

Susan Macias (00:07.128)

Welcome to our back to back to school. Halfway through the year, we want to encourage all of you for for the second half of your homeschooling year and we are having to do what you probably have to do a lot this semester and that's pivot and make changes and make calls that that happen. Our speaker Mandy Davis, unfortunately is very sick has laryngitis so has no voice.

But we are gonna get on here today and talk about homeschooling and the ways that you can find peace in this next semester, even when things are not going well, be able to answer your questions and get you lots of great information. I want you to know how this goes on. There is a live chat. So if you have questions, you can drop them in the chat right now. Our customer relations team is standing by to answer any questions that you have.

A copy of this webinar is going to be emailed to you immediately following the presentation. So if you want to rewatch it, you can, you'll have access to it for a week. If you are a member, then you'll have lifetime access. After I do my presentation, there will be a question and answer period. So feel free during the talk, if a question comes up to pop it into the chat and we'll be able to answer some questions at the end.

One of the ways that we are able to bring these webinars to you is from our amazing sponsors. We have this sponsor Safe Home. And you can get on, if you look, there's a QR code, you can get a 10 % off with that QR code. Safehomeschools.org is a community of technologists, cybersecurity professionals, and homeschool partners who've experienced firsthand how unsafe and unmonitored internet access can impact a family.

Their mission is to educate and equip homeschool families with cybersecurity knowledge, tools, and habits needed to create a safe and healthy home learning environment. We provide free resources that help families take control of their digital world and protect what matters most. Be sure to use the QR code for a special discount. So let's take a quick watch of a video about safehomeschools.org.

Susan Macias (03:44.576)

Okay, that looks like a great resource. So, want to tell you a little bit about what we've got going on with THSC and our spring events. It's a very busy time. Let you know about these. You can tell your friends as well. We have graduations. We've doubled the amount of graduations we have around the state of Texas. You can see the list there. And so you can get on and get tickets for graduates if you have a senior that's graduating this year or have a friend who's wondering, what do I do? How do I have a great ceremony for my

homeschool senior. So that's one thing we have going homeschool graduation. We also have leader summits. We have one in the DFW area, one in the Houston area for leaders of homeschool groups or sports associations or any of those sorts of things. Co-ops, you have friends or are associated with that kind of organization and want to let them know, we want to help homeschool leaders be successful.

And then our last big exciting events is our Texas State Convention, May 28th through the 30th in the Woodlands. Super excited. You see Christie Faith, Rick Green and Estee Smith. If you don't know the Green Embers series, it's a fabulous series of books. They're gonna be there as well as Mandy Davis, who we had hoped to preview for you today. But you can get on at the end of this. We are going to have a special place to get a 10 % discount.

on your tickets, we'll have a code for you. Also though, we are gonna give away a ticket today for those that stay on through the whole webinar. If you are interested in getting that free ticket, if in the chat you will just write convention, then we'll know we'll have a good group of people who would be interested in going to the convention that we can draw from and we'll be giving that ticket away, you gotta be present to win, at the end of the webinar. Okay, so we're gonna get started.

Susan Macias is your speaker today. I am the director of homeschool events, but I'm also a veteran homeschool mom. I homeschooled for 27 years, graduated, my seven children. And when we had, we turned around and we realized, Mandy cannot make it today. What are we gonna do? And we still wanted to give y'all some encouragement. I mean, how disappointing to go, okay, great. I can't wait to get on and get some good encouragement to get through my spring semester. And you get on and...

Susan Macias (06:08.922)

and we have no encouragement for you. We have encouragement for you. And so I want to come to you today with just a message about how to find peace in your homeschooling. In the middle of all that's going on, how do you have a peace in your heart about what you're doing and keep doing what the Lord has called you to do. So come with me back to 1994 in Dayton, Ohio. I had three boys, five and under, and was pregnant with my fourth.

And fourth child, didn't know yet, it was gonna be a girl. And I think she's actually on this call, which is super exciting to me. But there I was, and I was trying to figure out how to do the big family thing. And we knew we wanted to homeschool. So I just knew that this was hard. I grew up in a family with one sister and a well-behaved father, and I had three boys. And I had no paradigm for how to deal with that level of testosterone in a home.

