

HOW AWE MADE ITS WAY INTO OUR SCHOOLING

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After only three years of homeschooling, I found myself weary, frustrated and lonely. My conversations with other homeschool moms centered on trying to convince myself the next decade of this would be worth it. My prayers became forced and fake, full of trite sayings aimed at keeping me afloat in the tensions and effort of each day. I wondered: How do you stay connected to God and the Spirit in the persistent pressures and brokenness of trying to be all things to our children as homeschooling parents?

Then I came across an article written by Jen Wilkin titled “Women, trade your self-worth for Awe and Wonder”. In it she writes about why she believes the platitudes about finding our worth in daily chores and daily lessons just doesn’t fulfill the gnawing in us: “I believe it is because we have misdiagnosed our primary problem. As long as we keep the emphasis on us instead of on a higher vision, we will take small comfort from discussions of identity — and we will see little lasting change. Our primary problem as Christian women is not that we lack self-worth, not that we lack a sense of significance or purpose. It’s that we lack awe.”

The revelation of my own lack of awe and how it was stealing joy from the work set before me was a seismic moment. When I set my gaze with wonder and reverence on God and where He was in the middle of motherhood and homeschooling, everything changed. The work became holy. The effort and tension became holy. Everything changed because my heart changed in the shifting of my gaze to God. The shift relieved us of the heaviness of bearing the central seat in our home education journey. I didn't need to be enough because God already was.

I knew I needed to find a way to build our homeschool and family culture on the awe of God, to not forget this loving revelation and find a way to teach my children to allow God to be large and astonishing. The term aweschooling came as an Ebenezer stone to anchor us through the years. I also knew I needed the Holy Spirit to show me the way.





The Holy Spirit is a friend in every moment who points us to glory and awe of what God is doing in our children, our homes, our neighborhoods, our co-ops, and in every corner of the Kingdom He is building. When you pursue the awe of God the Holy Spirit shows up. He shows up, not to make our morning times better or ease the conflict around math workbooks (although He does do those things). He comes to swallow up striving and pride and weariness and loneliness.



Schooling with awe in mind, with eternity in mind, with our eyes up on God brought freedom. It brought us both freedom from striving and freedom to take the scenic route and run the achievement race. Aweschooling has freed me and my children from comparison and the weight of searching for approval in performance. I am prone, as a home educator, to find my own value in the performance of my children. Stealing from their achievement and claiming a piece for myself. Schooling with my eyes up protects our homeschool from that. It places the emphasis on the reverence of an awe inspiring God. We are discovering Him; we are learning that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. We are not putting our awe on what He has made, but on Him alone.



That's the goal anyway. One day, my children won't be depending on me to guide them, or to explain and define the great wide world to them. They won't need me. But they will always need God. And they will always need the Spirit to lead them and sustain them. Just like every hour I need Him. So it's imperative to me that they know who God is, what it feels like when the Spirit opens our eyes in awe of Jesus. My prayer is that schooling with awe will orient my children to live with eternity in sight. Not with eyes on success or accomplishment. Eternal perspective will carry them when I can't anymore.



For us, awe-schooling is summed up in a single phrase: eyes up. It's a phrase that reorients our work to be from Heaven down first. Our purpose, desire, energy, delight, reason all begin with our eyes on the awesome and holy Creator of everything we will ever study. If it's not unto God, it's empty. 1 Corinthians tells us as much. We will be known by our fruit, not by our gifts or transcripts, or academic achievements. All our achievements, which are still good pursuits, will fade away and what will be left is the awe and glory of God. We must teach our children to demonstrate the true nature of God and one way to do that is teach the awe of our King.

The life God gave us is too short and precious and holy and sacrificed for, for us not to live bravely, full of wonder and awe. The entirety of what God made is magnificent and lovely. I want to see as many facets of God as I possibly can: in creation, in history and the secrets in science, the order of math, and in the stories of all His image bearers. I hope to teach my children to Explore in order to find HIM. I have found that there is no better way to go from deep to deep, than in the discipleship of my children, in the intentionality of "aweschooling" and teaching from an eternal perspective.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Angie is an extroverted writer and homemaker living in southern Ohio with her husband & two kids whom she's been homeschooling from the start. She has deep affection for Jesus, honest conversations, memoirs, and caffeine. She thinks God writes the best stories and shares a little of hers on Instagram.

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