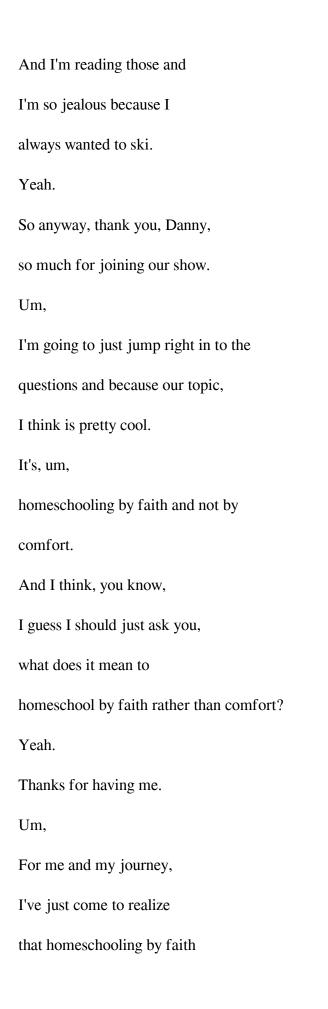
Welcome to Empowering Homeschool Conversations, your authority in navigating the world of homeschooling diverse learners. Featuring Peggy Ployer from Sped Homeschool, Annie Yorty from Annie Yorty.com, Leilani Melendez from Living with Eve, Stephanie Buckwalter from eLARP Learning, and Dawn Jackson from 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.



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

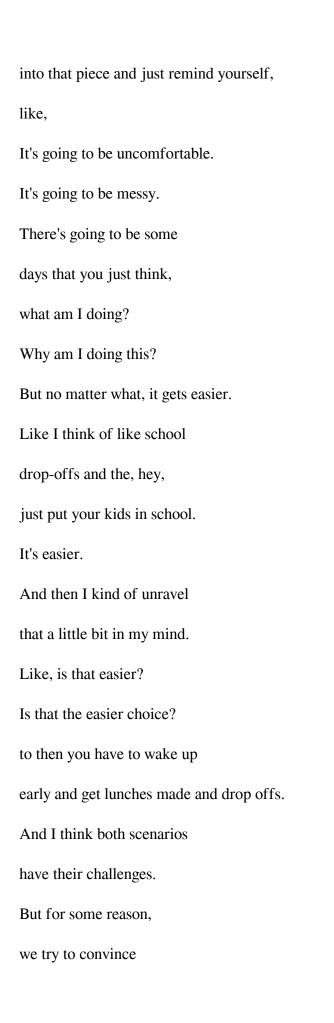
that they're going to be challenging, um,