What was normal? What was gross? What was expected? Was I raising perverts? What was happening? And I just didn't know what to do. And there was another mom in church who had seemed to kind of peaceful and serene all the time and her boys seemed to always have the shirts tucked in and looking good. And so you can feel pressure even without social media. That's the lesson. So I went to her to say, just, how do I find peace in this place of this kind of craziness? And she actually gave me quite a bit of advice and I don't remember

any of it except for this one thing she said that has stuck with me my whole life. And she said, peaceful doesn't mean quiet. And that thing stuck with me because I thought, okay, okay, we could be peaceful and we can still be loud and crazy. That was very exciting to me. And it helped me see that I had this idealic picture about motherhood. I learned it again in

homeschooling. I learned it again as kids were getting older. I'd have idealic pictures of what does it look like to be successful at this thing that God has called us to do.

And reality, were moments. Those were a blip in time. It was like the eye of the storm. Everything crazy is going on around you in life. Every now and then you get that moment. Good time to snap a picture and enjoy it. But that's not what life is really like. Ended up with seven kids going in the first 14 years. And we were super excited about our family, but you know, it was challenging. And I kept learning those kinds of lessons on motherhood and on being.

Susan Macias (08:32.322)

a woman following Jesus in this place that he had me, and I just kind of added them together. And I kept thinking, maybe once I learned the next lesson, I'll get there. Now, where there was, I don't know what I was thinking, but I kept feeling like there was this destination where I'd finally have everything together. But the reality was there was no getting there. There was no having everything together because things changed all the time. There was changes in age and changes in what was happening around us.

finally got to the place where I realized, it's just never gonna, that's never gonna happen. I'm never gonna have it together. I'm never gonna be able to do everything I need to do. And so I got to this place where I transferred from falling into bed at the end of the day thinking, I can't get it all done to just falling in bed going, I can't get it all done. And that was this huge place of freedom. And so when in your home, just look at your screen.

and say it out loud or type it in the chat. I can't get it all done. That's a reality. And once we get to the place of accepting, making peace with that reality, we get a freedom. We get a freedom in realizing we're not failing because we can't get it all done. We can't. And why? Because we are not Omni, right? God's the only Omni. He's Omni-present. He's around all the time. He's everywhere. He's omniscient. He knows everything.

Omnipotent, he's all powerful. He doesn't get tired at the end of the day. He doesn't need to go hide under covers in the back of the closet. He is always there and always powerful. And when I'm trying to do that for my family or my kids or just judge myself in not being able to get there, I find myself feeling guilty. But in reality, it's because I got a little bit of a God complex. I can't do all those things. Neither can you. And here's the good news. You were never designed to.

It doesn't shock God that we can't do it all. He doesn't expect us to do it all. And that's an important thing to learn in motherhood because the things in homeschooling, things in homeschooling, things in motherhood, they are going to disturb our peace. Life is going to be hard and there's going to be all kinds of challenges. But we can stop and say, okay, Lord, you have built me with my limitations. So what do you want from me today?

Susan Macias (10:56.472)

I can't do it all, but what do you ask of me? When you go into your homeschool day with that attitude, it takes off that pressure of having to do everything because we can't. And there's a

huge freedom in that. So when we recognize as the limitations that God has placed on our abilities, on our capacities, on our wisdoms, on what we do well and what we don't do well, realize that every one of us have different limitations. We have different giftings.

We have different weaknesses. So we can't look at each other to see what we're supposed to be doing. We have to look at our creator who designed us and wired us to see what is it that we can do and what do we not need to be doing? Yeses and nos are very important in coming to a place of peace in our homeschool. So I want to give you some practical things that you can apply on a daily basis as you're trying to say, okay, Lord, I'm going to make peace. I'm going to accept where you have us.

I'm going to be able to say, I can't do it all and you're okay with that. So I'm gonna choose to be okay with that and moving forward. But every day we gotta get up and we gotta get at it again. How do we keep doing that when we're tired and when we're running low? So something I really learned, I think a little late in life. So I'm sharing this, I hope with young moms that you can do this earlier.

is as I was pursuing this, I've got to get more done. I've got to make more things happen. I found a lot of discouragement and a lot of just exhaustion. And what I realized later that in order to keep serving my family, in order to do all that God had called me to do, there was a place of self-care, not selfish care, but self-care. I needed to guard what God had given me to do.

