

# TEXAS

HOMESCHOOL MAGAZINE



SPRING 2026



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# Women have always shaped history, most often by shaping homes, minds, and futures.

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# FROM THE EDITOR

## Welcome to the Spring 2026 issue of the Texas Homeschool Magazine

For me, SPRING always arrives with a mix of excitement and pressure.

There's something hopeful about this season; the fresh air, the longer days, the feeling that something new is beginning. I always seem to have so much ambition. The outdoor projects I've been dreaming of all winter. The seed catalogs stacked up with all the dog-eared pages of plants I HAVE to try this year. But, if we're honest, spring can also get overwhelming fast. Seed trays fill the counters. Baby animals arrive on farms. New curriculum catalogs land in the mailbox. Co-op sign-ups, sports schedules, and summer camp deadlines stack up before we've even caught our breath.

It's a lot.

March is Women's History Month, and in this issue we do highlight women who made history, women whose courage, grit, and faith helped shape Texas and beyond. Their stories matter. They remind us what's possible.

I also want us to remember something quieter, and just as important: we are women in history, too.

Right now. Here. In the middle of ordinary days.

We are nurturing the next generation of people. We are shaping hearts, habits, and homes. We are teaching children not just how to read and calculate, but how to work, how to wonder, how to persevere, and how to love what is good and true.



That work may not make headlines, but it builds legacies.

Spring is a season for tending roots.

The seeds we start today.

The garden beds we prepare before anything blooms.

The slow, unseen work that nourishes what will one day produce a harvest.

This issue was created with that rhythm in mind.

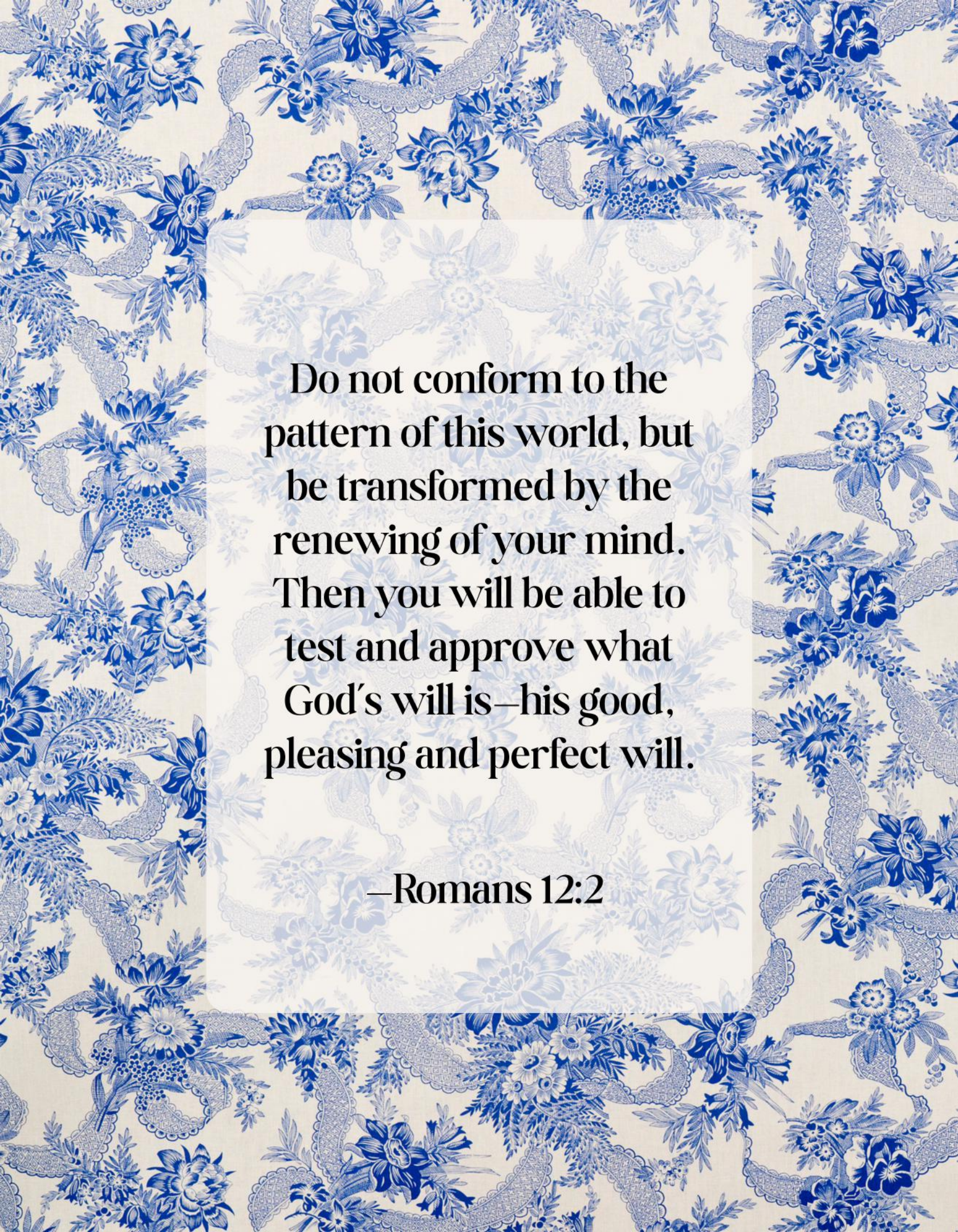
Inside these pages, you'll find things that I love. Texas History, stories rooted in place and people. You'll see animals, real homeschool families from across Texas, and women who are creating their own history in quiet, faithful ways. You'll find encouragement to slow down, refocus on family, and embrace the legacy-building work of the everyday.

My prayer is that this magazine feels less like another thing on your to-do list and more like a moment to pause, reflect, and remember why you started this journey in the first place.

As we step into spring together, may we resist the rush just enough to tend what matters most. As you'll see in the next pages, the next chapter doesn't begin somewhere far off; it begins at home.

*Melissa Ebner*

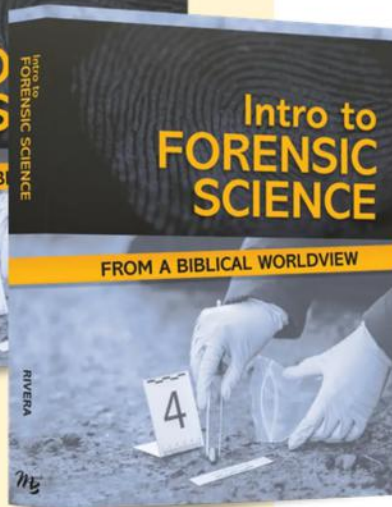
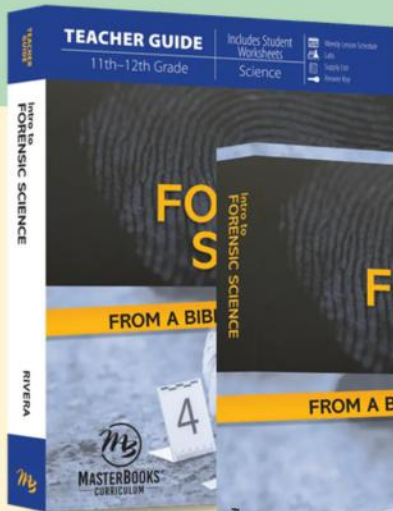
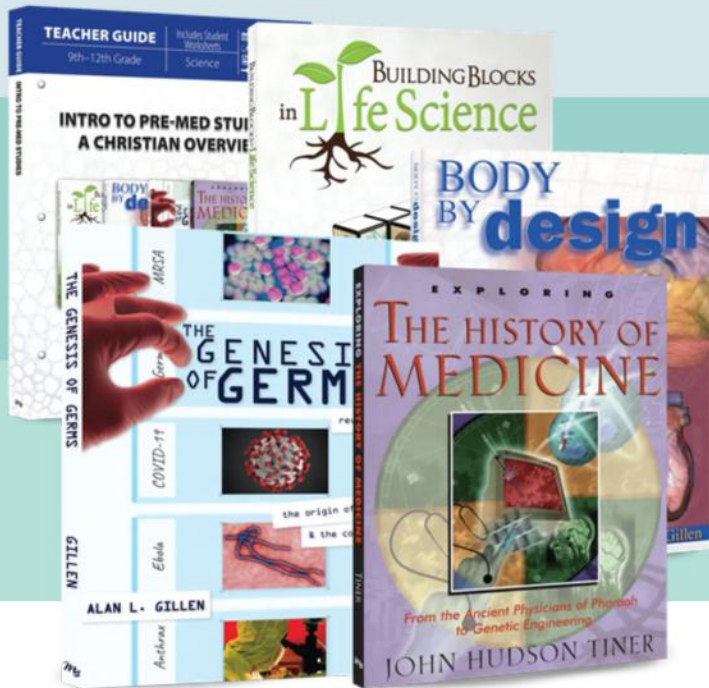
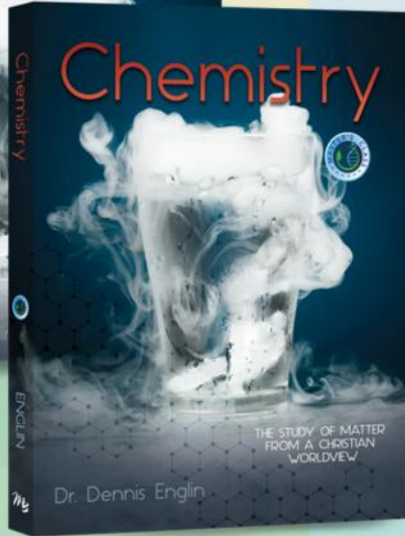
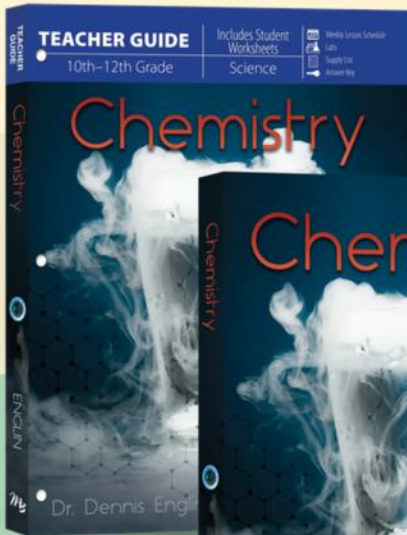




**Do not conform to the  
pattern of this world, but  
be transformed by the  
renewing of your mind.  
Then you will be able to  
test and approve what  
God's will is—his good,  
pleasing and perfect will.**

**—Romans 12:2**

# High School Science Courses



# The Next Chapter Begins At Home

EDUCATION THAT SHAPES WHAT COMES NEXT



History rarely announces itself in the moment. More often, it is shaped quietly, around kitchen tables, in well-worn notebooks, and through conversations that form conviction long before credentials follow.

When we look back, we tend to focus on finished stories. Names, dates, and accomplishments are neatly summarized after the work is done. Yet most legacies are formed long before recognition ever comes, through discipline, responsibility, and the steady work of preparation.

Homeschooling has long created space for this kind of formation.

THE NEXT CHAPTER BEGINS AT HOME

*The next chapter is  
shaped long before  
the world is  
watching*

**Formation Before Recognition**

Many of the women we now study during Women's History Month are remembered not because they followed predictable paths, but because they responded faithfully to the responsibilities placed before them.

Their education was often informal or self-directed, shaped by necessity, conviction, and perseverance rather than structure alone.

Whether serving through healthcare, influencing public thought, or acting with courage in the face of risk, their stories remind us that preparation often happens quietly and that education has always been part of legacy-building.

That same pattern continues today.



Homeschool families often prioritize formation over performance. Students learn to manage their work, take responsibility for their time, and engage deeply with ideas rather than rushing toward outcomes. The goal is not speed, but readiness.

*Education at home is never  
just about academics; it's  
about formation*

**Education That Leads Outward**

When learning is approached as preparation rather than pressure, it naturally leads outward, toward service, leadership, and responsibility.

Homeschool students pursue many paths: higher education, skilled trades, military service, entrepreneurship, and family life. While outcomes differ, a shared foundation often remains: discipline practiced early, independence built gradually, and conviction shaped over time.

## THE NEXT CHAPTER BEGINS AT HOME

In this issue, you'll meet students walking demanding roads: a college student balancing independence with discipline, a student leader learning to express ideas clearly, and a military cadet stepping into service after years of preparation. These stories are not prescriptions. They are examples of what can grow when education is paired with intentional formation.

*“Legacy is built through responsibility, not recognition.”*

### **The Role of Family**

At the heart of each story, past and present, is family.

Not perfection, but presence.  
Not pressure, but guidance.



Families who choose homeschooling are choosing involvement. They walk closely with their children through seasons of growth, uncertainty, and discernment, allowing maturity to develop at a steady pace.

This kind of education does not rush children toward adulthood. It prepares them for it.

### **Finishing Well**

The next chapter is still being written.

The homeschool boys and girls growing up today are shaped by families who value faith, perseverance, and responsibility over applause. Whether their paths lead into service, leadership, craftsmanship, scholarship, or home, the goal remains the same.

Not simply to start well—but to finish well.

*“The goal isn’t just to start well, it’s to finish well.”*

# What Grows Where Across the Lone Star State

Texas spans more growing zones than almost any other state. Knowing your growing zone helps families choose the right plants, understand planting seasons, and see how climate shapes agriculture across Texas.