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



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

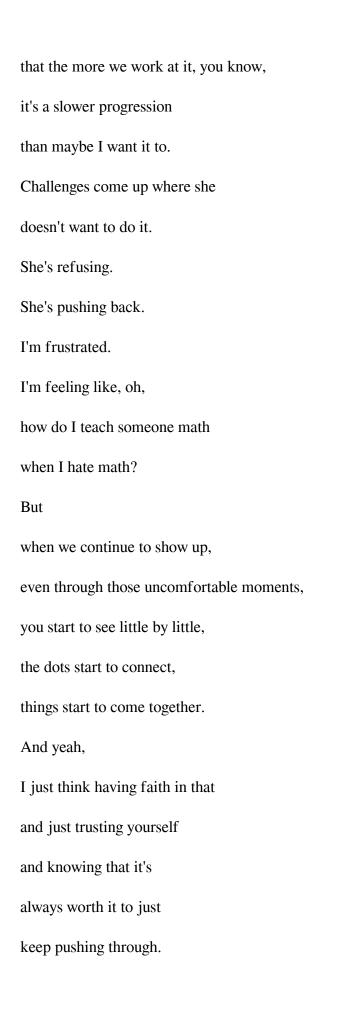
with my daughter and she's also not

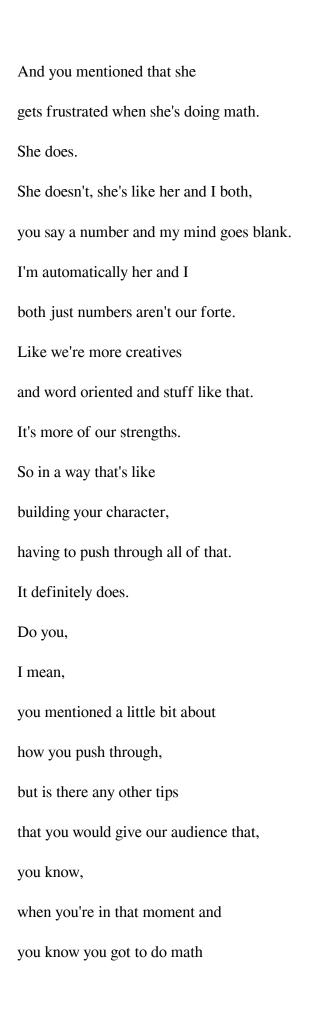
math oriented.

That isn't her favorite subject either.

I just break through that

discomfort and just find





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.

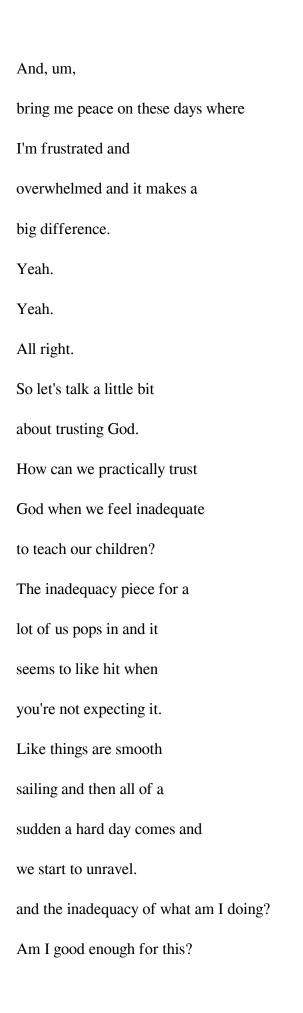
You got to reset and just

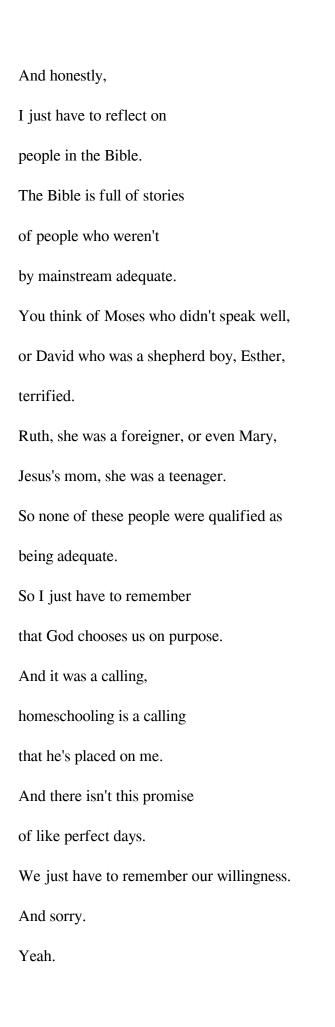
kind of come at it with a,

with a refresh.

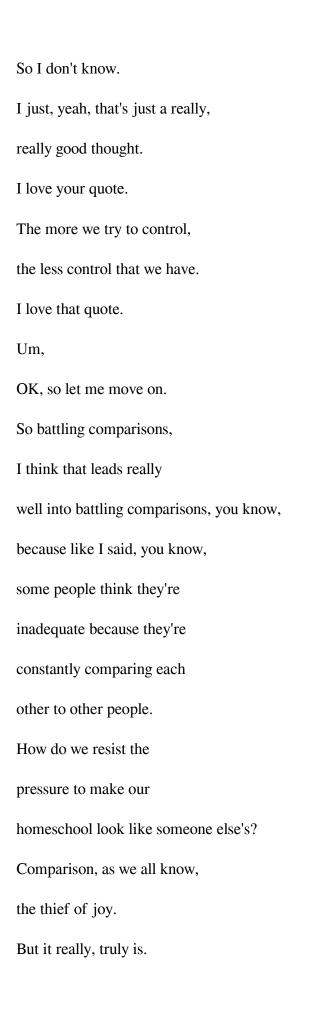
Yeah.
And you mentioned to take
the first thing you said
was take a break.
And I was like, Yep,
because I think I don't know,
did you you said you were
full time career was your
career in teaching?
No,
I worked full time for an off road
business that did
power steering for racing.
So it was probably 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?