And the only thing I had to bring to that was myself and the Holy Spirit inside of me. So there's a couple of things I want to help you see that are important in order for you to serve your family that you're also doing for yourself. So the first thing is to take care of your body. You need renewal in your body. you know, it's, know that, but the reality is it's very, very easy for us to ignore our own physical needs as we're taking care of the physical needs of others, which

Susan Macias (13:21.026)

is part of our call. But when we can stop and make better decisions, we're gonna be better enabled to take care of our family going forward. One of the things which is very important, and you might laugh when I say this, but it's sleep. And sleep is hard. And if we have a baby at home, it's even harder. There's two aspects to this. One, we need to guard our sleep. We need to nap when we can nap. It might mean that the dishes don't get cleaned. I'm just gonna give you a pass.

That's okay. Sometimes it's better to take the nap. Also realize if you are in a season of a new baby or teething or sickness or where you're not sleeping during the day, you cannot expect from yourself the same amount of productivity during the day that you do when you're getting a nice eight hours of sleep. Now, some of you might go, I haven't seen eight hours of sleep since 2010, but if you can get sleep, that's great.

Right? But if you can't get sleep, realize that God doesn't expect of you more than you can give. And you need to guard your body and your strength by taking naps when you can, by sleeping

well, making the choices. Don't stay up scrolling. Go ahead and just turn off the lights and go to sleep. Take the nap when you can take the nap. But, you know, go in that reality of the sleep you're getting in the season you are in.

Seasons are seasons. There are bits of time. And they feel long when you're in the middle of it. But when you get to the other side and all of a sudden you realize, wow, I've slept through the night a couple of times this week. I feel like a new person. Then more can be expected. You can expect more out of yourself. The other thing is to eat healthy. Now, true confession, there was about a decade where I survived off of, there was a Quaker, a chewy granola bars, there were peanut butter and chocolate.

little nuts in them and then Dr. Pepper. That's pretty much what I lived on. Probably not the best health choices and now I have some health issues that I have to deal with. So make those choices now. Do what you tell your kids to do. Eat your vegetables. Don't have too much sugar. All those things. But if you think about it, not in this, I can't have these things I want, but hey Lord, what can I do to fuel my body so that my body is able to serve you and my family better? Then it gives you

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that greater sense of why. Why is it good for you to sleep and why is it good for you to eat well? And then the other thing, I know it's exercise. We really do need to get the exercise. Sometimes it's with the kids. Sometimes maybe after dad gets home, you can go for a walk, let him have some good quality time with the children while you're out. But if you're having trouble sleeping, exercise really helps. If you're feeling a lot of stress,

or struggling with just low spirits, exercise helps. So get out there, get the walk, get the exercise, not in a selfish way, but to take care of yourself to enable you to take care of others. Just like any person that works with tools has to take care of the tools in order to get the job done. You have to take care of yourself in order to do the work that God has assigned you to do. Another thing, that was take care of your body.

Next thing is take care of your mind. It is good for you to keep learning. It was good for me to learn things outside. Now, I'm going to put my caveat before I even finish that sentence. Let me tell you, I learned more through homeschooling my children than I think I did in all of my education combined. I learned so much history and science and even tricks in how to add better in my head and math and all kinds of things. So you are learning a lot as a homeschooling mom. And that's great. Recognize that.

But you also can like read a book that has nothing to do with the unit study you're currently doing with your kids. And that's a good thing. At the end of the day where it's been long and it's been hard, in a comfy chair. If you need to, turn it away from the chaos in the living room, maybe towards the wall with the pretty picture, light a candle, get a book, wrap a blanket around you, and just read for 15 minutes. And remember that God has given you a mind. He wants you renew your mind as well to have those things.

At the same time, you what you're doing? You're being a great example to your children that you want to be a lifelong learner and you want them to be a lifelong learner. And the last thing and the most important thing is that yes, we need to take care of our body and yes, we need to take care of our mind. But as a homeschool mom, we most importantly need to take care of our spirit. And that is through taking in the word.

Susan Macias (18:09.178)

So imagine yourself, I got up and I had a quiet time every morning, not out of obligation and not out of checking a box. I mean, maybe sometimes, but what I really felt was like a woman stumbling through the desert, just looking for that well of living water. I needed it every morning. I knew how much I was going to pour out during the day. And if I didn't get filled up first in the morning, then I wasn't going to have anything to give to them.

