact that you, okay,

there's so much here.

Keep going.

I know, I know.

I'm like,

but like getting all the families

getting together or all the

members of the family

getting together and
and praying for one another
and how on those difficult days,
that would be such a good thing.
Well, you should do that every day.
You should do it every day,
but like just really coming together.
Cause that's really good
advice praying together.
Cause that's almost the last
thing we want to do
sometimes is pray with our child.
That's driving us absolutely nuts.
Yeah.
And one of the things that I
remember reading in the book,
it was sharing, you know,
when you hear your child prayer,
you start to see the things
that they're wrestling with as well.
And then you in turn can pray with them.
And it's this sense of
feeding each other spiritually,

as opposed to just, you know,

the food and the basic things, education,

food, that kind of stuff.

And homeschooling is not,

is not just about, just about education.

and math and science.

It's about character building, you know,

the fruits of the spirit, how we can,

you know, become better character ways,

better because we have God's help.

And God guides us and teaches us.

And if we fall, okay, fine, we messed up.

We're having a bad day.

Let's pray together about it.

And I also love that you mentioned that,

you know,

sometimes you're feeling

frustrated and you're

honest and open with them.

I know so many parents will say, oh,

I'm okay, I'm okay.

And they will continue to

shove those feelings down

inside or those emotions down inside.

instead of being humble with their kids.

And then when their kids get older,

their kids do the same exact thing.

And not only are they not

connecting with their family,

but they're also not coming to God.

So, and that just plays into, you know,

you're feeling frustrated.

You tell them, can you pray for me?

That's also putting your

kids in a good habit of

coming to the Lord when

they're struggling.

So I just thought that was really good.

And then letting him lead.

I love that too.

You know, I also, you know,

I'm also thinking like

there is so much pressure,

almost going back to the

pressure questions.

There's so much pressure from society,

from social media, from the, you know,
political, whatever we're hearing.

There's so much pressure to
be a certain way.

and to get things done with
a certain time.

And so just inviting him and
let him do his,
his work and just having faith in that.

Like that's, you know,
that's what I'm getting out
of what you're saying.

So, yeah.

Yeah.

Um, okay.

So, okay.

So let me ask this,
what scripture verses or
biblical truths have
strengthened you in your
homeschooling journey?

Um,

Psalm has been something that it

carries me through this, our hard days,
whether it be homeschooling
or just personal, you know,
just life raising kids.

Right.

Um,
just that the Lord's my shepherd and I
have all that I need.

It's just the best reminder
and it shifts everything.

Um,
you know how some people choose a word
for the year.

I wanted to use a scripture
for the year and a worship
song for the year.

And it just so happened to be the same.

Um,
the Leon Crawford song of still waters
has been, um, just it keep,
and it's funny.

I play it when I get frustrated.

And when I think of it,

it's not a perfect system,

but if I think of it,

I'll put that song on or I'll,

or I'll read that scripture.

And now it's,

it happens to be a popular

song on the radio.

So it keeps playing.

And my daughter even

recognizes when we're in their car.

She was like, Hey, it's your song.

And, um, it's been fun.

We've been starting to learn

it and recite it.

Um, me and my two kids, um,

Do you roll down your

windows and like blast the

music and sing it?

Yeah.

Okay, good.

Cause I'm not the only one

that's done that.

I'm looking at you like, Whoa.

And then they see the bumper
sticker that says you're a
homeschool mom and they go, Oh yeah,
I get it.

The minivan.

We got a minivan,
but I know not everybody has that.
I feel like that's the stereotype,
but yeah, that's funny.

And then the other is Lamentations by,
three, twenty two and twenty three.
The faithful love of the Lord never ends.
His mercies never cease.

Great is his faithfulness.
His mercies begin afresh each morning.

I just cling to that when I
feel like I've messed up yesterday,
lost my temper or we didn't
do enough school that day
or we need to take a break.

And just I remind myself
every day as a fresh start with God.
He's not keeping score.

He's just asking me to show

up and to trust him.

Cause we know that we keep

the score sometimes.

Oh yeah.

Yeah.

And he's working on building

us and changing us and all the things.

Yeah.

I find when we stop in,

like kind of listen to our

own voices of how we speak to ourself.

It's just,

crazy what we do to ourselves, you know,

just the,

we should be speaking scriptures.

Yeah.

And just speaking truth or,

or seeing ourself the way

the father sees us.

And, um, we,

our mind is our biggest battleground.

Mm-hmm.

Um, I am going to look up Psalm.

Do you have that in front of you?

Psalm.

Psalm.

Like the full verse.