## Homeschool Connection

Use growing zones to combine science, geography, and history. Compare crops grown in different Texas regions and discuss how climate affects farming and food.



## Texas Growing Zones by Region

*North Texas & Panhandle*  
Zones 6–7

Cooler winters, shorter growing season  
Common crops: wheat, onions, leafy greens

*Central Texas & Hill Country*  
Zones 8–9

Warm springs, hot summers  
Common crops: tomatoes, peppers, squash

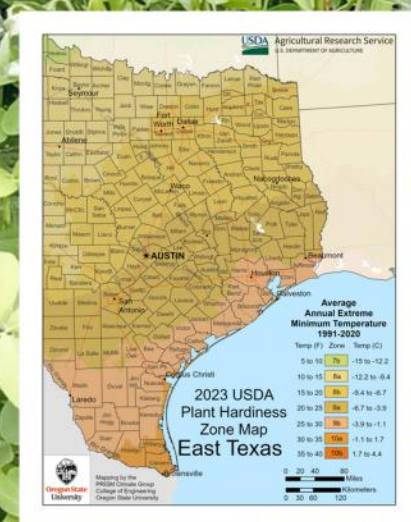
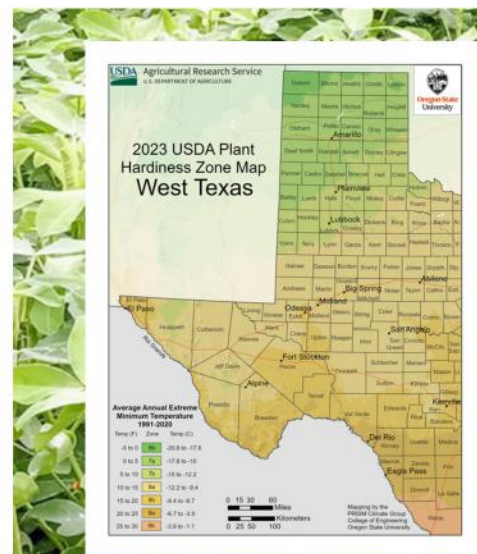
*East Texas*  
Zone 8  
Higher rainfall, humid climate  
Common crops: blueberries, sweet potatoes, corn

*South Texas & Gulf Coast*  
Zones 9–10  
Mild winters, long growing season  
Common crops: citrus, melons, herbs

## Quick Family Activity

Look up your county's growing zone.

Name three plants that grow well there. Compare with another Texas region, what changes?



# Seeds That Built Texas

Long before grocery stores and seed catalogs, Texas families saved seeds from year to year. These seeds, passed down through generations, shaped how Texans farmed, ate, and built communities across the state.

## **Seeds at the Root of Texas History**

Early Texas agriculture relied on a small number of dependable crops that could handle heat, drought, and unpredictable weather.



## **Heirloom Seeds vs. Modern Seeds**

### Heirloom Seeds

- Saved and replanted year after year
- Adapted to local soil and climate
- Often tied to family or regional history

### Modern Seeds

- Often bred for uniform size or shipping
- Usually purchased new each season
- Higher yields, but less seed-saving ability

Both play a role in today's gardens, but heirloom seeds tell the story of how Texas agriculture began.

## **Key Texas Crops**

- Corn – a staple food for families and livestock
- Cotton – a major economic crop that shaped settlement and trade
- Beans – easy to grow, store, and save for future planting
- Squash & Melons – well-suited to long growing seasons

These crops weren't just food; they were survival.

## **Homeschool Connection**

Seeds offer a natural way to teach history, science, and stewardship. Studying what early Texans planted helps children understand why certain crops became part of regional traditions and diets.

## **Quick Family Activity**

Choose one Texas crop (corn, beans, or cotton).

Research:

- Where it grows best in Texas
- How it was used historically
- Whether it can be grown in your region today

# Pollinators Of Texas

Pollinators are small creatures with a big job. Across Texas, insects and animals help plants reproduce, supporting food crops, wildflowers, and healthy ecosystems.

Without pollinators, much of what we grow and eat would disappear.

## **What Is a Pollinator?**

A pollinator is any animal that helps move pollen from one plant to another. This process allows plants to produce seeds and fruit.

Texas's diverse climate supports hundreds of pollinator species, making them essential to the state's agriculture and natural beauty.



## **Common Pollinators of Texas**

### Bees

- The most important pollinators
- Native bees pollinate crops and wild plants
- Active spring through fall

### Butterflies

- Include the famous monarch
- Depend on native plants like milkweed
- Important for wildflower reproduction

### Moths

- Pollinate plants at night
- Often overlooked but vital

### Birds & Bats

- Hummingbirds pollinate tubular flowers
- Bats pollinate night-blooming plants, especially in South Texas

## **Why Pollinators Matter**

- *Support food crops like fruits and vegetables*
- *Help wild plants reproduce*
- *Maintain healthy ecosystems*
- *Connect directly to Texas farming and history*

## **Quick Family Activity**

Look for pollinators in your yard or neighborhood.

- What plants attract them?
- What time of day are they active?
- How can you make your space more welcoming?





# NEW!

## FROM SUNNY HILL FLOWER FARM

Follow the muddy boot prints of a farmer and her friends—Pup, Kitty, and the ducks, 1-2-3.

From rainy winter days to lush spring rows of flowers, discover how a family, a farm, and a community of neighbors come together to bring joy to everyday life.

As a Christian, a homeschool graduate, and a flower farmer for over six years, and as an aunt twenty-six times over, I noticed something missing: a children's book that features a flower farm and the incredible wonder that comes from planting a single seed.

Created especially for children ages 2-4, this book brings real photographs taken on the farm and invites young readers into a slower, more natural pace of life. Each image is softly finished in watercolor, and every animal in the story truly has lived here.

Printed and bound right on the farm, every copy is made by hand—and bound with love.

Scan the QR code to grab your copy TODAY



# Learning Alongside the Animals

## How Livestock Shapes Real-World Learning at Home

Homeschooling offers families a rare gift: the ability to shape education around real life instead of fitting life around school. For some families, that flexibility includes animals; chickens in the backyard, goats in the pasture, horses at the barn, or rabbits in a hutch just outside the kitchen door.



Caring for animals isn't an "extra" subject added to the school day. For many homeschool families, it's woven naturally into daily rhythms, before breakfast chores, afternoon check-ins, and evening feedings.

Through those routines, children learn lessons that can't be replicated on a worksheet: responsibility, patience, stewardship, and perseverance.

## Learning Alongside the Animals

### **Responsibility That Grows With the Child**

Animals rely on consistency. Feedings happen whether it's hot or cold, whether motivation is high or low. For children, this steady responsibility builds trust and confidence over time.

Younger children may start with simple tasks, such as refilling water bowls or collecting eggs, while older students take on feeding schedules, health checks, or training routines. These responsibilities grow alongside the child, reinforcing that learning and maturity develop gradually rather than all at once.

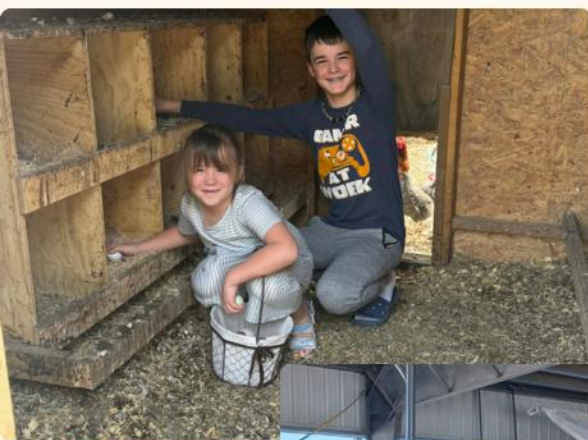
Parents often notice that children who care for animals gain a deeper understanding of cause and effect. Miss a task, and there's an immediate, real-world consequence. Follow through faithfully, and animals thrive.



### **Flexibility Without Losing Structure**

One of homeschooling's greatest strengths is flexibility, but flexibility doesn't mean disorder. Animals naturally anchor the day with predictable routines. Morning chores might happen before math. Afternoon feedings may come after reading time. Lessons bend, but responsibility stays steady.

This rhythm teaches children that learning doesn't disappear when life is busy, it adapts. Families learn to adjust lesson pacing around seasons, animal needs, competitions, or harvest times, reinforcing the idea that education is a lifelong process, not a rigid schedule.



### **Practical Skills That Matter**

Animal care introduces children to skills that quietly prepare them for adulthood:

- Time management
- Problem solving
- Observation and record-keeping
- Budget awareness
- Physical work paired with mental focus

These lessons often lead to natural academic connections, such as writing reflections, tracking growth, researching breeds, or learning basic biology through daily care. The learning is meaningful because it's connected to something tangible.



### **Character Lessons You Can't Rush**

Animals teach patience in ways parents often can't. Progress takes time. Training doesn't happen overnight. Mistakes are part of the process.

Children learn empathy by noticing subtle changes in behavior. They learn perseverance when routines feel repetitive. They learn humility when results don't match expectations. These quiet character lessons shape children just as much as academic achievements.

### **A Childhood Rooted in Stewardship**

For homeschool families, animals often become more than part of the day—they become part of childhood itself. The memories built through early morning chores, shared responsibility, and quiet observation stay long after lessons are complete. Whether caring for livestock on acreage or tending animals in a small backyard, these experiences remind children that learning is connected to care, effort, and stewardship. Those lessons last far beyond the homeschool years.

#### **What Kids Learn From Caring for Animals**

- Responsibility through daily routines
- Patience through long-term care
- Empathy through observation
- Confidence through competence
- Respect for life and stewardship



COVER MODEL

# ROAN NASH

## Education Beyond the Desk



### A Homeschool Journey That Led one Texas Student to West Point

The conversation takes place on a quiet Sunday afternoon, carefully scheduled during a rare pocket of downtime.

Even over the phone, Roan's confidence and warmth come through easily.

She speaks thoughtfully, with calm assurance, reflecting on a homeschooling journey that began long before West Point was ever a reality.

Now a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point, Roan grew up far from parade grounds and formation calls. She was homeschooled her entire life, first on a ranch in Arizona and later down a dirt road outside West Columbia, Texas. An only child, she was raised in a close-knit household with her mom, dad, and grandfather—surrounded by steady support and quiet expectations.

Homeschooling was never a short-term decision for her family; it was simply how learning happened. From the beginning, her education was shaped around curiosity, discipline, and flexibility, qualities that would later serve her well in one of the most demanding academic and military environments in the country.



## Even as a little girl, West Point felt like where I was meant to be

Looking back, Roan describes herself as a focused and motivated student, but not one confined to a desk. Her learning extended well beyond textbooks, shaped by travel, responsibility, and long-term goals that began forming at a young age.

Much of Roan's early education happened on the move. During her childhood, her family traveled extensively, sometimes for months at a time, schooling from an RV, camping in tents, and learning on the road. Lessons were completed at national parks, historic sites, and even Disneyland. Those experiences taught her adaptability and independence early on, reinforcing that learning was not tied to a single place.

As she grew older, her homeschool experience became more structured while maintaining flexibility. During high school, she combined traditional homeschool coursework with online classes through the Pennsylvania Homeschoolers AP program. She began immersive Chinese language lessons at age eight, a long-term commitment that continues today and plays a significant role in her academic and career goals.

Her high school schedule was full but intentional. Alongside academics, she enrolled in a veterinary science program working toward vet tech certification, spent time working at a veterinary clinic, and competed through Texas 4-H, eventually serving as a Texas 4-H Equine Ambassador.



Homeschooling allowed her to pursue all of this without sacrificing academic rigor. "Flexibility didn't mean things were easier," she explains. "It meant I had to learn how to manage my time and stay disciplined."

That balance—freedom paired with responsibility—became a defining feature of her education.

### **Homeschooling gave me flexibility, but it also taught me how to stay disciplined.**

Long before West Point required physical training, Roan had already begun preparing herself. In the years leading up to her application, she developed her own daily training routine at a local gym, building the discipline necessary to maintain consistency without external enforcement.



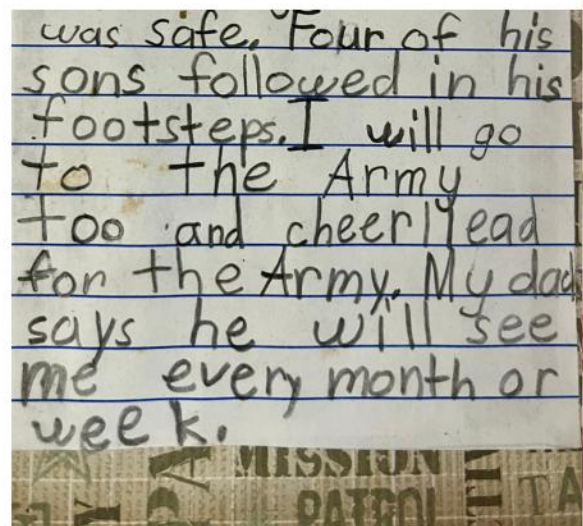
Leadership and responsibility were also reinforced through her involvement in 4-H and equestrian work, where commitment and follow-through were non-negotiable. These experiences taught her to manage expectations, handle pressure, and remain steady, skills that would later prove essential.

Service and military life were not unfamiliar concepts in her family. Her father and uncle both attended West Point, and her grandfather also served in the Army. Still, her decision to pursue the academy was not based on obligation, but on conviction.