They couldn't pull from a dry well. They had to pull out of a living well. And so I found that being in the Word first changed my spirit for the rest of the day. One of my favorite verses is in Jeremiah, Jeremiah 15, 16. Your words were found and I ate them. And your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name. So that delight that it would give my heart. Now, sometimes we make

Decisions and their second and third level effects that we don't even anticipate Sometimes they're not good, but sometimes they're great Here's the thing my adult children later came back to me later in life way past this time of doing all this to say mom I knew that you really believed the Bible and cared about the Bible because you did that every morning because I saw you I saw that you wanted to read the Bible. I saw that you wanted to be in it. And so now I have a quiet time

and you talk about a paycheck. For me, that was the greatest joy I could have ever had. I wasn't trying to do that, I was trying to survive. I needed that every morning, but it also had an effect on my kids. One of the best places I found to be in as a homeschooling mom was the Psalms. I loved the Psalms. And one of the things you can do with the Psalms that I did a lot, I should take whatever the day of the week is. So it's the 15th.

I think today. So you would read Psalm 15 and then you just add 30 to it. So 15, 45, 75, 105, 135. So you read those Psalms through. Now this is not a checkbox, so you don't have to read that many Psalms. But I found that that was a good, it was a good range to read. And then in a month, you've read the whole book of Psalms. But I would just go back and do it again, because some days I'd missed and some things had happened. The Psalms are great.

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because not only do they have a ton of praise of the Lord and explanation of the things that he does, it also has laments. It has complaints. It has, are you doing? God, where did you go? It's that idea that in his word, God has recorded that sometimes as people, we have a hard time

seeing him, but he is available and he is there for us. So self-care, not selfish care, in order to enable you to do that,

which he has called you to do. That is one part of what we need to do to have peace in our spirit. There's a second part that's kind of coming at this from a whole other angle. And this I talk of as buckle up, better cup, because this is the idea that I realized in some other hood that I was doing something really amazing and important. So of course it wasn't easy. I had as my...

my screen saver on my computer, Mount Everest. And it was to remind me nobody climbs Mount Everest without making sacrifice, without putting in a lot of effort, without giving up a lot of things in order to do this great accomplishment. And I was on this great adventure with the Lord and homeschooling my children. And it was hard and it took a lot of dedication and it took denying myself and it took all those things in order to reach the summit. And sometimes it's just important.

to do that because if we can make peace with reality, make friends with reality, it kind of takes that pressure off. It's like nobody goes in to become an Olympic athlete expecting it to be easy or being surprised that there's challenges or that you might get injured or you might have problems along the way. You realize that's a part of the deal. And that's a part of the deal. As homeschool moms, I realized I had to have resilience.

and a backbone of steel and endurance to keep doing it. So yes, I need to take care of myself. That is absolutely a part of what is happening here with Jesus. But the other part was that I needed to realize that I was in something that was a great work that God was doing in our family. And because of that, my peace wasn't gonna be quiet. My peace wasn't easy. My peace wasn't because everybody behaved well all the time.

Susan Macias (22:55.256)

My piece was in being right in the middle of God's will, which for our family was homeschooling and it was this amazing journey. Yes, it took a lot. It took a lot of sacrifice. It took a lot of investment of myself, but it was the best thing I did. And on this end of having graduated all my kids, I can tell you, I am so glad for every time I thought about quitting and I didn't.

where I thought this is just too much work and it's too hard. And yet the Lord came along and brought me up. Maybe he gave me a nap. You one of my favorite stories is Elijah. He has this amazing experience on Mount Carmel. He calls the fire down from God. All of the Baal priests are obliterated. It's an incredible miracle. And then he runs off. The rain comes after seven years of drought, just like he said it would.

and he goes into a cave and yet he's just so exhausted. He tells God, would you just kill me? Because I'm just done. And angels come to him and they give him a snack and they have him sleep. And sometimes that self-care is what we need. We need a nap and we need a snack and we need to relax. And on the other times, we got to be able and willing to stand up and do this hard thing that God has called us to do. When we get worn out,

Let Him give us the strength we need again. As you go into the spring semester, realize you might feel tired. You might feel like, I'm not really sure that the fall went as well as I'd hoped. How am I gonna keep going? It's in the Word. Get in the Word. Get your spirit renewed. Realize that you are doing a great work. And that as you do that great work, yes, it's gonna be challenging. It's gonna be hard. But God has a plan for you. And He wants to do this work with you.