Yeah.

It's pretty long, right?

Mm-hmm.

I mean, it's, it's not like, you know,

it could be shorter, but it's not,

it's not like the, what is it?

The long one is not the one.

Sorry.

I can't even think of, is it one fifty?

That's my ignorance is

coming out right now.

I,

I know when you're on the spot,

sometimes it's like, oh.

Yeah.

I'm like, what's the address?

And I was just trying to

think it's not the long one

because the one that's really long is,

I can't remember which one it is.

And I know like everyone in

the audience is like, oh, it's Psalm blah,

blah, blah.

Yeah.

I do know.

Okay.

But Psalm twenty three.

Okay.

Do you have it in front of you?

Yeah.

The Lord is my shepherd.

I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of

righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through

the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil for you are with me.

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before
me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil.
My cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life.
and I shall dwell in the
house of the Lord forever.
Nice.

I just felt like it was
needed to hear the whole thing.
Yeah, it's so good.
It's such a good reminder
for us moms and just to
remember who we are to him
and remember who we are to our kids.
And just kind of,
it helps center me on hard days.
No, that makes complete sense.
Now, I also know, okay,
I mentioned it a little bit
about your fruits of the spirit.
How do you use that with your kids?

Just out of curiosity.

Sure.

So I accidentally created it.

That's how it always happens.

I was looking for,

I had had enough of the

arguing of my kids arguing.

arguing and not talking to

each other nicely.

And I'm like, oh, we need,

we need to work on kindness.

We need to work on more

characteristics that are biblical.

Let's start with the fruit of the spirit.

And so I was trying to find

different resources and

everything I kept finding

had to do with actual fruit

and no offense to those

creators and those products,

but I just felt like it

wasn't biblical enough.

You know, it was kind of dumbing it down.

And at the end of the day,
I didn't want my kids to
compare pineapples and
oranges and bananas.
I wanted them to stop arguing.
I wanted them to be have
some self control and
patient with each other.
So I started
putting it together.
I started looking for
resources and books from the library.
I love in homeschool how you
can do a unit study,
so I kind of turned it into that.
Each section has seven
different activities you can do, but
I'm kind of one of those
moms who I'll start
something and then if it's
too similar and too repetitious,
I get bored.
So I wanted to create

something that you could
pick and choose because
some days you have or some
seasons you have five to ten minutes.

You want to sit down,
read a Bible story from the kid's book,
and that's all you have time for.

And then there's other
seasons when you have time
to do a craft and you want
to get out the markers and
the crayons and the
stickers and sit down and
be more intentional with a craft.

And then there were other
days when I wanted us to play a game.

And because I think so many of us,
obviously with kids with
special needs and then just
homeschooling in general,
you start to learn that
your kids have different learning styles.
and they pick up on things.

You know,
my daughter was sit and read a
book for hours,
but if you asked my son to do that,
he would be like, Nope, I'm good.
I don't want to sit here and read.
I want to move my body.
I want to, you know,
I want to jump around.
So I realized, okay,
I need to kind of sprinkle
in a few different
activities because their
styles aren't the same.
You're not retaining information the same.
Um,
And then there's just
different seasons of the year.
Like I live in Idaho.
So in the winter, it's colder.
We're not going to be
outside doing as many activities.
So this is a perfect time to

sit down and do a craft.

And then in the summer, it's like, okay,

I don't want to be inside.

Let's do an activity.

And then the more and more I

was putting it together,

I made the same sections

for each of the nine fruits.

I made those same because I

wanted something that was

going to grow with us

because our needs changes,

our needs change, our timeframes change.

You know,

sometimes we're doing more

activities throughout the year.

So I wanted something that

was more flexible,

that met us where we're at,

where every other

devotional I found was repetitious.

It did the same thing repeatedly.

And I just wanted something

that could grow.

And for other fan, then once I,

my husband's saw my notes

on the kitchen table and he's like,

you have to put this like in a thing,

you have to put this on, on one type of,

you know,

document and see if other people,

other families are going to

want this too.

So that's when I kind of put it to market,

so to speak.

It's my husband's, my husband's fault.

I joke,

but it turned into a really fun

resource and,

like I said before,

just growing with families,

I think sometimes we think

we don't have enough time to fit in.

But once we kind of put it,

call it the radar effect,

once we put things on our radar,

it's so much easier to see

them in our day-to-day lives.

Like, yes,

we sat down and we're talking about love,

for instance, or kindness or patience.

But then you start seeing

things within your day of like, oh,

you weren't very patient right there.

Let's talk about, you know, patience, this,

that, and the other.