When Roan was little, college conversations were often lighthearted. Her mom would say "Texas A&M," while her dad would say "West Point." Roan sided with her dad. In one of her childhood journals, she even wrote that she would follow in the footsteps of her grandfather and uncles, join the Army, and one day be a cheerleader in the Army.

That childhood dream stayed with her. Today, she and her cousin—both young women—are carrying that legacy forward together at West Point, stepping into a tradition once dominated by men with confidence and determination.

**If you really want it, you will make it. You just keep pushing through.**



The transition from homeschooling to academy life was significant. At West Point, Roan's days begin at 6 a.m. with room inspections, uniform announcements, and tightly structured schedules. Her coursework includes calculus, advanced Chinese, and even boxing—a required class for all cadets.



Her first semester, she shared a dorm room with three other girls; this semester, she has one roommate. While there was initial uncertainty about living away from home, forming friendships and building community helped ease the transition.

She describes Beast Barracks, the intense six-week Cadet Basic Training, as mentally and physically demanding, but formative. "If you really want it, you'll make it," she says. "You keep pushing through."

Roan is now a member of the West Point equestrian team, where cadets both compete and care for the horses, and she is involved in the Baptist campus ministry, a community similar to a youth group that provides fellowship, worship, and support.

**Find what you're good at,  
find what you enjoy, and  
pursue it.**

She is quick to point out that success at West Point looks different for everyone. Some cadets excel physically, others academically, but help is always available. "People who care ask for help when they need it," she says.



Looking ahead, Roan plans to major in international affairs, minor in terrorism studies, and pursue a career in government service. Her long-term dream is to work at an embassy and travel the world.

When asked what advice she would give other homeschool students, her answer is simple: find what you're good at, find what you enjoy, and pursue it with confidence.

Her journey is a reminder that education is not confined to textbooks or classrooms. When learning is rooted in discipline, encouragement, and purpose, it prepares students not just for college—but for life.

# What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?



# A Homeschool Journey Still Unfolding

How a homeschool education built confidence, faith, and flexibility for college, and left room for God's calling to unfold.

By Jill Christian

What do you want to be when you grow up? If you asked me this question in preschool, I would have happily told you that I wanted to work at Sonic my whole life, because I would get to wear roller skates every day. What do you want to be when you grow up? If you asked me when I was in third or fourth grade, I would have told you that I was going to be a fashion designer and own my own studio. What do you want to be when you grow up? If you asked me anytime from eighth grade through junior year, I would have let you know that I was going to be a Deaf interpreter. I would get my state and national certification and help Deaf people across America.



“What do you want to be when you grow up” is a question that everyone is asked from a very young age. Some kids know from day one what they want to do with their life, and don't waver from that decision. Others, however, change their mind and career path every other month. I was a girl in the latter example. I may not have changed my mind quite as often as every other month, but there were times that it was pretty close.

“

**Homeschooling is a unique experience and has been one of the biggest blessings and opportunities of my life.**

”



If I had grown up in a typical public school setting, my desired career would not have changed my required courses by much; but I have not been raised in the public school system. I have been raised as a homeschooler who had my own pair of roller skates when I was little, sketchbooks and art supplies galore from around third grade to present day, and had the opportunity to take multiple American Sign Language courses, even getting to return to class as a teacher's assistant. I say these things not to bash on any public school system or anyone who takes that route, but rather to inform you of my experience in homeschooling.

Homeschooling is a unique experience and has been one of the biggest blessings and opportunities of my life. From traveling during the school year to participating in sports, completing dual credit hours and learning life lessons from my parents, being homeschooled has taught me so much and greatly prepared me for my current college experience.

Traveling is one of my favorite parts of life and has been for quite some time. I remember going on our first big road trip as a family to Tennessee, and since then I've had the chance to set foot in over 25 of the United States of America, most of those trips being during typical school times. Because I was homeschooled, I got to go to museums in the middle of the week, travel up and down the east coast for half of October, and enjoy God's creation with minimal other people due to everyone else being at work or in school.



Of course, traveling during the school year in no way meant that my education went on pause. Every trip I have taken has been full of learning. From spending three hours in the Titanic museum, two days traversing colonial Williamsburg, and various stops at historical markers, schooling has been a constant throughout my life. I remember on our trip to the East Coast, not only did we stop for many history lessons, but throughout the whole trip my sister and I had an assignment to keep a journal each day of what we did, saw, and experienced. This not only kept me engaged in schoolwork and writing, but I still remember some specifics from the trip that I would not have remembered otherwise, such as the day that we missed our highway exit three times (I was very emphatic about this incident).



**More than anything, my extra time with my parents shaped who I am today**

Our travel experiences changed slightly when I started taking dual credit classes the summer after my sophomore year. Even though we could no longer take trips in the middle of the school year, I don't regret completing dual credit courses in the slightest. My parents had me start with just one college class and gradually build up hours until my senior year when I was taking a full class load through high school graduation. Taking dual credit classes as a homeschooler helped prepare me for life in more ways than I can count. If I had been in public school taking dual credit, I would be in college classes with my own high school classmates, but as a homeschooler and someone able to decide my own schedule, I was able to take classes with other individuals who were different ages and from different walks of life. This allowed me to experience what working with people many years older than me would look like, and it always helped that I could go see my mom in her office if I was feeling overwhelmed or had extra questions.



My answer to “What do you want to be when you grow up” changed yet again through my dual credit classes. As I took my first public speaking class, I was terrified. I remember giving my first speech and being so nervous I thought I would be sick, but I also remember how incredible my professor was. Professor Mack not only helped me overcome my anxiety of public speaking, but she introduced our class to the field of mass communication, which sparked my interest in public relations. As I started looking at colleges in my senior year, the desire to go to the University of Houston that I had held on to for many years started to fade. I had watched my sister go to East Texas Baptist University and truly thrive, and I realized that I wanted to attend a Christian university.

I didn’t want to completely give up sign language, but I also didn’t want to commit my life's work to it anymore. I remember sitting with my friend on a couch at church, talking about our futures, and she told me to look into the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

I can now say I’m in my second-to-last semester here at UMHB, and being homeschooled prepared me for university life immensely. In our travels across America, I met many people and had instances of talking to people of a higher standing than me, and my parents made sure that I was not afraid to approach adults and ask questions or answer them on my own. I can now approach my professors with ease and confidence to ask questions or for clarification.

If being homeschooled has been my top favorite thing in my life, then being at UMHB is a close second. I have had opportunities to meet new people and try new things, as well as grow in my desired field. I have completed two public relations internships, and I still work as a student worker for our band department after completing my required internship hours.



**I currently serve as president for our Student Event Planners Association, I am plugged in to a local church, and I have had chances to be a small group leader for campus events.**



Being homeschooled, working during high school and taking dual credit classes have all prepared me for my life at university; but more than anything, my extra time with my parents in homeschooling has shaped who I am today. I have seen them display the love of Christ to strangers in the grocery store, pray for first responders anytime we hear sirens, and hold on to God through the most difficult times. I thank any veteran I see because I saw my mom go up to strangers and say thank you. I work to focus on the present moment and the person in front of me because my dad always had time for someone, even if we were in a rush. If I had a traditional schooling experience, I would not have had nearly as much time to observe and learn from my parents, or to build my relationship with them.

Today, when I am faced with that ever-present question of “What do you want to be when you grow up,” I still don’t have a solid answer. I love the field of study I am in because mass communication for public relations opens so many doors. I love the idea of trying out different areas of work and seeing exactly where the Lord is calling me. From my time growing up and homeschooling with my family to being over halfway done with my time at UMHB, I can confidently say that my parents truly followed the Lord’s instruction to homeschool my sister and I, and they have taught me to strive to do the same.

# Q&A

## FROM HOMESCHOOL MOM TO HELPING THOUSANDS:



### A Conversation with Joan Girkins of Homeschool Records

For many homeschool families, the early years are filled with read-alouds, crafts, and flexible schedules—but as high school approaches, record-keeping often becomes one of the most intimidating parts of the journey. Transcripts, credits, documentation, and college applications can feel overwhelming, even for confident homeschool parents.

Joan Girkins understands that fear firsthand. After homeschooling all four of her children from kindergarten through graduation—long before online tools were readily available—Joan turned her own challenges into a calling. Today, through Homeschool Records, she helps families organize, document, and confidently present their students' academic journeys.

We talked with Joan about her homeschool story, the heart behind her work, and the encouragement she offers to families navigating the high school years.

***For readers who may not know you yet, can you tell us a little about yourself and your family?***

My husband and I will be celebrating our 37th wedding anniversary this year. We have four children and five grandchildren (currently!). Three of our four children are married, and our youngest will be getting married this year.

***How long did you homeschool your children, and what ages or stages stand out most when you look back?***

We homeschooled all 4 of our children from K-12. What stands out most to me are the earliest years of our homeschooling. We had 4 children in less than 5 years, so when my oldest was “school age”, I had a new baby and 2 toddlers. What stands out to me the most about those years, is God’s grace, and how He poured it out to me in the measure I truly needed each day! The years are a blur, but the memories are beautiful!

### **The years are a blur, but the memories are beautiful.**

***What originally led your family to choose homeschooling?***

We kind of stumbled into homeschooling in the sense that, we were living in Huntington Beach, California and private schools were very expensive. Our daughter was approaching school age and we looked into a private, Christian school, only to find out the cost was very steep. My attitude at the time was, “I can teach her to read for less than that!” My husband agreed and there began our homeschool journey. One of my older brothers homeschooled his children as well as a neighbor we knew quite well, so it wasn’t exactly foreign to us.



Mom & Dad

***How did homeschooling shape your family life beyond academics?***

The way homeschooling shaped our family in the most impactful way, is in the area of discipleship. My husband led our family in nightly devotions and any ministries that we were involved in, all included the children. We ministered as a family to nursing homes, young homeschooling moms and various ministries at our church. We wanted our children to see the gospel lived out with us, not just teach them about the gospel. What was a natural part of that was we made relationships with each other our priority, and that provided a LOT of opportunity for character building. As our children matured, they became better friends with each other and now as adults, we are all very close.

***You mention that record-keeping during the high school years was especially challenging. What made that season so difficult?***

We started homeschooling our children before the internet existed. We didn't have a lot of helps and resources to help us keep track of our records. There was very little guidance or support with record-keeping. Consequently, it was somewhat stressful to try to figure out what I needed and where I would create or store what I needed.

If I met someone whose student had been homeschooled and went to college, I picked their brain for every detail I could glean from them. It was just a lot more difficult before the internet.

***Did you ever worry about whether you were “doing it right” when it came to transcripts and documentation?***

Absolutely! I didn't have confidence about record-keeping at all until my first child was accepted to a 4-year college. I remember her college adviser was very helpful as I sat down with them to go over the transcript I had created. I was grateful for their input and they were gracious with their time.

***At the time, did you realize this struggle might one day turn into a business idea?***

I had no idea! All I knew is that, I am a VERY organized person and so I went to great lengths to do whatever I needed to do in order to get the help I needed. What I did do was daydream about what type of record-keeping system I WISH someone would make!

***Why was it important to you that this platform be designed by a homeschool mom, specifically for homeschool moms?***

Because I know how valuable a mom's time is. As our children were in their later years of high school, there were more options that were being created for us. I tried almost everything that was out there and they were all so complicated and the design, at least to me, was “clunky.” I spent so much time trying out different software, and the learning curve was quite steep. I still find it true today. When I was designing Homeschool Records, I tried different programs to help me streamline my site, always with the goal of creating something intuitive and easy to learn and use.



Trenton & Arianna



Hudson & Tori



Nathan & Family



Becca & Family



Grandkids

***Can you walk us through what Homeschool Records helps families do?***

Simply put, Homeschool Records helps families create, manage and store all of their homeschool records in one place. My site also helps save the homeschool mom a LOT of time because the learning curve is very short.

***What sets Homeschool Records apart from other record-keeping tools?***

One major difference is that I offer features no other program provides. For example, I designed a Dual Enrollment Planner. Many students now pursue an associate degree while still in high school. My planner allows families to map out those courses across four years, by semester and grade. Once grades are entered, the program automatically populates transcripts, assigns credits, weights courses correctly, and adds proper footnotes. I also provide tools needed for the Common Application, including a School Profile guide and sample, and a Homeschool Counselor Recommendation guide and sample. Moms can also create transcripts, course descriptions, resumes, ID cards, and even a uniquely designed high school diploma. A parent can truly create every document needed for the college application process.

**These documents are the first look colleges have at your student**

***How does Homeschool Records support families long-term as students approach graduation?***

Affordability is key. The pricing is \$50 per year for the first student and \$10 per year for each additional student. My goal is for parents to update records each semester so that, by the time college applications begin, they're finishing—not starting—the process.

***What misconceptions about record-keeping would you like to clear up?***

One common misconception is that transcript formatting doesn't matter. These documents are often the first impression colleges have of a student. Well-formatted records communicate professionalism and care. Another misconception is withholding information unless it's specifically requested. Homeschoolers have a unique advantage—we can provide personal insight into our students through resumes, course descriptions, and counselor letters. This helps colleges truly know the student behind the application.





## One bite at a time—you really can do this

### ***How does the free 7-day trial help families feel confident?***

Once moms see the dashboard, they quickly recognize how intuitive the system is. Navigating the site builds confidence, and moms realize that record-keeping doesn't have to be complicated.

### ***What would you say to a homeschool mom overwhelmed by the administrative side of homeschooling?***

Start with the free trial. The system includes preloaded drop-down menus and short videos to guide parents. Many moms have shared that having everything in one place helped them feel relaxed and confident.