and through you. He has not surprised that you cannot do everything. He totally agrees when we say, I can't do everything I need to do because I know I'd never thought you could. He never expected you to. He wants to do it with you. But yes, there will be times that it's a challenge. So we make peace with the fact that yes, our family is doing a hard thing, but we're doing it with Jesus and to the glory of his name. And in that is great peace. So that

Susan Macias (25:18.806)

is what I have for you today. I got to share this with some moms at a MOPs group, young moms, and it was so sweet to just see them get encouraged and say, okay, okay, yes, this is a worthwhile thing that God has called me to do, and I want to do that. So we have some questions. I'm so glad. So the first one, what advice do you have for housewives?

full of teenagers, buckle up Buttercup. Yeah, it's a lot of fun. It can be so much fun, but it is constantly a challenge. One thing I think it's important to do is have some fun with your teenagers. It's maybe, for us, we did things like our family was Spurs fans and we were Aggies. We are both of those things still. And so we would cheer around those things.

We would together, it's that finding something to do together. We went down one time and it's so funny because as I say this example, I'm also remembering it was one of the hardest things we did. We took our boys and two of our girls and some of their friends down and we were building a home in Mexico, like doing this hard thing together. There was a significant amount of character training that occurred during that time.

And so having those opportunities to interface with them in ways that are real and up close and personal, it's very important. One thing that a friend of ours says about his teenagers is he always wanted to keep them busy and tired and poor because they were less likely to get into trouble that way. So finding things, A, that they love to do that you can encourage those giftings that you might see leading towards where they're going in life.

but then also still trying to do things together as a family, not losing family in the midst of this time where people are beginning to go off on their own, right? They have different things that they're gonna be pursuing as they are developing their giftings to serve God as adults, but you don't wanna lose family. That's sort of a vague answer. If you have a more specific question that will help clarify that, please let me know. Okay, so for the next question.

Susan Macias (27:36.635)

What tips do you have for a new to homeschooling mom with a big family? Yes, so new to homeschooling mom, if you are coming into homeschooling, realize that to just start everything would be like saying, all of us, let's jump in the deep end and somehow we're all gonna swim for the edge. It's just, you you need to start in the kiddie pool. So start slowly and it's okay.

We're so afraid that if we don't get everything done this month, our children will be behind for the rest of their lives. And that's actually not true. So when we can start and slowly add on, it makes it more doable. So if you're just starting, what you really need to be figuring out is a good schedule for your family. When you have a little bit older kids, and by that I would say sixth grade and above, bring them in.

How are we gonna work this schedule? How are we gonna get things done? Okay, I need this time for this person and this time for this person. So we're gonna have to have that schedule. We're gonna have to have those things where we figure out how our day flows. And that's what I found. We didn't have a minute by minute schedule. We had more of a day flow. So we kind of said, okay, by now we should, everybody can get out their math. But the other thing I would say is,

Figure out who needs your personal attention and who you need to expect to do some things on their own. But give your family time to adjust. You can't start everything all at once. You will kill yourself and them and everybody will say homeschooling is the worst idea ever. Enjoy it as a family. Do something together in the morning. Figure out how to get people going.

And one of the things that I believe that is one of the advantages or can be one of the great advantages of homeschooling is training our older kids, that kind of sixth grade and beyond, to become independent learners so that they are not saying, well, if mom hasn't told me to do something, that means I have nothing to do. Absolutely not. You are, you know, got a brain. So let's think about what could you do without my help? Slowly add those things on. And then the other thing also is

Susan Macias (29:56.483)

Chores can be part of homeschooling because it is home ec and it is a part of family life. So make sure you're putting that in your day so that it is a cooperative effort. We are all here in this home, school, home together. So mom can't do all the cooking and all the laundry and all the things. You've got to cooperate together. Okay, question three. What are some strategies for encouraging a lifetime

homeschooling middle schooler who wants to try school, but we are not of the same conviction. We are going to try a co-op to increase connections. All right. I think that's a great question. There's two sides to this. One, if they're really convinced, you're like, okay, what are we gonna do? We don't wanna create bitterness in this child. On the other hand, make sure you and your husband are praying very strongly through it together.