Or there'll be moments when

your kid is being really patient.

You're waiting in line at

the store and they're, you know, not,

not throwing a tantrum and

you can comment on those actions.

Hey,

I'm noticing how patient you're being.

Good job.

You know,

like praising and rewarding that

when you do see the fruit in display.

So it's been more than just a,

Bible study for us.

It's been a way to pull in, um,

scripture and being Christ

centered throughout our day

without having to sit and

open the Bible because that's just not,

um, some kids will,

some kids will sit and listen to stories.

And then there's other kids like my son,

who's like, Nope, I want to be outside.

So I just tried to,

meet my kids where they're

at and give them different

resources and different um

different ways to learn

without having to sit here

and say sitting here

reading the bible is the

only way you can learn

about god right well you're

bringing the the the words

and the teachings to life

yeah you know you don't

just hold up a banana and
say this is this is yeah what
but you're doing like, what's,
what's an activity that you would do?
So one of the activities for the, um,
for joy, for instance,
is a game where everyone
gets their own stickers.
You have other, you like, um,
at the dollar store,
they have like those dot
stickers that are a solid color.
And so I give my son like, okay,
you're yellow and give them
all the yellow colors.
Give my daughter all the pink colors.
I have all the green for instance.
Um,
And then it's an activity
called spread joy.
So we'll set a timer and the
person who can stick as
many stickers onto the other person,

it's kind of like tag basically,
but with stickers.

So that way you can see that
person spread the most joy.

Like they were able to
attach as you're running
around trying to stick
stickers onto each other.

Then it was just a fun way for them to,
by playing a game.

to explain what joy means
and what it looks like when
you spread joy oh but they

had to stick it on each
other like they weren't and
run from each other but

also you're trying to stick
it on them too so it's kind

of like do you give the
couch joy yeah yeah yeah

and then I'm thinking to
myself like no but it's

each other I like the idea

that yeah each other on the

other on each other

And they're laughing and

they're giggling and all the things.

Right.

Because I was thinking like

if they started sticking

like little pink and yellow

stickers all over the furniture,

I would not have much joy.

Every mom.

Yeah.

No mom would find joy in that activity.

Right.

But it's on them.

So they have to, you know,

take care of the stickers.

And me.

And I play too.

You know, I think.

Oh, that's fun.

And so that's like,

that's almost like a way

that you guys play.

Worship together and connect.

Yeah.

And it brings family time together.

I call it a family Bible

study because I don't,

it's not just for moms and their kids.

I also encourage them to

have their husbands or

their spouse to be involved as well.

Yeah.

We need our dads to.

To be involved.

Yeah.

To get stuck with stickers as well.

Yeah.

I know that's important.

And you start doing when they're sleeping,

when they get home from work.

Yeah.

And it just kind of the joy.

Yeah, exactly.

Um, and it kind of gives like,

instead of watching TV or instead of,

you know, choosing the comfort of just,

Oh, I want to relax.

I want to just, you know, wind down, um,

just give some space for an

alternative thing to do together.

That makes sense.

That makes complete sense.

Um, what was it?

I started writing stuff down.

I can't read my paper anymore, but, um,

oh yeah, yeah.

So this idea of faith and

having faith in scriptures, um,

Sorry about that.

There's construction in my

house and that's part of the problem.

And I texted my husband to stop it,

but apparently he didn't get the text,

but just talking about faith,

having faith that

scriptures will actually

change the hearts of our children.

That's what I was trying to get at.

Like, could you expand on that?

Sorry, can you say it one more time?

Could you expand on that?

Having faith that scriptures

will actually change the

hearts of your children.

Yeah,

so when we read different Bible

studies together, or stories, excuse me,

when we read stories

together and we speak

different scripture and

like learning different stuff,

I have in the Fruit of the Spirit study,

there's a verse for each of the sections.

There's a verse to memorize

and then also write.

We practice our writing.

And I just...

we work through it over and

over and over and

repetition just kind of

helps them understand because without the,
without the like practical application,

I think scripture doesn't
go deep for kids because
it's just another word to
them or another story to them.

But until you kind of marry
the two concepts of like,
this is what the Bible says,
And then turn it into, okay,
and this is how you just
treated your sister or me
or me speaking to you.

Like,

I think really helps kids get a
better grasp of what it
means to be patient or kind
to one another and giving them more, not,
proof isn't the right word,
but giving them more, um,
ideas of the concepts of,
of it says this in the Bible,
and then this is the action,

or this is the feeling I
think kind of helps tie in
scripture for kids because
otherwise if they're just
repeating things that they
don't understand,
I don't think it really
sinks in for them and
doesn't give them an
example of what it truly means.