### ***How do you encourage parents who worry they aren't "organized enough" to homeschool through high school?***

Start early—around 8th or 9th grade—and try it for yourself. So much anxiety comes from the unknown. Seeing how manageable the process is builds confidence quickly.

### ***If you could go back and speak to yourself during those stressful high school years, what would you say?***

I would remind myself of 3 John 1:4: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." That was always our goal. Homeschooling gave us the privilege of raising a godly generation.

### ***What would you say to homeschool moms who feel called to start a business?***

I don't consider myself a businesswoman—it was a calling. I prayed for years, asking the Lord what He wanted me to do next. I loved homeschooling and wanted to continue serving the community. Many moms told me they quit homeschooling in high school because record-keeping scared them. That stirred a passion in me to help. It's about people, not business. Just today, I received an email from a mom whose son received congressional nominations to multiple military academies. That's why I started Homeschool Records.

### ***What advice would you give moms balancing family life while launching something new?***

Always put your family first. I chose not to pursue opportunities that would short-change my youngest child. I have zero regrets.

### ***What encouragement would you like to leave with Texas homeschool families?***

You can do this. Start early, take it one step at a time, and spend just 30 minutes each semester updating records. When it's time to apply to college, you'll approach the process with confidence—not dread.

Joan Girkins' story is a reminder that some of the most meaningful solutions grow out of lived experience, prayer, and service. For homeschool families navigating high school and beyond, her encouragement is simple but powerful: start early, stay steady, and don't be afraid to ask for help.

With the right tools—and the confidence that comes from knowing you're not alone—record-keeping doesn't have to be a burden. It can become one more way to faithfully steward the homeschool journey.



Homeschool Records is an online record-keeping system created by a homeschool mom to help families confidently manage transcripts, course descriptions, resumes, and other essential high-school documents—all in one easy-to-use dashboard.

Designed to save time and reduce stress, Homeschool Records supports families from early high school through graduation with professional, college-ready records.

**Texas Homeschool Magazine Exclusive:  
Readers receive 20% off the first student  
with coupon code THM.  
homeschoolrecords.com**



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# STRONG HANDS STEADY HEARTS

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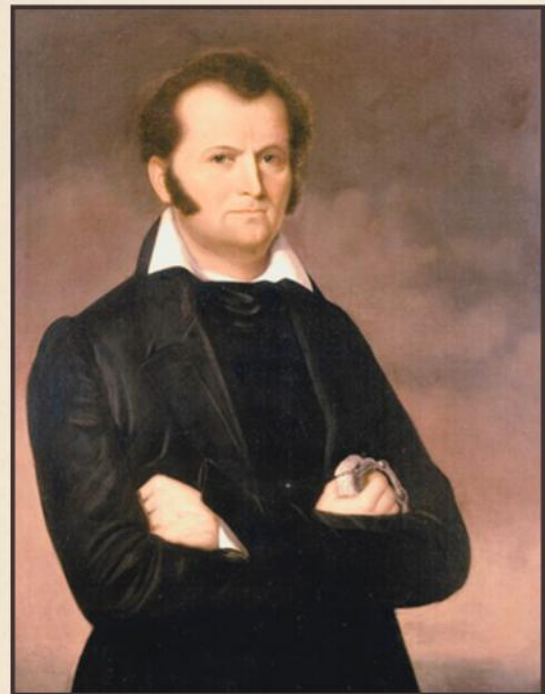
The everyday skills and quiet character that shaped early Texas and still matter for our families today.

Long before railroads, paved roads, or modern conveniences, early Texas families depended on steady hands and willing hearts. Survival required more than courage—it required skill. Men, women, and children worked side by side, learning to build shelters, care for animals, repair tools, and provide for one another through long days of labor.

The men remembered in Texas history were shaped by hard seasons long before their names appeared in textbooks. William B. Travis was not a perfect man. His early years were marked by instability and poor decisions, yet when the weight of command fell on his shoulders at the Alamo, he stood and accepted it. James Bowie was formed by frontier survival and preparedness. Juan Seguin carried perseverance and service into every season of his life. History reminds us that steady hands are often forged through hardship, and responsibility is sometimes learned the hard way.

Their stories are often told through moments of conflict, but those moments were built upon years of ordinary work—chopping wood, tending livestock, repairing equipment, and providing for family and community.

Before Texas was defended, it had to be built by steady hands and faithful hearts.



James Bowie

Strength was not loud. Leadership was not rushed. Character was formed quietly, one task at a time.

For Texas families today, these stories remind us that legacy is rarely forged in grand moments alone. It is shaped in the daily rhythm of work, responsibility, and care—where hands are trained, and hearts are steadied.

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# PIONEER SKILLS WORTH PASSING DOWN

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**PRACTICAL WORK THAT BUILDS CONFIDENCE, CAPABILITY, AND CHARACTER—THEN AND NOW.**

The skills that sustained early Texas families are still within reach for our children today. While the tools may look different, the lessons remain the same.

## ***Caring for Animals***

From feeding livestock to cleaning stalls, animal care teaches consistency and responsibility. Animals depend on daily attention, and children learn that real stewardship requires showing up, even when it's inconvenient.

## ***Tool Use and Maintenance***

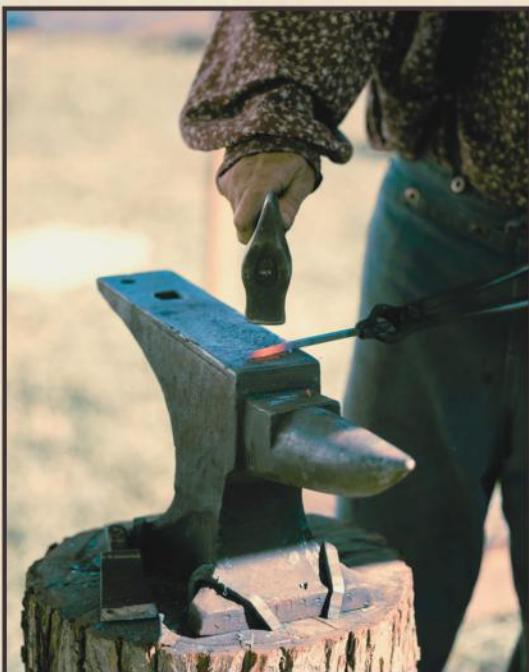
Early Texans repaired what they owned. Teaching children how to safely use and care for tools builds confidence and respect for craftsmanship. A well-maintained tool reflects pride in work done well.

## ***Rope Work and Knots***

Ranch life required practical knowledge—tying, securing, lifting, and hauling. Knot work strengthens problem-solving skills and patience while teaching children to think ahead.

## ***Repairing Instead of Replacing***

When something broke, pioneers fixed it. Inviting children to mend, patch, tighten, or rebuild fosters creativity and resilience. Mistakes become lessons, not failures.



## ***Outdoor Awareness and Navigation***

Knowing the land mattered. Time outdoors teaches observation, preparedness, and calm decision-making, skills that translate far beyond the trail.

## ***Serving Through Work***

Work was never just personal. It served the family, the land, and the community. Children who contribute learn that their efforts matter and that service begins at home.

These skills are not about mastering everything at once. They are about offering children meaningful work and trusting that growth follows.

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# WHAT WORK TEACHES THE HEART

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**SKILLS SHAPE MORE THAN HANDS—THEY QUIETLY FORM CHARACTER THAT LASTS.**

Work has a way of shaping the heart when it is done with care and purpose. For early Texas families, daily labor was not separate from character; it was the training ground for it.

## **Responsibility**

When a task belongs to a child, responsibility follows. Work teaches ownership and follow-through.

## **Patience**

Not everything comes together quickly. Whether repairing a fence or learning a new skill, patience grows through effort.

## **Courage**

Trying something unfamiliar builds quiet confidence. Courage forms when children learn they can do hard things.

## **Stewardship**

Caring for animals, tools, and land teaches respect for what has been entrusted to us.

## **Service**

Work done for the good of others reminds children that strength is meant to bless, not impress.



These lessons are not learned in isolation. They are formed within family life, alongside parents, siblings, and mentors who model diligence and grace. When children are invited into real work, they gain more than skills. They gain a sense of belonging, purpose, and confidence rooted in contribution.

***Work done with care becomes a form of service.***

Choose one practical skill to focus on this month: animal care, basic repairs, or outdoor work.

Practice it together as a family. Let older children guide younger ones, and talk about effort rather than outcome. Growth often shows up quietly.

# *Faith, Family, Freedom:*

## **A HOMESCHOOL JOURNEY INTO LEADERSHIP**

By Carli Kilgore

**How homeschooling gave one student the confidence to pursue college, leadership, and conviction before graduation**

*"My money is on the homeschool kids. They are going to be the ones running society."*

- Charlie Kirk.

I think Charlie Kirk was right. Homeschool students really are becoming leaders, and I've seen that firsthand. Homeschooling gives kids the freedom to learn at their own pace, explore what they're passionate about, and grow into independent thinkers. It doesn't just teach academics; it teaches real-world skills, responsibility, and confidence. In a world that's changing fast, homeschool kids are ready to step up.



# CARLI KILGORE

I've been homeschooled my whole life, and it has shaped who I am in more ways than I can count. Learning in a way that worked best for me, taking classes at Master's Academy of Fine Arts, and having the flexibility to pursue my interests opened doors I never expected. Because of homeschooling, I'm able to take full-time dual-credit classes at my local college, teach a Forensic Science class at Master's Academy of Fine Arts, and even help start and lead a Turning Point USA chapter, all before graduating high school.

**Because of homeschooling, I was able to step into leadership roles I never imagined before graduating high school.**

My amazing parents, who have been my teachers from day one, prepared me academically and spiritually. They taught me to think for myself, to lead with integrity, and to walk faithfully with Jesus. They raised me on Scripture and helped me build strong morals so I could stand firm when faced with tough choices. Because of them, I'm confident in my values as both a Christian and a Conservative. I'm incredibly grateful they chose to homeschool me, because it has given me discernment and opportunities I never imagined.



Turning Point USA became a huge part of my story. It's a nonprofit that promotes freedom, free markets, and limited government on college campuses. I got involved after Charlie Kirk was assassinated, and I knew I wanted to start a chapter at my college, I just didn't know how. A few days later, I walked past a student with a table and a sign that said, "Charlie Kirk died a hero, Change My Mind." I stopped to talk, and I ended up staying the entire day. By the end of it, five students who had never met before realized we shared the same passion for God, faith, and America.

Within weeks, we were holding meetings, planning events, and connecting with community leaders. Out of our five officers, four of us were homeschooled. What started as something intimidating turned into one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

As chapter president, I get to talk with students every day and build real connections. One of my favorite things we do is encourage students to get involved in State and local elections. During one event, we found out that many students, and even some faculty, didn't know an election was happening. Our goal is to help people understand basic civics and why it matters. These conversations show how important respectful dialogue is, especially in a country built on freedom.

Leading this chapter has taught me so much: how to organize meetings, how to communicate with students and faculty, how to network with politicians, and how to debate respectfully. I've learned that debating isn't about arguing, it's about sharing your viewpoint clearly and respectfully. Public speaking has also become a huge part of my life, whether I'm talking to donors, faculty, or fellow students. Homeschooling prepared me for all of this by teaching me to think boldly and speak with confidence. None of it would be possible without the amazing team I get to work with.



**“My parents didn't just educate me academically, they prepared me spiritually and taught me to lead with integrity.”**



Homeschooling has been more than just my education, it has been the foundation of my independence, leadership, and faith. It gave me the freedom to learn in the way that fit me best, to dive into my passions, and to step into leadership roles I never expected. Romans 12:2 says, “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” Homeschooling allowed me to do exactly that, to think differently, act boldly, and pursue God with everything in me. If there's one thing I've learned, it's that the road less traveled often leads to the most unexpected and meaningful destinations.

# Faith at Home, Lived Simply

## **What faith looks like in everyday family life**



Faith in the home is often quieter than we expect.

It shows up in how disagreements are handled, how truth is spoken, and how grace is practiced when days do not go as planned. Faith is shaped less by perfectly structured moments and more by consistent, ordinary choices—showing patience, asking forgiveness, and choosing kindness even when it feels inconvenient.

Faith is not an additional subject to fit into the schedule. It is woven into the way learning happens, how challenges are faced, and how relationships are nurtured throughout the day. Children notice faith most clearly when they see it lived honestly, not when it is presented flawlessly.

This kind of faith does not require elaborate routines or constant instruction. It grows through repetition, humility, and presence. When parents model faith in real time, through words, actions, and responses, children learn that faith is not separate from daily life, but part of it.

Faith lived simply at home becomes steady, recognizable, and real.

# Faith is shaped more by what is practiced than what is planned

## **Growing Together**

Faith can be part of everyday family life—simple, shared, and meaningful

**Let all that you do be done in love. —  
1 Corinthians 16:14**

### *Family Faith Practices*

Read Together:

- Choose a short passage, psalm, or proverb and read it aloud as a family.
- Talk It Through:
- Ask one simple question: What stood out to you?

Pray Simply:

- Invite each family member to pray or take turns each night.

Live It Out:

- Look for one way to show kindness or serve someone this week.

### *For Younger Children*

- Draw a picture of something you are thankful for.
- Practice memorizing a short verse together.
- Say a family prayer at breakfast or bedtime.

### *For Older Kids & Teens*

- Journal: What does faith look like in everyday life?
- Discuss: Why does consistency matter more than perfection?
- Practice: Choose one small habit you want to work on this week.



