

Episode 225 | Important Scriptures to our Faith for Homeschooling and Family Life Homeschool Made Simple Podcast

Rachel Winchester [00:00:01]:

It's so tempting to follow along with the crowd to do things just because everyone else is doing them. However, the Bible calls us to not conform to the pattern of this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. In this episode, we are going to share a few scriptures that encourage each of us to not follow the course of the world, but to learn the way of Jesus day by day. You're listening to the Homeschool Made simple podcast with Carol Joy Seid. This is a podcast to help you homeschool simply, inexpensively and enjoyably. Carole has been helping families homeschool for several decades now, and I'm Rachel Winchester, a fellow homeschool mom to three kids and the director of operations for Homeschool Made Simple. We both love to read and teach God's word whenever we can. So today we are going to share a few scriptures that encourage us that God's calling is his enabling. Listen in.

Rachel Winchester [00:00:55]:

I am back with Carol Joy Seid to talk about some more scriptures that are so integral in her own life and have ministered to both of us as well. So welcome, Carole.

Carole Joy Seid [00:01:06]:

So good to be back with you, young lady.

Rachel Winchester [00:01:09]:

So I think today we should start a little bit where we ended last time and start with one John 5:3.

Carole Joy Seid [00:01:19]:

So first I have to tell a cute story about one John. So Pastor Chuck Smith at Calvary Chapel, Costa Mesa used to tell us this funny little thing. You know, first John, I would say, was probably Pastor Chuck's favorite portion of scripture in the Bible. So he used to tell us that people would come to him. He always would say, I'm a terrible counselor. I should never be a counselor because, you know, to him, everything was just so simple. Like, we'll just stop doing that, you know, whatever. He was not very empathetic, but I'm the same way, I'm afraid.

But anyway, he, um, he would tell us how when people would come to him, and they'd be like, oh, Pastor Chuck, I. I'm so confused. I feel like I'm losing my faith. I don't know what I believe I did. You know, everything that, you know, the skies fall, whatever. And then he would say to them, well, okay, here's your assignment. I want you to go home,

and I want you to read first John five times. And then they come back to him, you know, the next Sunday or whenever, and they'd be like, oh, Pastor Chuck, that was such a word from the Lord.

It just. I feel like everything is really clarified for me. My faith is reestablished. You were so hearing from the Lord, and then he would turn to us with his little twinkle in his eyes, and he'd be like, well, they don't know that. I tell everybody that they told everybody to do the same thing because the whole gospel is in, in the first epistle of John. It just is. So, yeah, let's jump up.

Rachel Winchester [00:02:51]:

Verse three is specifically the one that you often kind of quote. I don't know if you want to give a little context for that or not.

Carole Joy Seid [00:02:57]:

So verse three is, for this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome or the King James says, are not grievous. And I think a lot of our problems theologically stem from a misunderstanding of God's nature. And when we know God's true nature, we just rarely drive off the road. But when we picture God as, you know, like Pastor Chuck used to tell this story about, just a theoretical story about, well, what if he had two sons? He has two sons. He had two sons when he was alive. What if my two guys came to me and said, dad, we're just, we've just cleared the deck. We are going to give you the whole day on Saturday. We're just here to do whatever you want to do.

He used to say, can you imagine if I said, ha ha, well, I've been waiting for that. So first we're going to clean the gutters, and then we're going to, you know, all these horrible things. And he'd be like, who would do that? He'd be like, well, first I'd say, okay, we're going to go water skiing, then we're going to eat at this great restaurant, and then we'll go down to Trestle's beach and we're going to surf for a while, and then I'm going to take you out. Like when we give ourselves to the Lord, he doesn't say, yeah, I just been waiting for that. Now you're going to have to go be a missionary in somewhere you never wanted to go and that you would be miserable. And like, he's like, why do you think that God is less loving than your earthly father? Like, your earthly father wants to bless you and spend time with you and, and give you the desires of your heart. How much more does your heavenly father want to do those things? And so, so often, I think in my early christian life, I'm like, well, I really want to do thus and such, but that couldn't be God's will because, you know, God would only want me to do something really hard and miserable. And, you know, heinous.

But that's not true. And here's the scripture that proves it. His commandments are not grievous. And so just the joy, as the Lord calls you to home school, what he calls you to, he will equip you to do, because his commands are not grievous, and the grace will be there for what he calls you to do. And so homeschooling. Sometimes people tell me the story of how they came, and they came into homeschooling, kicking and screaming. They vowed they would never, ever homeschool. And so many just a mom yesterday that I was consulting with told me this cutest story and how the Lord began to work in her heart and work in her husband's heart, and how he just turned them around and how they love it and how happy they are, and they're using my methods, and so they feel like it's so simple and it's so it's not burdensome, and that's how you know that you're in his will and doing it his way and not our way, because it should be a joy.