Yeah, I can, I can see that.

Um,

Oh,

this was another thing I wrote down
this idea of, uh, I heard this somewhere.

I don't know.

I heard it, but they said,
instead of being a fireman,
whenever there's a
disagreement in your
household and you're just
like blowing the hose on it, um,
you're actually doing the

surgery on the kids are
actually letting the Lord
do the surgery on the
hearts of the children.

Yeah.

And you have to just, yeah.

And so I really, really liked that.

Um, cause it's so easy to add more fuel.
to the fire.

Yeah.

Be the fireman.

Like sometimes, sometimes we can grow,
you know,
make things more frustrated by
our reaction instead of
taking a pause and being able to,
to switch and put it out.

Yeah.

Yeah.

And we resort to that
because I think a lot of us
get really just burnt out and
we're always putting out

fires instead of laying
down that foundation and
then putting faith in that,
that just the scriptures
can do the work for us.

Yeah.

That God,
even whether you're reading to
them or they're out and
playing a bunch of games, you know?

Yeah, for sure.

So do you have...

do you have any like, you know,
last finishing thoughts
that you would share with
the audience just, you know,
in regards to this whole
idea of homeschooling by faith?

Yeah, I think, um,

baby steps, right?

Like any,

anytime we're doing anything new
or for the new for the first time, or,

you know,
say you've been a believer for a
really long,
whether you're a believer for
a long time or you're a new believer,
we always can go back to the baby steps.

And he says we only need
faith the size of a mustard seed.

So if you're feeling doubts, that's okay.

You can ask for the Lord to
position your heart and to
soften your heart, um,
to take a deep breath and
to every day is a new day, you know,
his mercies are new each day.

Um,

I would also advise just to trust in
the Lord, you know, that,
that there's hard and frustrating times,
but we can pause and, um,
Just have, sorry.

Could you ask me that
question one more time?

I don't even remember what
the question was, to be honest.

I was, oh,

I was just asking you like
anything that you can think of.

Sorry.

I'm going to tell all these things.

Okay.

It happens to all of us.

Me too.

So,

but one of the things that you
mentioned was baby steps and,

I don't remember the
question unless you just remembered it.

Or I'll move on to like this

idea of baby steps that you

brought up that we're all in.

Well,

I was adding to the idea that we're

all in different places in

our life and laying things down.

You know, the mustard seed,

it will grow eventually.

And you're homeschooling the
education of your children,
the character of your children.

You lay down that biblical
mustard seed and it will
just grow and flourish.

I'm sure there's going to be mess ups.

That's what you prune.

So, I mean,

I don't know if that kind of
brings back what you were trying to say.

Yeah.

I just can't remember where I left off.

Do you want me to just restart?

You can just go back and share, you know,
from the beginning just to recap,
you know, what you were thinking.

Okay.

Sorry.

I was trying to pull up my
notes of what we've been talking about.

We're just summing it up.

Like, you know, how,
how could someone truly
homeschool by faith and not by comfort?

Okay.

Yeah.

So to, to sum it up,
I would just remember that
there's uncomfortable
seasons and when we're
raising up younger kids,
it's gonna take longer to see that fruit.

And to just remember that
you plant the seed, you water the seed,
you nurture,
and it's gonna take a little bit,
but then little by little,
you're gonna start to see
that sprout and you're
gonna see that hard work
and all the things you are
pouring into starts to grow.

And I just think of trees, right?

Like trees grow to be so big,

but how much time it took

for that tree to get that big.

And it's just a reminder for

us moms that we're doing

the hard work and

motherhood is a calling and

it's holy work.

We get to be like Jesus to our kids.

They get to see what it means to serve and

And to love, it's not perfect.

It's a bumpy road.

But as long as we stay

committed to our calling

and remember that we don't

have control and to release

that need and that grasp,

because the Lord fills in

the gaps and he's going to

continue bringing

to show up for you and bring

you through the discomfort.

And there's going to be hard

days and there's going to

be great days and there's
going to be days that
you're pulling your hair
out and wondering, what am I doing?

How has God called me here?

Because you just feel
inadequate or you start
comparing your season.

But just remember who he is
and just lean in on
the promises he is and that
you don't have to be at all.

He's not calling you to be at all.

He's just calling you to show up,
show up in the mess.

And it can get messy.

Yeah.

So messy.

Yeah.

I was even thinking like the tree,
the mustard, mustard seed,
and then the tree.