and saying, okay, let's all pray together, the three of us. Let's see what God does. Let's come up with how He's leading us. But son, daughter, just so you know, in the end of the day, mom and dad are always gonna obey Jesus. Like we love you so much that we're even willing to say no if we think God is giving us a really hard stop no. The idea about maybe going to a co-op,

maybe having some, if they're lonely at home and they need some time with other people, you if they're an extroverted kind of person or they're the kind of person, it just feels like they have no energy from not being around other people, then finding good, safe places is important. I would say really look at your co-op options, pray about them, and trust the Lord to guide you to exactly the right spot.

because you want to make those decisions. But it's a great place also as a middle schooler to lead them in decision making and bring them along on the journey and say, let's write down our pros and cons. Let's pray together. What is the Lord telling you? How are you? What do you feel responsible about this? Not just what do you want, but what are you responsible to do with this? What are you taking ownership of? And that way you're walking with them in it and not constantly

Susan Macias (32:19.041)
butting heads.

Any advice for homeschooled dad where we're few and far between and don't band together for support? Well, wow, that's a great question. You're seeing the need. So maybe the Lord is encouraging you to start something. I tell you, think homeschooled dads, it's because there's a greater variety in the way homeschooling is working out. When back in the Stone Age, when I started homeschooling, you know, was

I didn't know any dads that were homeschooling and now there are. so finding them is the trick, but just reaching out within your community, get one at a time as you draw them in. bet they're gonna, once you get the ball rolling, you find a few and they have other friends that are doing it. And then you pull them in, whether it's, it could be an online thing because it's hard to meet anyway, but it also might be that they're not in your community.

I think getting a dad to dad thing is very important because I know for me as a homeschool mom, I needed to hear from other moms who were homeschooling who said, wow, this is what is hard. And I could give them advice and then I'd say, oh my gosh, I don't know what to do with this. And they would give me advice. So fine. But I think that a dad going to an all mom support group would probably feel a little weird.

So you need other men in your life that are willing to speak with you with that. So maybe reach out, just start putting some things out within your homeschool community. Maybe on a Facebook group, a Homeschool of Texas Facebook group or another Facebook group. What are other dads calling homeschooling dads? And you might find that they're happy to join up with you for an evening to sit around. It could be a Zoom meeting where you bring a cigar and

Susan Macias (34:19.372)

chat about the joys of homeschooling. But you are an important part of the homeschooling organism that is around the United States. And we need y'all to be successful too. So also for THSC, let us know how we can support you, because maybe that's something we can grow in as well. OK. How do we come back from a non-excellent fall? I feel like fall, had so much sickness and unexpected things that it seemed like we were just so far.

Such a good question, Jessica. I just, I feel for you too, because we have them, right? Those occurred in our homeschooling. One of the things I learned to do was reframe what had occurred. So homeschooling is not just math and science, but it's also life skills. So part of God's school for you in the fall was some hard physical things that you were going through.

And there's this tendency to say, we need to now catch up on everything that we've missed. And I honestly don't think that's true. I think you can sit down and go through and say in prayer with your husband, talking through what actually matters. And what can we say? We learned other lessons this fall. We learned about taking care of each other. We learned about how it's hard to keep going.

Those lessons you can't maybe not even identify yet, you're gonna pull from in years to come. But identify what actually has to get done and how can we do that? Maybe we shorten some math lessons to make sure they have the things they need and we're gonna do two lessons a day but we're only gonna do half and half. If you have a child that that would feel like they'll drown, don't do that. Just pick up where you are. This is your school year, right?

And nobody in Texas is sitting over you saying exactly how many lessons have you gotten done, right? You desire for your children to learn. And so you're coming at, okay, Lord, here we are in the spring, we're exhausted, that was a tough fall. Maybe spend a day, everybody gets to write down some things that they learned last fall. What did they learn? What about life did you figure out? Now we're gonna go forward and we're gonna...

