



HOMESCHOOLING HIGH SCHOOL WITH MEREDITH!

FINISH WELL CONFERENCE



Saturday, I had the privilege of teaching with [Cheryl Bastian](#) and [Virginia Knowles](#) at [Finish Well](#), our mini-conference to equip homeschooling parents with high school students. Cheryl is the mother of six amazing children with two high school grads. Virginia has a darling brood of ten, with three high school grads. What a joy it was to teach with these ladies again and to meet so many wonderful homeschooling families! Here are some of the highlights of the day!

My husband opened the day up in prayer, praying that all of us moms would be refreshed and equipped. God definitely answered our prayers. The first session was entitled "Joy and Success in Homeschooling High School." There was a call to build up, not tear down during the high school years. Keeping the goal to educate and equip our children for the life the Lord has called them to live allows us to make plans that will be productive and effective. Homeschooling moms were reminded to imagine their children at graduation--what do they want them to know? What kind of character do they

want in their hearts and lives? What kind of relationship do they want to have with their children? This specific goal affects the plans that we make. We tailor our plans to fit the goal of who our child will be at graduation. The first plan to make is the overall four year class plan, keeping it adaptable. We continue to tweak it as unexpected opportunities cause us to make changes.

Throughout all the plans, classes, and endless documentation of high school, we want to keep our eyes on our destination. We talked about boating. On a boat trip, you must steer carefully, not getting too close to the sides, lest you run aground. This is accomplished by keeping our eyes on our destination (the goal!) and maintaining vigilance. Depth of the water is important when boating. The water needs to be deep enough for the boat to glide through without touching the bottom. Spiritual depth is important in our own lives so that we can impart our faith to our beloved children and receive grace to homeschool for the glory of God. We also need to maintain vigilance about the depth of our children's walks with the Lord. Doing certain "normal" teenage things (like dual enrolling or joining the church youth group) require a depth in their walk with the Lord that will withstand the temptations that assault our teens in these situations.

Steering clear of obstacles is another important task of boating. Sand, muck, and twigs can get in the engine keeping the water from flowing smoothly to cool the engine down. The Holy Spirit must flow through our teens' lives so that they are kept focused on growing in their relationships with Christ and resisting temptation. As homeschooling moms, we must avoid allowing things in our children's lives that will muck up their motor, leading them astray from Jesus. Every child is different and things affect each child differently. Each child is tempted in different ways by different things. Don't assume something will be okay for your child. Be sensitive to anything that will grieve or quench the Holy Spirit.

You are still the parent in charge during the teenage years and teens need to be parented closely. Build a strong relationship with your teenager, remembering that lives are changed in the context of relationships. All the relationships your child has will impact him/her, so decide who you will allow to influence your teenager. Maintain vigilance at all times!



Homeschooling high school is more than getting a teenager ready for college or a career. It is a ministry unto the Lord, something we do because God has called us to educate our children and equip them for life. Jesus is our model in the way He loved and taught His disciples, correcting, encouraging, and teaching principles over and over again. Most of all, Jesus revealed God and His truth to His disciples. Our most important ministry is to mentor our children!

Everybody knows the story of Daniel and his friends in Daniel chapter one. He resolved not to defile himself with the unclean food of the Babylonians because he was a servant of the Lord. The guard agreed to let Daniel and his friends eat a different diet that would honor the God of Israel.

*"At the end of ten days they look healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. So the guard took away the choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead. **To these four men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning.** And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds."*
(Daniel 1:15-17)

Not only did God bless these young men spiritually who had resolved not to defile themselves, but he also gave them knowledge and understanding of literature and learning. If we want to raise smart and godly kids, there is only one way to do it! Resolve to not defile them with the world's ways, but instead always seek first the Kingdom of God. The Lord always blesses those whose hope is set on Him!

Enjoy more of Cheryl Bastian on her blog, [There's Always a Story](#), and Virginia Knowles on her blog, [Virginia's Life, Such as It is](#). Also, check out the [Finish Well](#) blog where you can find handouts and powerpoints from the conference. We will post important information for homeschooling moms of high school students on this blog and information about our upcoming "Finish Well" conference in April! Until then, keep homeschooling high school for the glory of God!