And I was just even thinking,

I don't know much about
like mustard trees and,
But I do know that some trees,
when different seasons hit,
there's ones that are
stronger than others.

And the ones that are more
well nourished are usually
the stronger ones and the
other ones wither and die.

And it's so important for us
to be having that faith.

Things are happening that we
can't see that the Lord is
planting inside the hearts
of our children as we have faith and, um,
share with him or share
with him his word.

And, um, yeah.

Yeah.

We've become so resistant to change and.
when I think of like the
design of the Lord and you

brought seasons,

I think of the four seasons and

And I love how he speaks in

parables of farming because

it presents such a good visual.

And I just think of like

right now it's springtime

and the buds are all

starting to come back on

the tree and there's

flowers and then they go to leaves.

And I just think like every

year it brings me into such awe of like,

oh, it's so beautiful.

Just a few months prior to that,

these trees had nothing.

They were bare, you know, for winter,

they lose all their leaves,

but the trees didn't stop.

The tree didn't, um,

the tree knows it's in a season of rest.

And I think sometimes we see

rest as weakness.

And it's not.

It's a required season for

the tree to hunker down.

And then the rest of the year,

it blossoms and it flowers

and it has more energy and it grows.

And I think sometimes we

don't give enough credit to

that in our own lives.

that we're not meant to be,

it's not summer all the time, you know,

we're not supposed to be

running at this pace all the time.

Sometimes it's,

it's a season of rest winter.

It's, it's slower days.

And I compare that to my

homeschool journey as well.

You know,

like we're going to be hit with

more frustrating scenarios and I can,

acknowledge that season.

We're in a season where

we're hitting a few bumps.

We just got to take it slower.

Maybe this is our winter, you know,

or it's,

it's slower than the summer

months where it's, you know,

full speed ahead and things

are running smoothly.

And just because the season

changes doesn't mean we're failing.

You know,

the tree's not failing in the winter.

It's still alive.

It's still functioning.

But it's just such a good, like,

parable or metaphor, you know,

whatever you want to call

it of just remembering that

we're going to see cycles

are going to see seasons.

Definitely.

Um, except the fact that my husband,

God is working with me

right now on patience.

Right.

So much.

I'm like, and I love,

so I love how relaxed, you know,

we know that our audience

understands completely.

I'm a mom, you're a mom and things happen.

And I'm so sorry.

If anything, it makes you more relatable,

right?

Like, yeah, I hope so.

No, it is.

But it's like it's reality.

And it's funny how like the

Lord just throw curve.

He throws curve balls at us.

And we have to really

exercise those things.

Yeah.

Yeah.

I mean, even recording when I had my like,

you know, brain fart, I'm just like, oh,

I thought I, you know.

you start to get on to like,

I thought I prepared myself for this.

Yeah.

Just one little thing.

I was like, Oh,

I lost my whole train of thought.

It happens.

Mom brain is real.

Yeah, it is.

So it's burnout.

And, and you know what,

those people on Instagram

that are showing how wonderful they are,

they have those problems too.

Yeah.

And our, you know,

our value is in what the Lord says, not,

um,

being quote unquote perfect,

which we can't be anyway.

So it's a journey.

It's a really fun journey

and tiring and all those things.

And we just have to trust.

I love that.

So I guess that's about

pretty much all the time we have.

Thank you so much.

And thank you audience for

tuning into today's episode

of Empowering Homeschool Conversations.

And so check out the show notes,

look in the show notes for

certain resource support, encouragement.

Be sure to visit Homeschool

Heroes powered by SPED Homeschool.

At Homeschool Heroes,

you'll find a free download

of supportive community of

parents and

homeschool-friendly providers

and expert consultants

ready to help you teach

your child with confidence.

Plus, explore tools, products,

and services designed to
simplify your homeschooling efforts,
all from a trusted
nonprofit that understands
the unique challenges of
homeschooling children with
learning differences.

Join us at
spedhomeschool.com to find
answers to your biggest
homeschooling questions.
and develop your
homeschooling superpower
with our resources,
inspirational articles,
and a supportive community
that's here for you every
step of the way.

And also check out Dani's
resources below in the show notes.

Thank you so much for joining us today.

This has been Empowering

Homeschool Conversations

provided by Sped Homeschool,
a nonprofit that empowers
families to home educate
diverse learners.

To learn more, visit spedhomeschool.com.

It's going to play it again
because I hit the wrong button,
but she'll edit it out.

This has been Empowering
Homeschool Conversations
provided by Sped Homeschool,
a nonprofit that empowers
families to home educate
diverse learners.

To learn more, visit spedhomeschool.com.