# Homeschool Through Real Life When Learning Grows Out of the Everyday

**Homeschooling was never meant to imitate a classroom. At its best, it recognizes that learning is already happening, at the kitchen table, in the garden, during errands, through conversations, and alongside real work.**



Real life is not a distraction from education. For homeschool families, it is the curriculum.

When learning grows out of everyday rhythms, children gain more than academic knowledge. They build confidence, responsibility, and the understanding that what they are learning has real purpose.

One of the greatest strengths of homeschooling is flexibility—not only in schedule, but in meaning. Math shows up in budgeting. Science reveals itself in nature. Writing grows through journaling, letters, and reflection. History comes alive through family stories and local places.

When children understand why they are learning something, education becomes something they participate in, not something done to them.

# THE TUTTLE TWINS



## History Curriculum



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## Learning That Builds Responsibility

Real-life learning often comes with real responsibility. Caring for animals, helping with family work, maintaining a home, or managing projects teaches skills no worksheet can replicate.

Children who are trusted with meaningful work learn that they are capable. They see themselves as contributors—not just students. Over time, this builds resilience, initiative, and problem-solving skills that last well beyond graduation.

Homeschooling through real life also allows education to adapt to the child. Some learn best by doing, others by reading or discussion. This approach honors those differences while gently stretching children toward growth. The result is an education that isn't rushed—but rooted. Rooted in family, responsibility, and the understanding that learning is woven into everyday life.



# Caring for Horses A Practical Guide for Families

Caring for a horse teaches consistency, responsibility, and awareness in ways few lessons can. For families, horses offer hands-on learning rooted in daily rhythms and real responsibility. This page introduces the basics of horse care in a simple, approachable way.

## **Daily Care Basics**

Horses rely on routine. Each day includes providing fresh water, feeding on a regular schedule, and observing overall health. Hay or pasture grass makes up most of a horse's diet, with grain added only when needed. A quick daily check—eyes, coat, posture, and movement— helps spot concerns early.

Weekly tasks include grooming, cleaning hooves, and checking fences or shelters. Seasonal care changes with the weather. Summer - extra water and fly control. Winter - warmth, mud management, and steady nutrition when grass growth slows.

## **What Kids Can Help With**

Horse care offers meaningful work for children of all ages:

**Young children:** brushing, refilling water, learning safety rules.

**Elementary ages:** grooming, stall cleaning, feeding routines

**Teens:** leading horses, tack care, assisting with health checks. These responsibilities build confidence and a work ethic.

## **Learning Connections**

Horse care naturally supports homeschool learning:

Science: animal health and anatomy

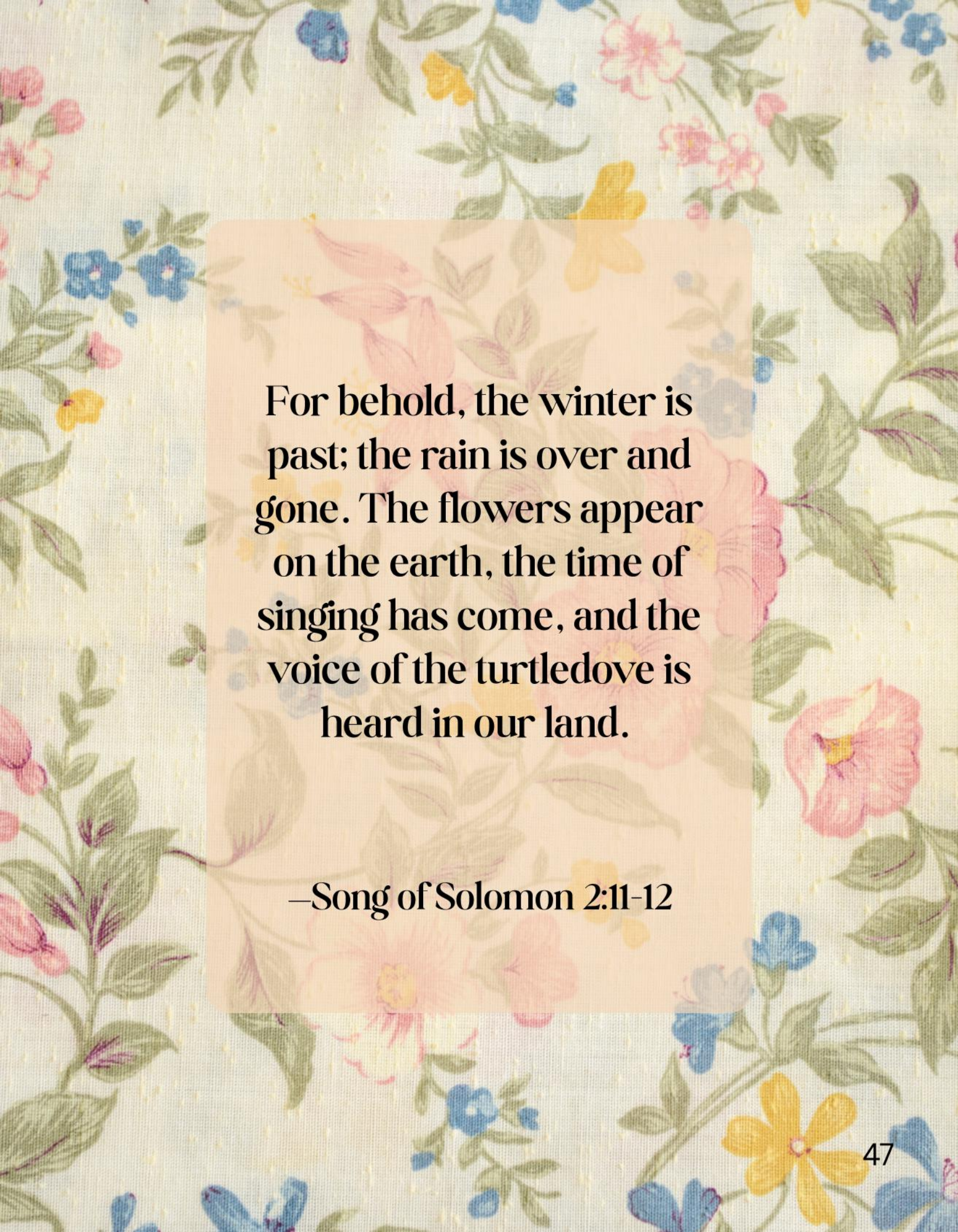
Math: feed amounts, schedules, budgeting

Life skills: responsibility, patience, time management

Quick Horse Facts - Lifespan: 25-30 years Diet: hay, grass, clean water

Horses thrive on routine and observation





**For behold, the winter is  
past; the rain is over and  
gone. The flowers appear  
on the earth, the time of  
singing has come, and the  
voice of the turtledove is  
heard in our land.**

**—Song of Solomon 2:11-12**

# Texas History Spotlight

## Sam Houston

Sam Houston stands as one of the most influential—and complex—figures in Texas history. Soldier, statesman, president, senator, and governor, his life reflects the challenges of leadership and the weight of conviction. Understanding Sam Houston helps families see how Texas was shaped and why the decisions of one leader mattered far beyond his own lifetime.

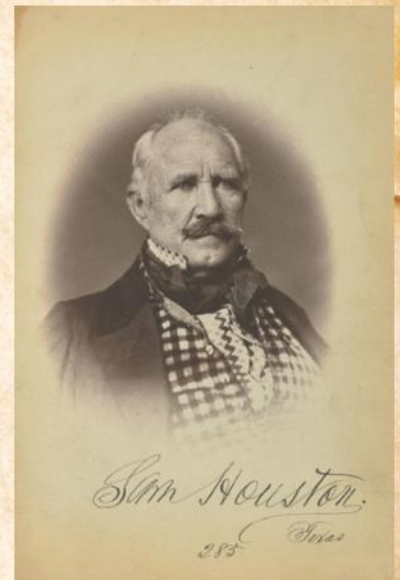
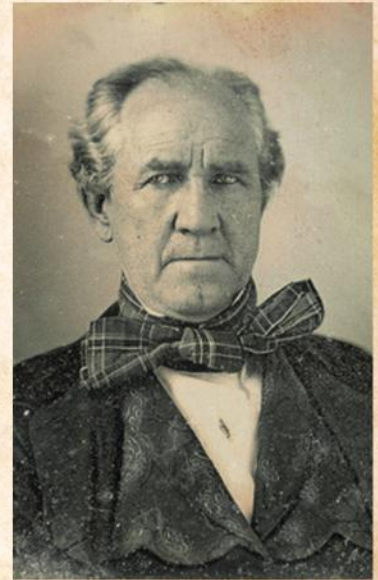
### *A Life Shaped by Experience*

Born in Virginia in 1793 and raised on the Tennessee frontier, Sam Houston's early years were marked by independence and hardship. As a teenager, he lived for a time among the Cherokee people, gaining an appreciation for culture, diplomacy, and restraint that later influenced his leadership. These experiences gave Houston a broader perspective than many leaders of his era.

Houston later served in the War of 1812 under Andrew Jackson, earning recognition for bravery and sustaining serious wounds. Military service taught him both the cost of conflict and the responsibility of command—lessons that shaped his approach to leadership for the rest of his life.

### *From Public Office to a New Beginning*

Before arriving in Texas, Houston had already built a successful political career in Tennessee, serving as a lawyer, congressman, and governor. Personal struggles eventually led him west, and by the early 1830s he settled in Mexican Texas. What appeared to be a fresh start soon placed him at the center of growing tensions between Texian settlers and the Mexican government. When revolution became unavoidable, Houston was appointed commander-in-chief of the Texian army. His task required patience and resolve, even as public pressure mounted.





### ***The Defining Moment: San Jacinto***

Houston's strategy during the Texas Revolution was often questioned. Rather than rushing into battle, he retreated and waited for the right opportunity. That decision proved critical.

On April 21, 1836, at the Battle of San Jacinto, Houston led a decisive attack against Santa Anna's forces. The battle lasted only minutes, yet it secured Texas independence and altered the course of history. Houston's leadership in this moment ensured the survival of the new Republic of Texas.

### ***Service Beyond Independence***

Houston's role did not end with victory. He became the first elected president of the Republic of Texas and later served a second term. After Texas joined the United States, he represented the state as a U.S. senator and eventually as governor.

One of the most defining moments of his later life came in 1861, when he refused to support Texas's secession from the Union. This decision cost him the governorship, but it demonstrated a commitment to principle over position, a choice that continues to shape how he is remembered.

### ***Why Sam Houston Still Matters***

Sam Houston's story offers more than military triumphs or political milestones. It invites families to consider leadership, restraint, and moral courage. He was not without flaws, but his life shows how experience, conviction, and difficult choices can leave a lasting mark on history.

As families explore Texas history, Sam Houston's life provides a strong foundation. It connects the early struggles of the state to the values that shaped its future and prepares readers to explore the broader stories that follow in this issue.

### **Discussion Starters**

- Why do you think Houston delayed fighting at San Jacinto?**
- How did his time with the Cherokee influence his leadership?**
- Was it harder to win independence—or to govern afterward?**

### **Extension Idea**

**Visit the San Jacinto Monument (in person or virtually) and map Houston's journey from Tennessee to Texas.**



# HERITAGE KITCHEN

## Skillet Cornbread with Honey Butter

Baked in a hot skillet and served warm, this version is tender, lightly crisped at the edges, and finished with sweet honey butter, just as comforting today as it was generations ago.

### Ingredients

#### Cornbread

- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup sugar (optional, adjust to taste)
- 1 cup milk
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup melted butter or oil

#### Honey Butter

- ½ cup softened butter
- 2–3 tablespoons honey

### Instructions

Preheat oven to 400°F. Place a cast-iron skillet in the oven to heat. In a bowl, whisk cornmeal, flour, baking powder, salt, and sugar. In a separate bowl, mix milk, eggs, and melted butter. Combine wet and dry ingredients until just mixed. Carefully remove hot skillet, grease lightly, and pour in batter. Bake 20–25 minutes, until golden and set in the center. Mix softened butter and honey. Serve warm slices with honey butter.

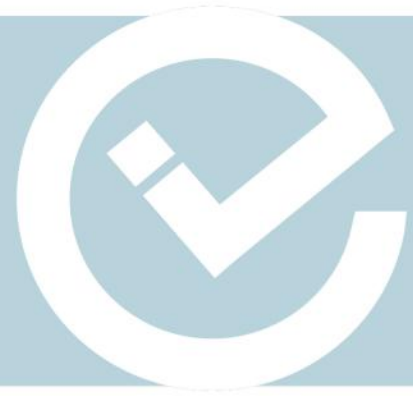
## *From the Past*

Cornbread was a daily food in early American households, especially in the South and frontier regions. Cornmeal was affordable, easy to store, and could be baked quickly over open fires or in hearth ovens. Cast-iron skillets were commonly used, creating the crisp crust many families still love today. Sweeteners like honey were added when available, often in spring after bees became active again. This simple bread reflects the practical, resourceful cooking that sustained families through the seasons.

**Homeschool Tie-In**  
**Practice fractions by doubling or halving the recipe**  
**Talk about why corn was such an important early crop**

# Classical Conversations®

## Education Independence



## A Principled Path Forward for Christian Education

### BEYOND SCHOOL CHOICE

While school choice is a popular topic, **Education Independence** offers something greater—a principled approach that strengthens families and builds communities through authentic freedom.