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.



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

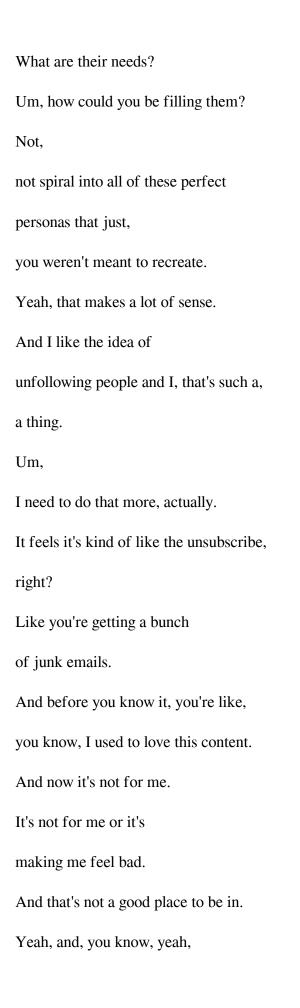
down that outside noise because

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.



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

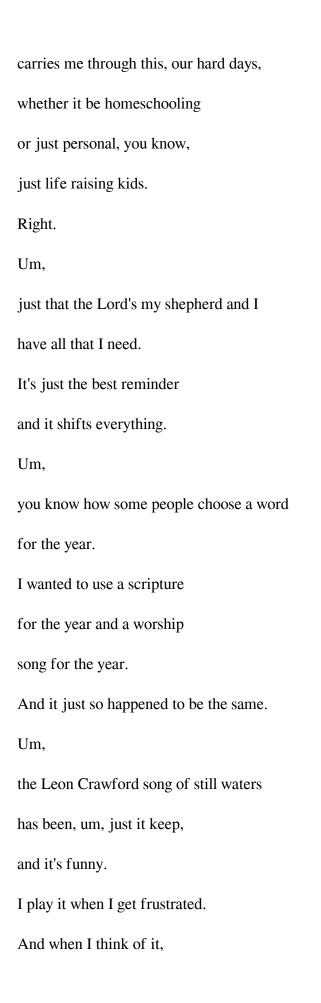
there is so much pressure,

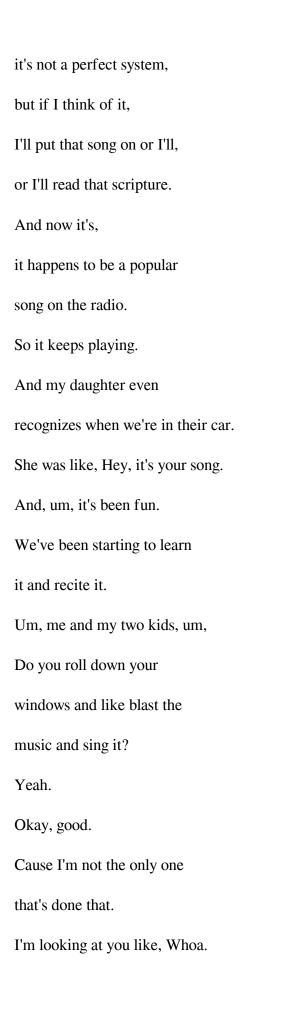
almost going back to the

pressure questions.