Susan Macias (36:45.454)

take out some of this extra stuff and we're just going to do some basics. Maybe do every other lesson of some things. Maybe say, we're going to drop that for this spring so we can concentrate on our math and our science if that's what you felt was the most important. You can adjust your year to what you have. know, kids that deal with illness or out of school, they don't necessarily do every single lesson.

like the public school has. You are the superintendent of your school and you can decide. You desire for your kids to come out of the year knowing as much as they can know. But let's figure out how to creatively adjust so that we're not going, okay, great, we'll be done with school on August 15th and we'll start our next year on August 18th. I mean, that sounds horrible. Everybody needs a break. So adjust it yourself so that you all

can have some joy in homeschooling. Realize you learned a lot in the fall. It might not have been about nouns and adjectives, but it was about other things that God wanted to teach you. And then go forth in faith and in prayer, Lord, what do we need to do, but please show us what we don't need to do. And maybe make some of those choices so that it can get simplified and you can get through. And then as things are beginning to gain traction again,

you can add a little bit more in and then add a little bit more in as you get going. Because otherwise you'll just feel behind for the rest of the year and that's a horrible feeling. You had that semester, you're starting this semester. This is what this semester is. Make a plan to go forward and make a decision on what is your stop point at the end of the year and then trust the Lord with that.

Okay. How do you go about teaching a subject you're not good at? So there was my go-to prayer was James 1-5, if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask. So I did a lot of James 1-5 in homeschooling. When I was not good at math, I that's not my, I'm a words girl. not a, that's, you know, I even did higher level math in high school and I could get an answer and I had no clue. It was right.

Susan Macias (39:07.034)

I didn't know what it meant, nor did I really care. So I knew that was not a place that was gonna be my go-to spot. So we ended up doing, I found curriculum that helped me to teach it. So like something like teaching textbooks for me was very helpful because it had the video that was explaining it, or I would get a tutor, or that might be a co-op class. You could find an online class.

we used for math. I can use this as a very specific example, but realize you're gonna have different resources now than even I had back then. But Khan Academy at the time was this new revolutionary way to get math problems or chemistry math equations explained. And so you could come along and find the resources. But I would always stop and ask, Lord, I have no wisdom in this. I don't even know where to go forward and I need help.

We need help with this. And I tell you, it wasn't the sort of nobody, there were no fingers writing on my walls and there was no audible voice, but the Lord would open a door or bring a person the next day or an idea. What about that? What if we did this? And so there are resources out there. You do not have to be the source of truth. Once again, you're not omniscient, right? So we can't teach every subject the same way. There are resources.

There are people that teach online now. There are books to read. We are building independence in our kids by helping them. We can come alongside them learning it together, but also searching for resources to help with those things. And then also sometimes I would find like I would just need to pray that the Lord would give me more positive vibes about this particular thing so that I could come to my kids with a positive attitude. Do not be afraid to tell your child.

I don't know about this one. I mean, this is just something I'm not very good at. You might be amazing at it because God wires us all differently. So let's figure this out together and then we'll

get help where we need to get help. Like being vulnerable with your kids like that is so healthy and it helps them see that they don't have to be good at everything. And if they have something they need help with, that's okay. And so I hope that gives you some ideas of some ways to tackle. It's not a reason to not teach it and it's not a reason to not homeschool.

Susan Macias (41:33.758)

There's lots of resources out

Susan Macias (41:38.755)

Okay, this is the last question. How do you keep your marriage strong while homeschooling? How to get dad involved? A very important question because the family is the thing that needs to be the most guarded of everything. That is such a strong foundation that you give your kids for their adult lives is to actually have a good family, a good marriage when all the kids are gone.

So how do you keep your marriage strong? You have to work at it. You have to find the time because you have to make the time, right? You really, you're not gonna find it. It doesn't actually exist, but you've got to make those choices together. And then dads have all lots of different circumstances. If a dad has a very busy work schedule, not gonna be super involved in homeschool.

My husband didn't have time to teach anything, but he was emotionally supportive to me, financially supportive to helping the homeschool work. So like saying, yay, dad was something that was important. Praising him in front of my kids was important. Yeah, dad's got to work so hard. It wasn't like dad doesn't care. It's like dad has to work. We're so grateful that just every now and then voicing that. And sometimes I'd have to do it to remind myself of that truth.

But it's just important to be able to say, you know, what does supportive look like? Don't look at another dad who's able to teach one of the subjects or, you know, loves to get in and take on this certain aspect of homeschooling and then look at your husband and go, well, I guess you're not supportive because you don't do what Joe does. Ask the Lord to help your husband see where he can be involved. Ask for advice and take it, which could be the hardest part of the deal.