This paradigm shifts from “*How do we get taxpayer funding?*” to “*How do we restore education to its rightful place in God’s design?*”

### OUR WORK IS FOUNDED ON FOUR PILLARS

#### Independent Parents

God trusts parents with their children and so should we; therefore, we affirm that parental rights come from God and should be protected from the state.

#### Independent Funding

Education is the responsibility of the family, with support from fellow believers; therefore, we recognize that the financial obligation remains on parents, with support from private, voluntary benefactors.

#### Independent Pursuit

The purpose of education is to know God and to make Him known; therefore, we uphold that the sacred pursuit of education exists outside the jurisdiction of the state.

#### Independent Ideas

Wrestling with Truth promotes blessing and virtue for the whole community; therefore, we conclude that a flourishing society emerges from a free market of ideas.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

**For Policymakers:** Reduces government burden while strengthening families and communities.

**For Advocates:** Transcends partisan politics by focusing on timeless principles.

**For Organizations:** Creates mission-driven partnerships honoring religious liberty and educational excellence.

**For Families:** Restores authentic choice and autonomy while building sustainable, values-aligned communities.

### JOIN THE NETWORK

The Education Independence Network is a growing community of advocates, policymakers, and organizations building on this shared vision.

We are committed to educating the grassroots community, partnering with like-minded organizations, and engaging in public policy conversation.

Together, we can build an education paradigm that honors God, strengthens families, and serves the common good.



## Promote and protect Education Independence!

Classical Conversations | Education Independence Initiative

# TEXAS

## Legacy

LEARNING

Teaching Texas History as an  
Inheritance, Not a Checklist

# HISTORY AS AN INHERITANCE

I believe history is an inheritance.

Not the neat, polished version we sometimes prefer – but the real kind. The kind made up of courage and mistakes, perseverance and loss, faithfulness and failure. Some history is good. Some history is hard. But all of it matters if we want to understand how we arrived where we are today.

In families, we understand inheritance instinctively. We pass down great-grandmother's china or Depression-era glassware. Old trunks filled with quilts. Documents tied with a ribbon. A granddad's rifle. These objects are often treated as treasures until the story behind them is lost.

Without the story, they become clutter. They end up donated, boxed away, or sold at an estate sale.

But when we know the story, everything changes.

***History isn't just something we study; it's something we inherit.***

That rifle may have protected a family through hunger and danger. The quilts may have been stitched from scraps by hands that carried a family toward freedom. Depression glass – once cheap and mass-produced – may have been priceless to a great-grandmother who used it to make Sunday dinner feel special when food was scarce. Fine china may have passed through generations of mothers and daughters, carried as a wedding dowry and a promise of continuity. History was never abstract.

It was lived by real people in real places, making real choices.



# WHY WE'RE LOSING THE STORY

Now more than ever, we are becoming disconnected from our history – and from the truth of how we got here. Stories of grit, stewardship, grace, perseverance, and courage are fading, replaced by timelines that move too fast and lessons that feel detached from life.

Too often, history is taught as something to complete instead of something to carry.



***When the story is lost,  
the inheritance is lost  
with it.***



Children memorize names and dates without ever being invited into the human story behind them. Places are reduced to dots on a map instead of landscapes shaped by weather, hardship, faith, and community. When history feels distant, it becomes forgettable.

Homeschooling gives families a rare and meaningful opportunity. The freedom to slow down. To pause long enough to ask better questions. To treat history not as information to master, but as a legacy to pass on.

Texas history, in particular, deserves that kind of care.

Adina Emilia De Zavala



# INTRODUCING TEXAS LEGACY LEARNING

Texas Legacy Learning was created out of this conviction: history should be taught the same way inheritance is passed down, with intention, context, and care.

Rather than rushing through centuries at once, Texas Legacy Learning focuses on individual lives, moments, and places. It invites families to linger. To sit with the story long enough for it to matter.

This curriculum is designed for families who want history to feel:

- rooted, not rushed
- meaningful, not overwhelming
- connected to real places and real people

At the heart of Texas Legacy Learning is a simple framework that works across ages and learning styles.



## THE TEXAS LEGACY LEARNING METHOD

### *Story*

**Begin with the life of a real person – their choices, struggles, and legacy.**

### *Place*

**Explore where the story unfolded through maps, geography, and landmarks.**

### *Practice*

**Engage through narration, journaling, discussion, and hands-on learning.**

This approach allows families to learn together, adapting depth and activities as children grow.

Parents don't need to be experts. The goal isn't to cover everything; it's to understand something well.

# BUILDING A LIVING LEGACY

Texas Legacy Learning is not about finishing a curriculum.

It's about beginning a relationship with history.

Families may start small – with a single story, a short discussion, a map spread across the table. Over time, those stories connect. Children begin to see patterns. They recognize that history is not distant or theoretical; it shaped the land they live on and the communities they belong to.

For now, my focus is Texas.

***The legacy we give our children is shaped by the stories we choose to tell***

Texas history is rich enough to spend years exploring well. It holds stories worth returning to again and again, stories that shape identity, responsibility, and gratitude. One day, this approach may grow beyond Texas. But legacy is built patiently, not hurriedly.

When we teach history as inheritance, we give our children more than knowledge.

We give them context. Belonging. Perspective. Most importantly, we give them stories worth carrying forward.

The Texas Legacy Learning curriculum, available in both print and PDF formats, is scheduled to launch in Summer 2026. This upcoming release will build on the ideas shared here, offering families a thoughtful, story-centered way to explore Texas history together – one life, one place, and one legacy at a time.



# WOMEN WHO LED

*Quiet Leadership That Shaped Texas*

“ Leadership does not always announce itself—it often grows quietly, shaping generations before it is recognized. ”



Texas history is often told through battles, laws, and famous names. But woven just as deeply into the story of this state are women who led without fanfare—through homes, schools, words, and unwavering conviction. Their leadership was not always recognized in their own time, yet its influence endured across generations.



From frontier cabins to classrooms and printing presses, Texas women have long shaped the character of this state by preserving history, educating children, strengthening families, and speaking truth when it was costly to do so. Their leadership did not always begin in positions of power. Often, it began with responsibility, courage, and faithfulness in ordinary places.



In this article, we highlight four Texas women whose lives remind us that leadership is not defined by title, but by legacy.

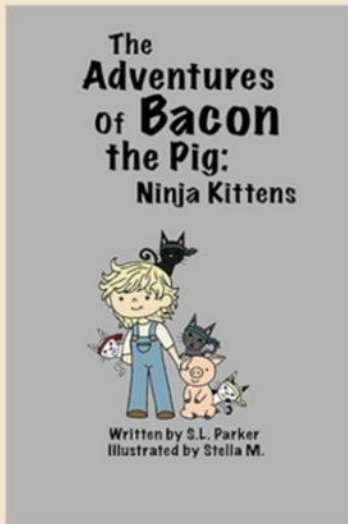
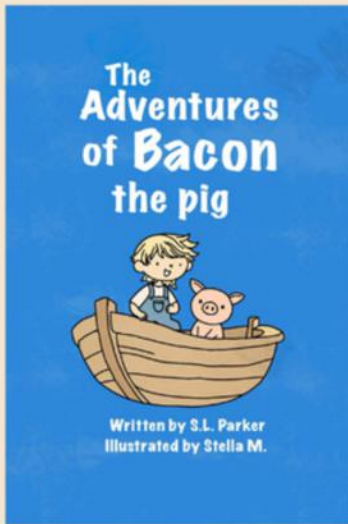


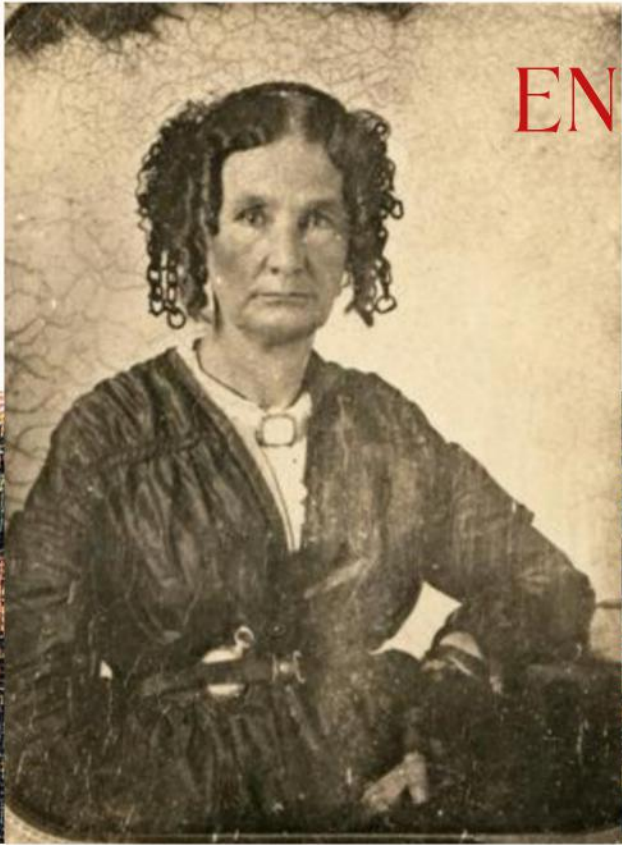


**Teen Author**

**STARR**

**Parker**





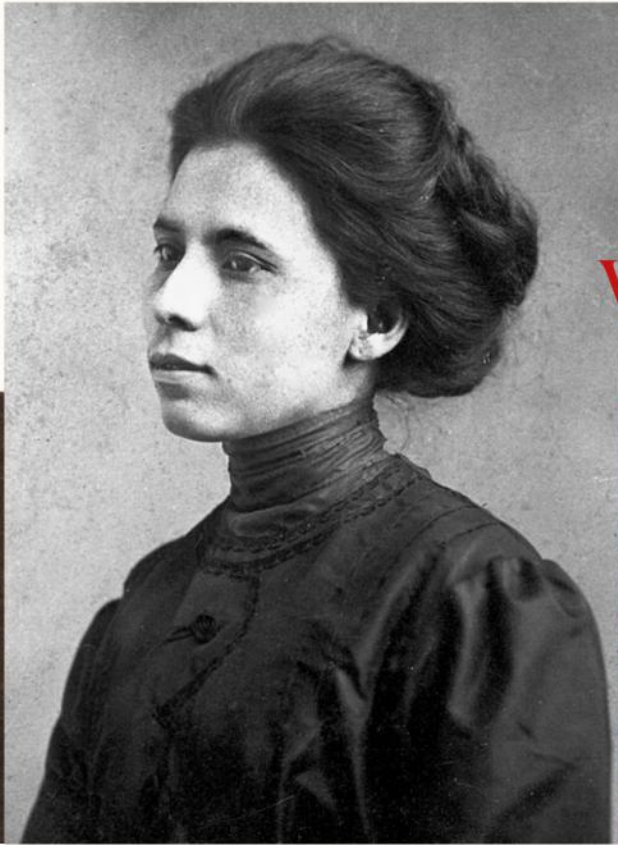
## ENDURANCE ON THE FRONTIER JANE LONG

Leadership on the frontier often looked like staying when leaving would have been easier.

Known as the “Mother of Texas,” Jane Long’s leadership was forged not in speeches or councils, but in survival. Left alone on the Texas frontier with her young child while her husband served in the fight for independence, Jane endured extreme hardship with resilience and resolve.

Living in a crude cabin through a harsh winter, she became a symbol of perseverance for early Texas settlers. Her influence was rooted in courage, motherhood, and steadfastness, even when retreat would have been easier.

Jane Long’s story reminds us that leadership is often born out of necessity. She did not seek recognition, yet her determination helped secure a future for those who would follow.



## JOVITA IDÁR: LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE WRITTEN WORD

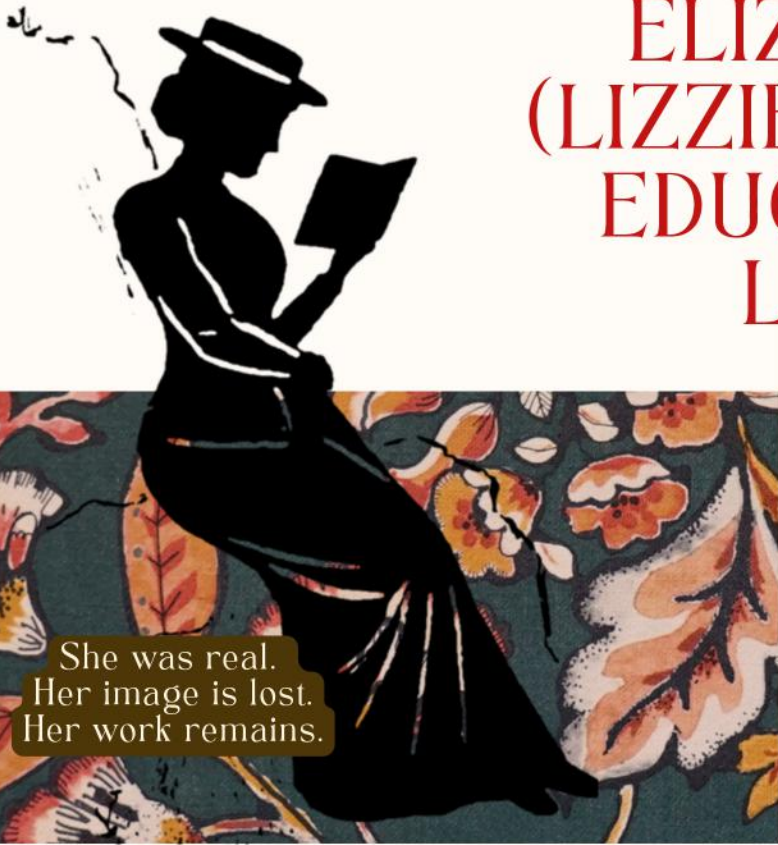
Her pen  
became a voice  
when others  
were told to be  
silent.