Rachel Winchester [00:06:04]:

He made us. So why would he have made us? Just to torture us? Or to say, oh, I made you this way, and I've called you to do something completely opposite to unequipped for. Rather, I created you for the good works that I have prepared beforehand, that you might walk in them. And we get to see that in our own lives, and we get to see it with our own kids of how God has made them and then how he is working in their lives to make them who he made them to be, so that they can do the things that he has called them to do. And we don't want to stand in the way of that. We want to be participating in that process with him.

Carole Joy Seid [00:06:47]:

Amen. His commands are his enablings. If he calls you to do something, he will give you the grace to perform it. And that's something that we often listen to, the enemy's lies, that, you know, God's called us to this burden. And in the Old Testament, some of the false prophets would walk around going, the burden of the Lord, the burden of the Lord. The burden of the Lord. And God said, I'm so sick of you saying that. Stop saying it.

Carole Joy Seid [00:07:18]:

Because as Jesus said, his yoke is easy, his burden is light.

Rachel Winchester [00:07:23]:

I love that. And at the end of Hebrews, the writer says, talking about Jesus as the great shepherd, he says, may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd, of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will working in us, that which is pleasing in his sight.

Carole Joy Seid [00:07:46]:

That's so good.

Rachel Winchester [00:07:46]:

Just speaks to that idea of he equips us to do the things that are his will for us to do.

Carole Joy Seid [00:07:53]:

That's right.

Rachel Winchester [00:07:53]:

And so it doesn't have to be. Okay, what's the hardest thing that I could possibly do right now? You know, people definitely make those decisions and, you know, not realizing that, okay, if something is really hard and against my nature in a non sinful way, then I probably should pay attention to that.

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:14]:

That's right. And if the Lord calls you to homeschool school, it's going to be delight filled. And I think a lot of people have fears. They fear that they're not capable of raising their own children. I've had families tell me my son is not obeying me or my daughter is rebellious. So I'm just sending them to school. Maybe they'll be able to handle them better than I can. And I just groan in my spirit when I hear that.

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:42]:

Because if the Lord has entrusted you with those precious children, he will give, give you the insight and the way into their heart. And don't quit before the finish line. Don't think someone else will do for money what you can't do for love. Ask the Lord on your knees three times a day. I'm loving a book that we'll talk about in our next podcast, but he gets on his knees three times a day and I'm like, that is such a good spiritual discipline, really focuses you on, you know, we think we're praying, but intentionality in our prayer and the power in that, it really changes our prayer life. But that's another, that'll be another podcast.

Rachel Winchester [00:09:27]:

Yeah, but I mean, it's also, it's not because we have what we need to. I don't have the wisdom to be the parent to my kids that I need to be. And if, like we said before, you know, if Jesus said something, then how much more can I say it in agreement as a human with a fallen nature? If Jesus said I can do nothing.

Carole Joy Seid [00:09:48]:

Apart, apart from him, I can do nothing, that's right.

Rachel Winchester [00:09:52]:

You know, then how much more am I in agreement with that? If I can do nothing apart from God giving me wisdom, God giving me love for my own children, God giving me patience for my own children, you know, it's just a battleground. And if we give up and wave the white flag, then that doesn't help us get further along in the battle.

Carole Joy Seid [00:10:18]:

Yes. And if we ask for wisdom, he gives it freely and he does not upbraid us. He doesn't criticize us, he doesn't judge us. He gives it freely. I'm like, I was just waiting for you to ask me. Yeah.

Rachel Winchester [00:10:31]:

Oh, well, let's look at romans twelve two, which is also one that you talk about a lot and pertinent to our approaching homeschooling.

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Here's the thing. If you're not experiencing peace in homeschooling, it's time to press pause and get fresh perspective. Giving your children an amazing education doesn't have to add stress and pressure to your life. Homeschooling can be enjoyable. How do I know? Because there is research that lets us know what works in educating our children. Doctor Raymond Moore coined the term better late than early to encapsulate what the research showed. An unhurried childhood will serve your kids well. And let's be honest, it's better for the whole family. But in order to give your kids that sort of education, you're going to have to quiet the voices in popular culture and listen to the research, listen to the stories of people who have gone before you. Learn the framework and get the tools you need to succeed. If you want to learn our literature based approach to education and get the book lists that are the key to your success, join us in 2024 at a live event. You can learn more by visiting our website at homeschoolmadesimple.net/seminars now back to the show.

Carole Joy Seid [00:11:49]:

So in our begin with the end in mind seminar, this is a quote that I use a lot, and that is, do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind. And so this idea of being conformed, in the Phillips translation, it says, do not let this world press you into its fashion plate or mold. And so we are raising children that are going to be countercultural, that are going to be leaders, not followers. As Pastor

Chuck's mother used to say to him, any dead fish can float down the stream, but it takes a live fish to swim against the stream. And so that's what we're raising. We're raising leaders and people that are not peer dependent. And all the early research that Doctor Moore gathered showed that kids who went to school later in life, not even, they didn't even use the term homeschool back then, but kids that were staying home, maybe with a sick relative, or maybe they lived too far in the country to get to a school or whatever reason that when they went to school, they were the social and academic leaders, because they, as JJ likes to say, they hadn't been packed by all the other children in the henhouse. And so they had a natural confidence that you just can't get through to them, you can't intimidate them, because they don't care what you think, because they're so secure and confident, because they were raised with people who believed in them and loved them and admired, you know, their fine qualities, which are their parents and other adults and their siblings.