Encourage his input, but then don't complain when there's not time to do the things you wish he was able to do. He might wish he was able to do those too, but there just might not be time. So encourage the dad to be able to do, you know, bring him in when you can. Can you read this book out loud? What do you think about this? Let's talk about curriculum. But guilt is a very poor motivator, so don't lay on guilt.

Susan Macias (44:03.864)

I also found that being frustrated, not super motivating to them either. And our kids would really rather their parents be happy than for the job distribution to be equal. So having a happy marriage in the best part is more valuable for your kids. Be okay with the way it shakes out. If you need help, ask for it.

If he's not able to give it, don't make him feel guilty, but go find it somewhere else. If we need help, we need help and we need to be able to look for that. Lots of other great questions that are on here. I wish I could answer them all. We do want to honor your time and get going. And we also want to give away that convention ticket. So we're going to wrap up here.

Okay, so what I tell you about our membership, you can join THSC. There is a discount with this code, Webinar 30. The Texas Homeschooling Coalition membership is to support you and we want to advocate for you. We advocate for you through the laws that are made and through, we also want to come alongside and answer those questions for you. Am I doing it right? We want to come alongside and help you.

The THSC membership is designed so that you can have immediate access to legal advice and support if anything were to happen and you needed help. They're a phone call away for that. Homeschooling coaches, as a member you can call unlimited, call the coaches. They're the ones that are on the backend answering questions right now and they love to talk to homeschoolers and help them.

figure out how to make things work. You get discounts to dozens of major curriculums and homeschooling resources. More importantly, you get discounts to every single event we do, a significant discount on every event that we do. These webinars are uploaded. We have a portal. Think about it. Think of it like Netflix for homeschoolers, for homeschool moms. Or dads, by the way, the dad that's on here, for all homeschool parents.

Susan Macias (46:22.881)

So the webinars are there. You have a complete library. You can go in and search for, you know, that James 1-5 prayer. What is the exact, maybe you'll find a webinar that will answer that question. So we're hosting a back to spring semester membership sale for those who register for the webinar. It's \$119. So you'll check your emails for a link to take advantage of this special. And if you have any more questions, feel free to reach out.

You can reach out now or just to a team member at THSC and we would love to serve you and your family. And after you purchase your membership, you will receive the link to your complete set of convention recordings. Are we still doing that? Hmm, may not do that. Okay, but you will get all kinds of things. Okay, our next webinar is marriage first. remember that question we had? This is awesome. We have this February.

Notice it's awfully close to February 14th. So we wanted to do a marriage webinar next because it is important for our families to be strong. Marriage first, staying connected when life gets full. so Rich and Shelly Howard of OneFamily, they are also going to be at the convention and they are going to be talking about how, as homeschool parents, how do we keep our marriage first? I think it's going to be a fabulous webinar. So you will be receiving a link to be able to sign up.

for that as well. And then our other webinar we have is in March 19th, Angela O'Dell. She has a really great podcast. It's real cool history and she has these lovely little history snippets that she tells for kids. And so that's something you could play during lunch or any time to get little history lessons in during your world. But look at this subject, raising kids in an overstimulating world.

Now she'll be doing a shortened presentation here and she's doing the full presentation at convention. We're super excited. She has great content. So we're super excited to welcome her to the convention and to this webinar. So you can sign up for that webinar as well.

Susan Macias (48:34.23)

Okay, so we are ready for our giveaway. Do we have a convention slide to put up? Okay, giveaway and the, can you hear my drum roll? So drum roll please. Of those who put convention into the chat, it is Danielle Osborne. Danielle Osborne, thank you for, if you're still on, please put something in the chat and we'll get your email from you and we will send you your free convention ticket. So exciting.

Okay, and then we also have, thank you for joining us for, and for Marmos Security for the sponsorship, but we also, we're gonna have a 10 % off code. We're gonna send that in the email. We will send that in the email that you get that has the recording of this webinar. It will be a 10 % off of the convention ticket.

that you can apply right now, it's early bird tickets as it is, so you would get an extra 10 % off on top of that. Here is also notice on this slide is the QR code for that safe home, which I think is a wise thing for everybody to think about how can we protect our kids from all of this. The onslaught that we've got right now on our phones. I am so grateful that y'all joined us. We...

We value each person that gets on and we are just thrilled to be able to bring you content and encouragement to keep up the good fight. What you're doing matters and we're proud of you. Thank you.