Jovita Idár led with courage and clarity in a time when both were costly. A Texas journalist and educator, she used the written word to defend education, dignity, and family life within the Mexican American community.

Working alongside her family, Jovita believed that words could shape culture and correct injustice. She famously stood in the doorway of her family's newspaper office to prevent soldiers from destroying their printing press, an act of quiet bravery rooted in conviction.

Her leadership flowed from loyalty to family, commitment to truth, and the belief that education was a powerful tool for change.

# ELIZABETH T. (LIZZIE) FREEMAN: EDUCATION AS LEGACY



She was real.  
Her image is lost.  
Her work remains.

Education,  
faithfully given,  
becomes a gift  
passed from  
one generation  
to the next.

Born into slavery in Texas, Elizabeth Freeman emerged as a leader through education and faith. After emancipation, she devoted her life to teaching Black children and establishing schools in Texas communities where educational opportunities were scarce.

Elizabeth believed that literacy was foundational, not only for individual advancement but for strengthening families and communities. Through perseverance and service, she shaped generations of learners, often with limited resources and little recognition.

Her story reflects a form of leadership deeply familiar to homeschool families: teaching where there is need, building knowledge patiently, and investing in children with long-term vision.

No verified portrait of Elizabeth T. Freeman is known to survive. Her legacy endures not through photographs, but through the generations of students she taught and the schools she helped establish across Texas.



## ADINA DE ZAVALA

She fought not  
for recognition,  
but so future  
generations  
would  
remember

Adina De Zavala believed that history mattered, not as nostalgia, but as identity. When the Alamo faced demolition and commercialization, she refused to allow one of Texas's most significant landmarks to be erased.

Her efforts to preserve the Alamo were marked by persistence, sacrifice, and deep conviction. At one point, she physically barricaded herself inside the building to prevent its destruction.

Though she faced opposition and was eventually pushed aside, her work laid the foundation for historic preservation in Texas.

Adina's leadership was quiet but immovable. She understood that people who forget their past risk losing their direction.

# A LEGACY THAT CONTINUES

The women highlighted here did not all lead in the same way—but each shaped Texas through conviction, endurance, and responsibility. Their leadership was rooted in the belief that what we preserve, teach, and pass on matters.



Their stories remind us that leadership does not always begin in public spaces. Often, it begins at home, in classrooms, through words written and lessons taught. In honoring these women, we recognize that shaping the future has always been part of Texas women's work.



## Texas History Deep Dive

# Susanna Dickinson

### A Witness to the Alamo A Civilian Story of Survival, Loss, and Legacy in Texas History

In the early morning hours of March 6, 1836, the Battle of the Alamo came to a devastating end. When the fighting stopped, nearly everyone inside the mission lay dead. Among the few survivors was a young woman named Susanna Dickinson, holding her infant daughter, Angelina.

Susanna Dickinson was not a soldier, a general, or a political leader. She did not fight on the battlefield or command troops. Yet her survival made her one of the most important civilian witnesses of the Texas Revolution. Through her testimony and movement across Texas, she became a living link between tragedy and transformation.



Born Susanna Wilkerson in Tennessee in 1814, she married Almaron Dickinson as a teenager. Like many families of the time, the Dickinsons were drawn to Texas by the promise of land and opportunity. Life on the Texas frontier was demanding. Families lived far apart, resources were limited, and daily survival required endurance, adaptability, and faith.

By the early 1830s, tensions between Texian settlers and the Mexican government had grown. As conflict escalated, Susanna found herself living inside a fortified mission that would soon become one of the most famous locations in American history.

# UNFOLD THE STORY OF AMERICA



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# Susanna Dickinson



## 1836 Map of Alamo



## Life Inside the Alamo

When the Alamo became a military stronghold, civilians remained inside the mission alongside soldiers. Susanna Dickinson and her infant daughter sheltered there as her husband served as an artillery officer. Life inside the Alamo during the siege was crowded and uncertain. Families slept in shared spaces, food supplies dwindled, and fear grew as Mexican forces surrounded the mission.

While soldiers prepared for battle, women like Susanna managed daily survival—caring for children, preparing food when possible, and enduring the stress of constant danger. Historians know little about the exact details of Susanna’s daily routine during those thirteen days, but they do know that civilian life inside the Alamo was marked by exhaustion, uncertainty, and waiting.

On March 6, 1836, Mexican troops overran the Alamo. In the aftermath of the battle, Susanna learned that her husband had been killed. She and a small group of women and children were spared. Survival, however, did not mean safety or freedom. Instead, Susanna was ordered to leave the Alamo under guard, carrying a message intended to serve as both a warning and a threat to Texian settlers.

Her role in Texas history was only beginning.

**Susanna Dickinson**

# The Message and The Runaway Scrape

Susanna Dickinson was sent to Gonzales carrying news of the Alamo's fall and the advance of General Santa Anna's army. Her firsthand account spread quickly. Settlers realized the danger was immediate and overwhelming.

Families packed wagons and fled east in what became known as the Runaway Scrape. Homes and farms were abandoned as civilians sought safety beyond the reach of the advancing army. Roads became crowded with families carrying only what they could manage, often leaving behind livestock, property, and livelihoods.

The message Susanna carried was meant to intimidate, but it also gave Texans time—time to prepare, regroup, and respond. Her testimony helped spread awareness of the realities of war and the urgency of the moment.



Susanna Dickinson's experience reminds us that information can shape history just as powerfully as weapons. Though she had no control over the message she carried, her movement across Texas placed her at the center of a pivotal historical moment. She was no longer only a witness to history; she had become part of how it unfolded.

**Susanna Dickinson**

# Life After the Alamo and Lasting Legacy

Susanna Dickinson lived nearly fifty years after the fall of the Alamo. She remarried, moved across Texas, and raised her daughter during a time of enormous change. Over her lifetime, she witnessed Texas move from revolution to republic, and eventually to statehood.

Her daughter, Angelina Dickinson—often remembered as the “Baby of the Alamo”—grew up carrying a legacy shaped by events she could not remember, but which defined her early life. Together, their story reflects the long reach of historical events and the ways they shape families for generations.



**The Susanna Dickinson Museum is located at 411 E. Fifth St. in Austin.**

Susanna Dickinson’s life challenges how history is often taught. She was not remembered for a single heroic act on the battlefield, but for endurance, testimony, and survival. Her story reminds students that history includes civilians, families, and women whose voices carried truth forward even when they were not the ones holding power.

For Texas homeschool families, Susanna Dickinson offers a fuller picture of the past—one that values resilience, courage, and the human cost of freedom. Her story teaches that history is not only made in moments of victory, but also in moments of loss, perseverance, and hope.



# NATURE JOURNALING

## SPRING OBSERVATIONS

### ***How to Use This Page***

Nature journaling helps children slow down, notice details, and record the living world around them. You do not need a special location or a long lesson. A backyard, a park bench, or a walk down the driveway is enough. Observe first. Write or draw second.



### ***Today's Focus: Signs of Spring***

Look carefully at the world around you. Spring often arrives quietly before it bursts into bloom.

### ***Choose one thing to observe today:***

- A plant, tree, or flower
- An insect, bird, or animal
- Clouds, rain, or changing light
- Soil, leaves, or new growth

### ***Observation Notes***

(Write words, phrases, or short sentences.)

- What did you notice first?
- What colors do you see?
- What sounds do you hear?
- What surprised you?



### ***Draw What You See***

### ***Wonder & Reflect***

Answer one of the questions below, or write your own.

- Why do you think this looks the way it does?
- How might this change in a few weeks?
- What does this tell you about spring?

# Copyright & Poetry

Spring

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*"If we had no winter, the spring  
would not be so pleasant"*

*- Anne Bradstreet*

## **Copywork**

- Copy the quote carefully in your best handwriting

## **Read & Think**

Read the quote aloud or silently.

- What does the author mean by "if we had no winter"?

## **Reflection**

Choose one prompt:

- What feels new or hopeful to you this spring?
- How does spring change your daily rhythm?
- What is something in your life that is growing?

## **Optional Extension**

**You may:**

- Rewrite the quote in cursive or print
- Illustrate one line from the quote
- Memorize the quote and recite it aloud
- Think about how this can relate to a biblical scripture?



# Family *Discussion Questions*



Spring has a way of inviting conversation. The days grow longer, routines shift, and families find themselves moving from winter quiet into fuller calendars. These questions are meant to slow things down just enough to notice what's growing, not just outside, but within your family. There are no right answers here. Let the conversation wander where it needs to go.

## Looking Back

- What is something from this past winter you're grateful for?
- Was there a hard moment this season that taught you something important?
- What did we learn about ourselves as a family over the winter months?
- What is one habit or rhythm we're glad we kept?

## Right Now

- What does a "good day" look like for you lately?
- What is something that has been feeling overwhelming this spring?
- How can our family support one another better during busy seasons?
- What is one small joy you've noticed recently?

## Faith, Values & Character

- What does it mean to be faithful in small, everyday things?
- How do our daily choices help shape the kind of family we want to be?
- Where do you see growth happening in yourself, even if it feels slow?
- What does trusting God look like in this season of life?

## Looking Ahead

- What is one thing you're excited about this spring or summer?
- Is there something new you'd like to try or learn together?
- What is one way we can be more intentional with our time as a family?
- How can we create more space for rest and connection in the months ahead?

These conversations don't need to happen all at once. Choose one or two questions and let them become part of a walk, a car ride, or a quiet evening at home.



# Simple Spring Projects

Spring projects don't need to be complicated to be meaningful. These simple activities are designed to fit naturally into homeschool life, using common supplies, inviting creativity, and encouraging children to slow down and notice the season unfolding around them.

## *Pressed Spring Flowers*

**Materials:** Fresh flowers or leaves, heavy book, parchment or paper, glue, cardstock or journal. Place flowers or leaves between parchment and press inside a heavy book for one to two weeks. Once dry, arrange them on cardstock or in a nature journal and glue gently into place. Children can label the plants, write a short observation, or turn the page into a keepsake card.

**Learning tie-in:** Nature study, observation, journaling

## *Seed Starting Jars*

**Materials:** Clear jars or cups, potting soil, seeds, water, marker. Fill jars with soil and plant seeds according to packet instructions. Place near a sunny window and water lightly. Have children label each jar and track growth over time — noting height, leaf changes, and days to sprout. This works especially well for beans, peas, or herbs. **Learning tie-in:** Science, responsibility, patience

## *Spring Memory Strings*

**Materials:** String or yarn, clothespins or tape, paper scraps, markers. Hang a string across a wall or window. Throughout the season, children can add drawings, written memories, pressed leaves, or small notes about meaningful moments. By the end of spring, the string becomes a visual record of the season. **Learning tie-in:** Reflection, storytelling, family connection

These projects are meant to be flexible. Spread them out over weeks, repeat favorites, or let them spark new ideas of your own. The goal isn't perfection, it's creating space for hands-on learning and shared moments together.

# Kamika Raby

MOM. WIFE. HOMESCHOOL LIFE.



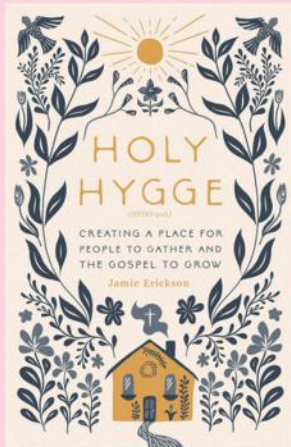
**New Book**

“MOMMA WHY  
DO WE  
HOMESCHOOL?”

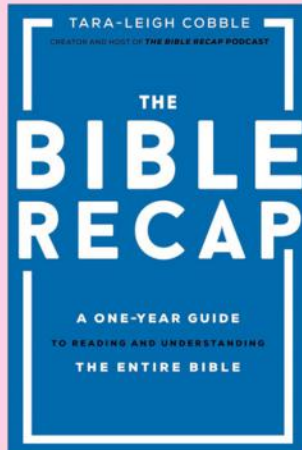
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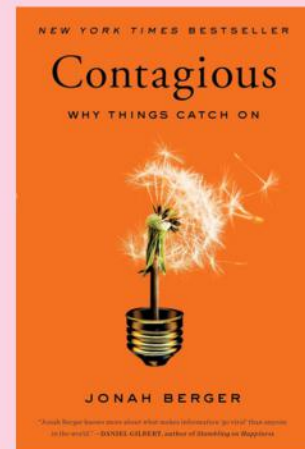
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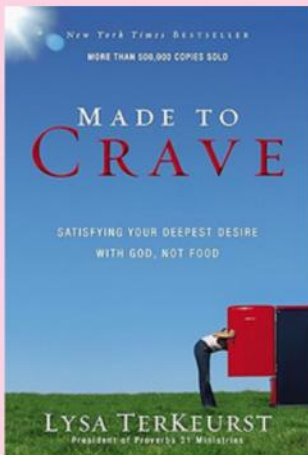
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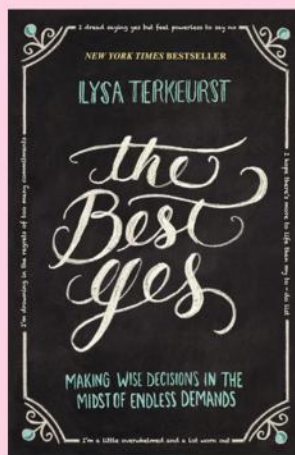
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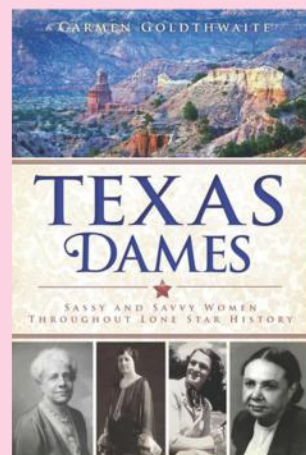
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TBR



TBR



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# FROM THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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## What happened today in Texas history?