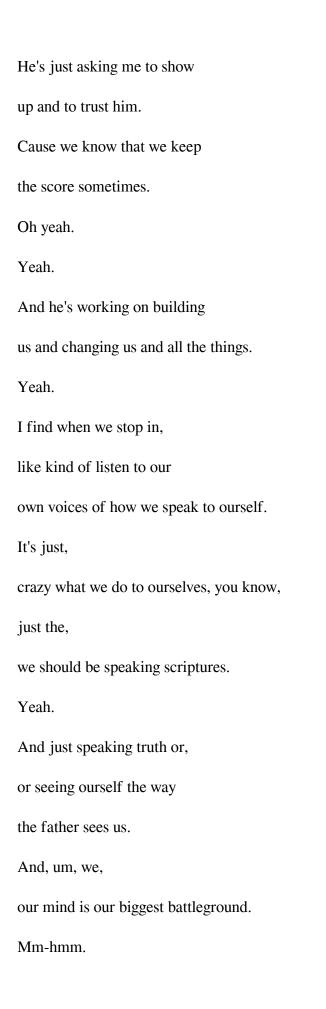
There's so much pressure from society,

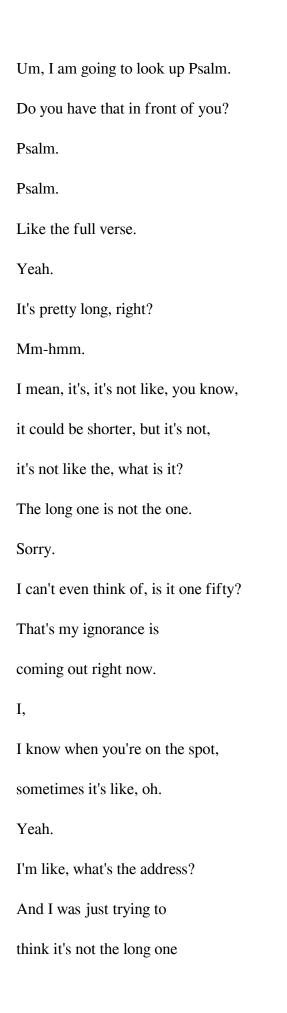
from social media, from the, you know,
political, whatever we're hearing.
There's so much pressure to
be a certain way.
and to get things done with
a certain time.
And so just inviting him and
let him do his,
his work and just having faith in that.
Like that's, you know,
that's what I'm getting out
of 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





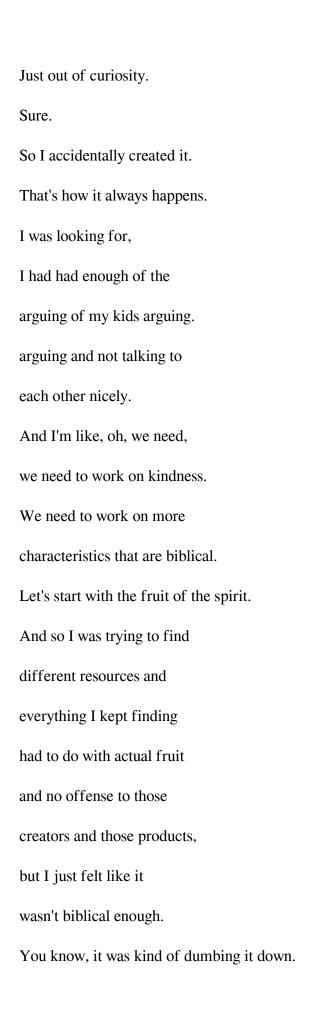
And then they see the bumper sticker that says you're a homeschool mom and they go, Oh yeah, I get it. The minivan. We got a minivan, but I know not everybody has that. I feel like that's the stereotype, but yeah, that's funny. And then the other is Lamentations by, three, twenty two and twenty three. 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.





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?



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

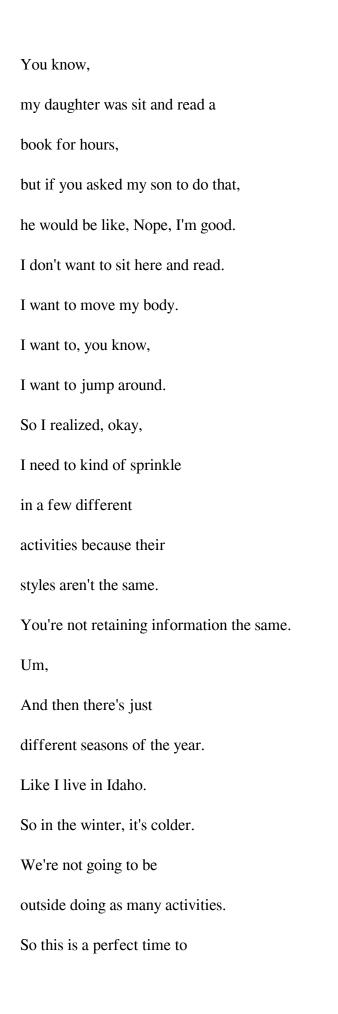
special needs and then just

homeschooling in general,

you start to learn that

your kids have different learning styles.

and they pick up on things.



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 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.
No mom would find joy in that activity. Right.
Right.
Right. But it's on them.
Right. But it's on them. So they have to, you know,
Right. But it's on them. So they have to, you know, take care of the stickers.
Right. But it's on them. So they have to, you know, take care of the stickers. And me.
Right. But it's on them. So they have to, you know, take care of the stickers. And me. And I play too.
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.

