

Back to Homeschool Webinar – Week 2

Topic: Raising Readers with Whitney Newby

Hosted by: Texas Home School Coalition (THSC)

Welcome & Introductions

Welcome to our second Back to Home School webinar! We're so glad you're here. Let us know in the chat where you're joining from — we have attendees from across Texas, the U.S., and even around the world.

This is part of our Back to School series. Last week's "Homeschooling 101" webinar is available in the THSC Member Portal, and this session will be there too.

Our events team today includes:

- Amanda Hopper – Events Director
- Ashley McFarland – Events Communication & Marketing
- Susan – Director of Events, veteran homeschool mom of 27 years

Our homeschool coaches are in the chat to answer questions and share resources throughout the presentation.

Sponsor: Reading Eggs

Reading Eggs is an award-winning homeschool program for ages 2–13, covering reading, phonics, vocabulary, math, and problem-solving. It's used by over 16,000 schools worldwide.

Speaker: Whitney Newby – Brighter Day Press

Whitney is the founder of Brighter Day Press, which creates literature-rich, gospel-centered discipleship resources for families. She holds a Bible degree from Moody Bible Institute, is a registered nurse, and a homeschool mom of four.

Topic: Raising Readers – Creating a Reading Culture in Your Home

10 Tips for Raising Readers

1. Read Aloud. Read Aloud. Read Aloud – The single most important activity for building reading success.
2. Start with Their Interests – Let their curiosity lead the way.
3. Limit Entertainment Screens – Keep recreational screens off during school days.
4. Face Books Out – Display covers using shelves or picture ledges.
5. Begin with Easier Books – Build confidence with slightly easier material.
6. Make Library Trips a Habit – Keep a steady flow of books.
7. Make Reading Fun – Use creative challenges like March Book Madness.
8. Use Audiobooks – Great for reluctant or struggling readers.
9. Model Reading – Let kids see you read for enjoyment.

10. Try Graphic Novels – Preview for appropriateness and use to engage reluctant readers.

Finding & Vetting Books

Books About Books:

- Honey for a Child's Heart – Gladys Hunt
- Additional lists at BrighterDayPress.com

Vetting tools:

- PluggedIn.com
- RedeemedReader.com
- Amazon/Goodreads reviews
- Facebook: Book Reviews for Christian Families

Finding Books on a Budget

- Ask your library about homeschool checkout limits
- Buy gently used books (Better World Books, ThriftBooks)
- Use YouTube for picture book read-alouds
- Share wish lists with grandparents

Closing Encouragement

Your investment in reading can have eternal impact. Whitney shared a moment when reading Little Pilgrim's Big Journey led her young son to understand Jesus could take away his "sin burden." Even if it feels small, God can use your daily reading time in profound ways.

Audience Q&A; Highlights

Avoiding burnout teaching reading:

- Keep sessions short (10–15 min) and consistent
- Use visual timers
- Celebrate progress

Helping reluctant readers:

- Study their interests
- Use timers for independent reading
- Incorporate audiobooks

Quiet time with multiple kids:

- Use nap time, short shows, or outdoor play for younger ones

Daily habits to prioritize reading:

- Nighttime reading with book lights
- Ongoing book conversations
- Let kids see you reading your Bible or a book for pleasure

THSC Membership Offer

- Special webinar attendee rate: \$109 (regularly \$149)
- Bonus: Free set of THSC convention audio recordings, including Whitney's full "Raising Readers" session
- Members receive expert homeschool coaching, planning tools, legal advocacy, and exclusive savings

Next in the Back to Homeschool Series

1. How to Equip Your Kids to Not Lose Their Faith – Emily Steele
2. How to Keep Your Homeschool Year on Track – Susan
3. Help! The Smartphone Ate My Family – Philip Telfer (Sept 18)