Start your day with Texas Day by Day—a daily look at significant moments from our state’s past on [tshaonline.org](http://tshaonline.org)

For quick, engaging clips, explore This Week in Texas History videos, perfect for morning baskets or warm-ups. You can find them on the [@savetexashistory](https://www.youtube.com/@savetexashistory) YouTube channel.

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## Spotlight: Women’s History Month

These resources help bring women’s stories into focus: Texas Historical Markers highlighting influential women across the state The Texas Women’s Hall of Fame, featuring biographies and photographs of over 100 pioneering Texas women. [texaswomen.tshaonline.org](http://texaswomen.tshaonline.org)

## Curated Texas History Resources for Homeschool Families



### **Timeline & Context**

The Bullock Texas State History Museum offers a comprehensive Texas History Timeline, along with an interactive map that helps families locate historical events connected to their own region.

### **Civic Learning**

Civic Learning Week (March 9–13) offers classroom activities and lesson ideas that connect Texas history to civic responsibility and service.

### **Field Trip Ideas**

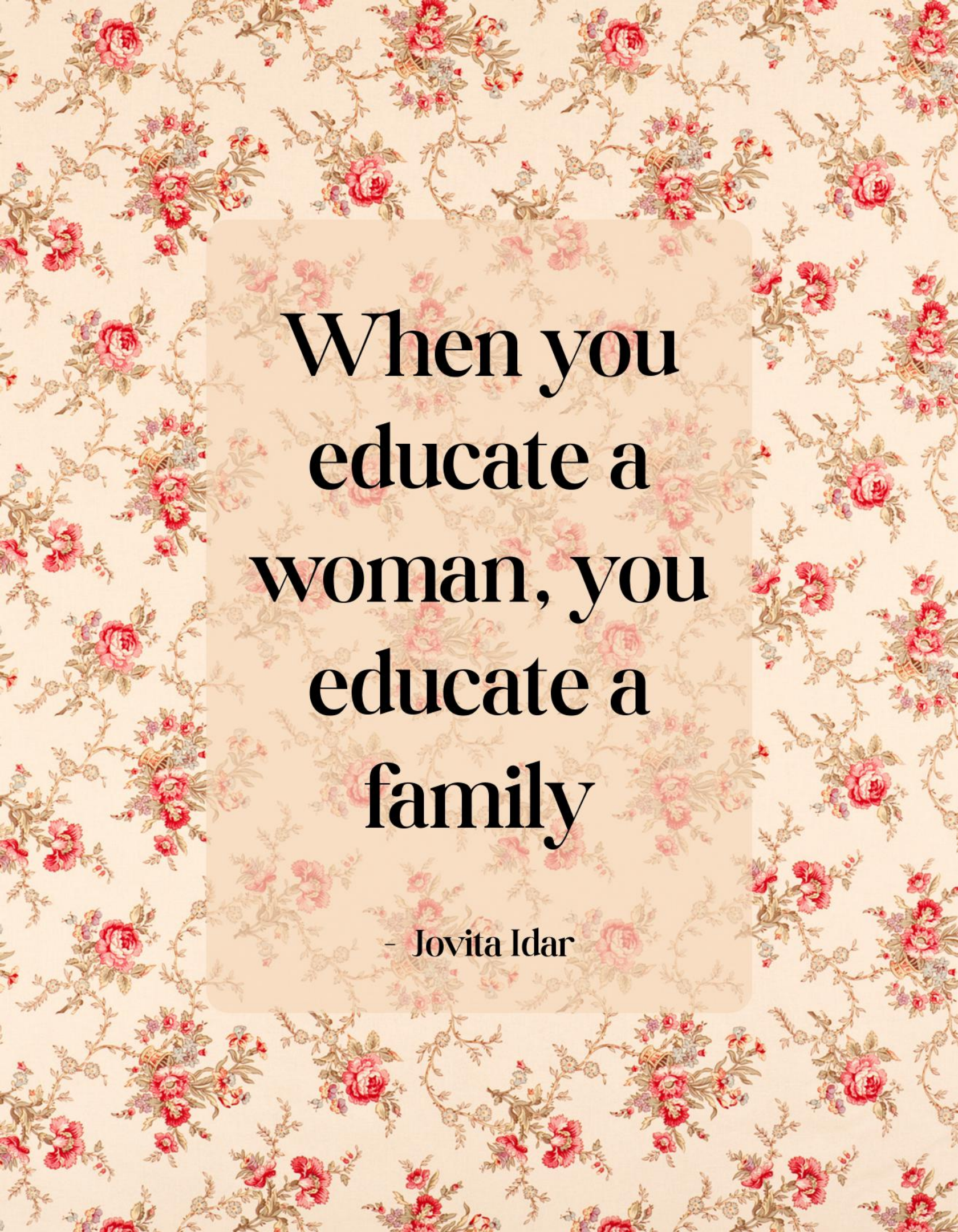
Celebrate Texas Independence Day at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, recently reopened after a major renovation. Spring break programs at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site and Kreishe Brewery.

### **Library & Research**

History is closer than you think:

Use the Texas Historic Sites Atlas to find markers in your city or county. Follow State Historic Sites on social media for upcoming events.

Resources curated from the Texas Historical Commission and partner institutions.



**When you  
educate a  
woman, you  
educate a  
family**

**- Jovita Idar**



# SECOND BREAKFAST

## Oven Pancake with Spring Fruit

Homeschool mornings don't always run on a clock; that's part of the joy. This oven pancake comes together quickly, bakes while lessons begin, and emerges puffed and golden. Topped with fresh spring fruit, it's perfect for a relaxed second breakfast shared around the table.

### Ingredients

- 3 eggs
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup milk
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons butter
- Fresh berries or sliced fruit
- Powdered sugar or maple syrup (optional)

### Kitchen Skills

- Whisking or blending batter
- Safe oven awareness
- Timing and observation

### Instructions

- Preheat oven to 425°F. Place butter in a cast-iron skillet or oven-safe pan and heat until melted.
- In a blender or bowl, mix eggs, milk, flour, sugar, vanilla, and salt until smooth.
- Pour batter into hot skillet over melted butter.
- Bake 18–22 minutes until puffed and lightly browned.
- Remove from oven (it will deflate slightly).
- Top with fruit and serve warm.

This recipe feels special without requiring extra work. It's easy to adjust for what you have on hand, and it works just as well for a late breakfast or a mid-morning break after lessons are underway.



**Remember The Alamo!**

# TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

**MARCH 6-7, 2026**

**9am-5pm**

**Adults \$10**

**Kids \$8**

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**SAN JACINTO DAY  
CELEBRATION  
2026**



**SATURDAY, APRIL 18  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**SAN JACINTO MONUMENT**





# Gameschooling

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## Learning Through Play

Gameschooling doesn't need to be loud, elaborate, or filled with specialty materials. At its simplest, gentle gameschooling is recognizing that meaningful learning often happens when children are relaxed, engaged, and enjoying time together.

For many families, this kind of learning shows up naturally, during a slow morning, an afternoon lull, or a season when formal lessons feel heavy. One familiar game can quietly support skill-building without adding pressure.

This was one game my kids played daily when we were early in our homeschool adventure. Even my toddlers loved matching the colors while I worked on other stuff with my older children.

# One Game, Many Lessons: UNO

UNO is easy to learn, affordable, and works well across age ranges. Because it relies on colors, numbers, patterns, and simple strategy, learning happens naturally as the game unfolds.

## **Early Learners**

Color matching

Number recognition

Turn-taking and rule-following

## **Elementary Ages**

Number sequencing and comparison

Simple addition when counting cards or points

Pattern recognition

## **Upper Elementary & Middle School**

Strategic thinking and probability

Planning ahead and adapting to rule changes

Emotional regulation and sportsmanship

When children of different ages play together, younger learners observe and imitate, while older children reinforce their understanding by explaining and modeling.

## Keeping Gameschooling Gentle

The goal is not to turn play into a lesson. Gentle gameschooling works best when the game is allowed to remain a game.

### ***A few guiding principles:***

- Stop before frustration appears
- Skip worksheets or quizzes
- Let conversation flow naturally
- Play alongside your children

Some days, the learning is obvious. Other days, it looks like patience, connection, or shared laughter, and those outcomes matter too.

### ***Where It Fits***

#### ***UNO works well as:***

- A light start to the day
- A mid-day reset
- A low-pressure way to end lessons
- A flexible activity during busy seasons

Especially in spring, when attention and schedules shift, learning through play offers just enough structure without adding strain.

Learning doesn't always need to look formal to be effective. Sometimes it looks like a deck of cards, a shared table, and a family choosing connection over pressure.





# READING RHYTHM

Spring reading doesn't always happen at a desk. It happens in hammocks, on picnic blankets, in garden rows, and on the way to practice. As days grow longer and life moves outdoors, reading can move with it.

Instead of trying to protect a rigid reading schedule, spring is a season to let books follow the life your family is already living.

## Spring Reading That Follows Your Life

Reading together might look like a chapter shared in the backyard, a book tucked into a basket at the ball field, or a read-aloud chosen because it matches what your family is learning, growing, or building right now.

### Read Where You Are

- In a hammock or on a porch swing
- During a picnic in the garden
- Under a tree while younger children play
- Together on the couch after a long day

Reading doesn't need perfect quiet to matter.

## Choose Read-Alouds That Match Your Spring

Let books reflect the rhythms of your season: Baseball or spring sports starting? Read stories about teamwork, perseverance, or the history of the game.

New babies on the farm or animals at home? Choose farm life stories or a classic like *Charlotte's Web*.

Planting a garden (urban or rural)? Read books about growing food, caring for the land, or nature observation.

Learning skills or building something as a family? Pick adventure stories, biographies, or project-based books that inspire curiosity.



## Books don't need to be labeled "school" to teach deeply.

### A Gentle Spring Reading Rhythm

- Read together a few days a week
  - Bring books along to what you're already doing
  - Stop when attention fades – even mid-chapter
- Consistency matters more than completion.

### Let Go of This in Spring

- Assigned page counts
- Pressure to finish every book
- Comparing your reading life to others

When reading follows real life, it becomes something children associate with connection, comfort, and curiosity.





# Womens Bible Study Rooted & Growing

## Scripture Focus

“He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season.”

— Psalm 1:3

Spring reminds us that growth does not happen all at once. Long before blossoms appear, roots are strengthened beneath the surface. God often works the same way in our lives—quietly shaping, pruning, and preparing us before change becomes visible.

In motherhood and homeschooling, it's easy to wonder if the small, faithful work matters. Scripture reassures us that fruit comes in its season, not on our timeline. Remaining rooted in God's Word is never wasted, even when progress feels slow.

This spring, consider where God may be inviting you to trust His timing. Growth may be happening beneath the surface, unseen but steady.

## Reflection Questions

- Where do you sense God doing quiet work in your life right now?
- What habits help you stay rooted when life feels full?
- Is there an area where God may be asking you to wait rather than rush?

## A Gentle Practice for the Season

Choose one small way to tend your spiritual roots this spring:

- Morning prayer
- Scripture reading
- Time outdoors in gratitude
- Journaling or quiet reflection

## Prayer

Lord, help me remain rooted in You. Teach me to trust Your timing and find peace in the growth You are bringing, even when I cannot yet see it.



# Kids Bible Study

## God Makes All Things New

### Scripture Focus

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

Spring is full of new life. Flowers bloom, animals are born, and trees grow fresh leaves. These changes remind us that God is always at work, making things new.

Just like seeds grow quietly underground before we see them, God helps us grow in kindness, patience, and obedience each day. Even when we don't notice it, He is shaping our hearts.

### Look & Observe

Go outside and find three signs of new life this spring.  
Draw or write what you see.

### Talk About It

- What changes do you notice during spring?
- Why do you think God uses nature to teach us?
- How can we grow in love or kindness this season?

### Simple Prayer

God, thank You for making all things new. Help me grow and follow You every day.



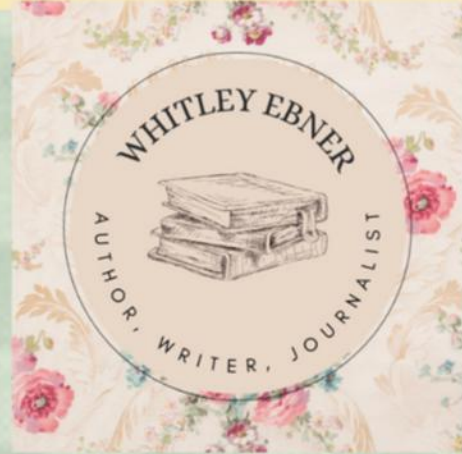


A wonderful book! It's a great resource to help children, and adults, to see what worship looks like. Totally recommend this book to be added to your library.



Great book to read to your kids to teach them about worship.

# Whitley Ebner



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