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,

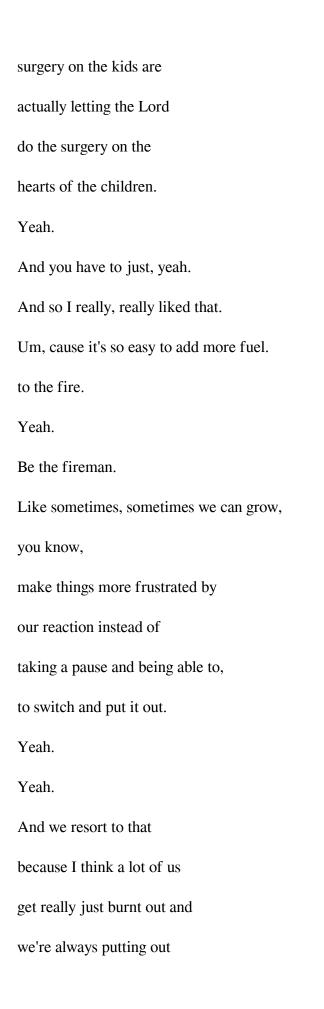
but giving them more, um,

ideas of the concepts of,

of it says this in the Bible,

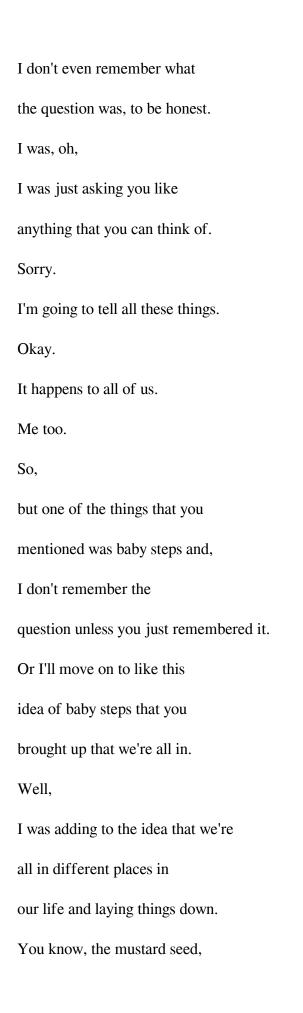
and then this is the action,

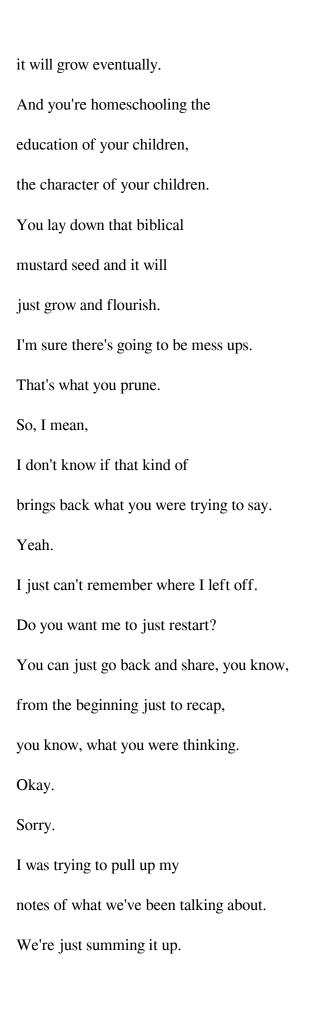
or this is the feeling I think kind of helps tie in scripture for kids because otherwise if they're just repeating things that they don't understand, I don't think it really sinks in for them and doesn't give them an example of what it truly means. Yeah, I can, I can see that. Um, Oh. this was another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

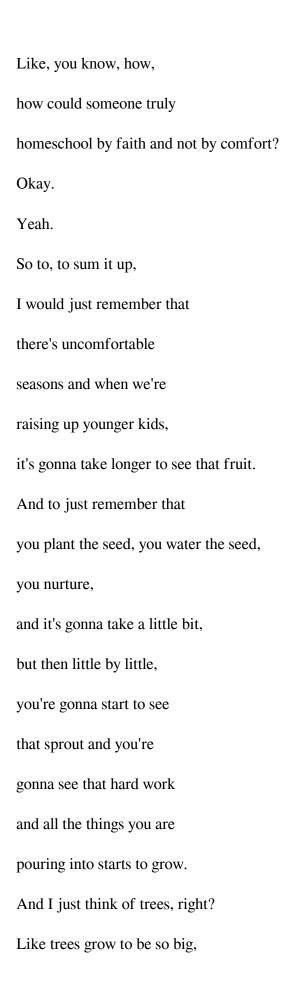


fires instead of laying down that foundation and then putting faith in that, that just the scriptures can do the work for us. Yeah. That God, even whether you're reading to them or they're out and playing a bunch of games, you know? Yeah, for sure. So do you have... do you have any like, you know, last 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,

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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?
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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

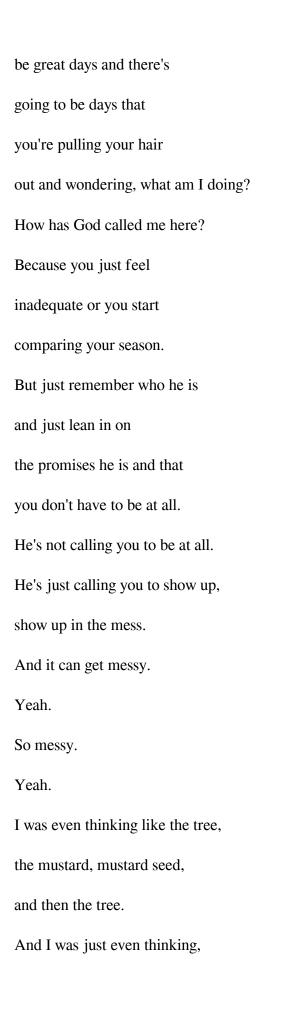
continue bringing

to show up for you and bring

you through the discomfort.

And there's going to be hard

days and there's going to

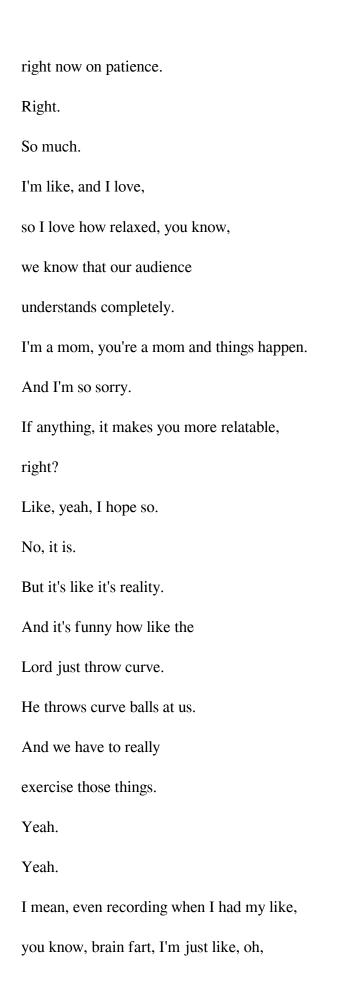


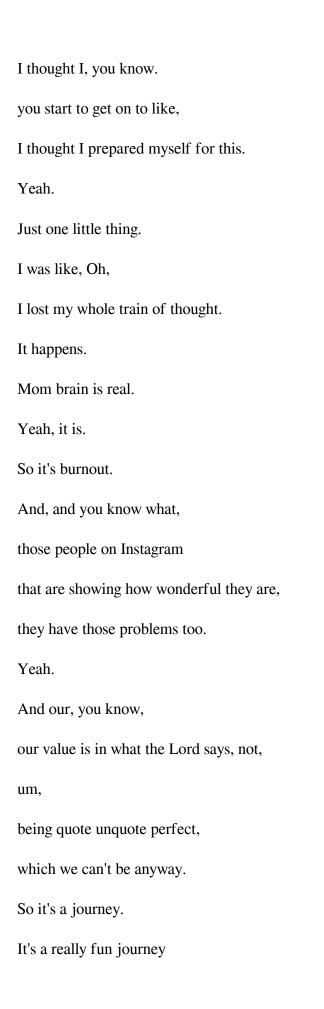
I don't know much about like mustard trees and, But I do know that some trees, when different seasons hit, there's ones that are stronger than others. And the ones that are more well nourished are usually the stronger ones and the other ones wither and die. And it's so important for us to be having that 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





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,

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