And so they're not peer dependent, but kids who've been in school. Uri Bronfenbrenner at Cornell University wrote a book called the two phases, I think, of childhood. And he said that peer dependency had gone down to the preschool level. Preschool level. It's astonishing. We had friends in southern California and Orange county when JJ was a little boy, and they told us the story of their little boy who was JJ's age, I think he was maybe three or four. And they had sent him to a preschool, and they had bought him a pair of Buster brown shoes. And they went to pick him up after school, and his shoes were missing, and no one could find them.

And they looked throughout the whole school, and they could not find the shoes. So they went out and bought another pair of Buster brown shoes, sent him to school, and when they picked him up that day, the shoes were missing again. They did this three times, and finally they found the shoes in the dumpster at the school, at the preschool, and they found out. Now, you've got to think this is 19, seven, probably 1983. So you've got to picture what was, you know, the status symbol of the day. So all the kids were wearing topsiders and he was wearing tie shoes, and he was humiliated by the other three year olds, I think they were. And that, to me, was a perfect example of peer dependency. Then another mother who I met in Orange county.

Now, this might be sounding like a California phenomenon, but it's not limited to California. I just happened to be living in California when our son was a preschooler. This other mother told me that she was on the playground of a very, very precious christian day school and that she overheard this conversation. Several little girls talking on the playground. I think they were first graders, if I'm not mistaken. Now you gotta go back in time again to what was in style. So one little girl said, well, my mommy

bought me Gloria Vanderbilt jeans. And another little girl said, well, my mommy bought me Jordache jeans.

And then the third little girl said, well, my mommy bought me granny jeans like a Walmart. I don't even know what that is. Is that like, okay, all right. And so the two little girls turned to the grandma jeans little girl and said, grannival jeans. And they put their arms around each other, the two, and walked away and left this little girl standing there. And when this mother told me this story, I'm like, okay, that's it. I mean, you know, because JJ was still preschooler as well, and you're thinking, well, what should we do? Should we send them? And I'm like, that's it. That's a confirmation right there.

So as we raise our children in a nurturing environment where their soul is prospering and they feel good about themselves, not in a weird, puffed up way, but just in a secure, quiet, confident way, then when we send them out into the world, the world doesn't walk all over them because the world has no power over them.

One of the many reasons that we homeschool, which I think it speaks to, that when you have that love and that security of being loved no matter what, then you have that power. In a sense, you're impervious to peer pressure.

Rachel Winchester [00:17:32]:

So then the last one we are going to look at is from Luke, chapter six, verse 44. And the translation that we prefer is the NIV in this situation, because it says student. So a student is not above his teacher, but everyone, when he is fully trained, will be like his teacher.

Carole Joy Seid [00:17:54]:

And the reason we like that so much is because it's a warning. It's a warning that if you send your child to a school to sit under a teacher that does not come under the authority of scripture, don't be surprised if your child comes out of that school with that same belief system, because the very nature of a student teacher relationship is the teacher is the influencer, and the student is the influence, if there's such a word. And so people send their children off to, a lot of times, homeschool families think, well, it's high school, and now they want to go to school, and, you know, whatever, for whatever reason, or I'm not capable of teaching whatever subject, and off they send them to high school, or, God forbid, a secular college, and they don't have their theology made up. It's like the Fontanelles of your baby's head are not hardened, and so you send them off when theology is making up its mind and they're so vulnerable and they're so easily influenced by people in authority, and the teacher has the power and they can control the situation. They can shame, they can humiliate, they can grade. And why are

we surprised when our child comes home, just like their teacher? So being very careful who is influencing your child at the high school and college years when they're really asking the tough questions? And as we said in the last one, Jesus. Well, in the Old Testament, it says in Isaiah, come let us reason together, says the Lord, that our faith is a reasonable faith. But we want our children to ask those questions in a safe environment where the people who answer those questions share a biblical worldview with us.

And if they don't, what are we thinking? Putting our children under their auspices and influence? That is a recipe for disaster.

Rachel Winchester [00:20:05]:

Yeah. So do you generally recommend that people send their kids to christian colleges, or that's why you emphasize the whole Bible college thing so much first?

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:17]:

That's exactly right, Rachel. So if my philosophy is send your children to Calvert Chapel Bible College, and I like to even, not even do senior year of high school, I think high school is kind of a waste of time. So send them, graduate your child early. You know me, send your child off to Bible College for, in my preference, two years. But one of those years would be their high school senior year. Don't just graduate them early. Don't quote me on this to the Bible colleges. But once, once they've studied the entire Bible, chapter by chapter, verse by verse, which is what they'll do at a Calvary chapel Bible college, and they have them all over the world, then I say to people, then, I don't really care where you send your child because I know, of course, I'd love them to go to Biola, but if that is impossible, then at least I know that they have studied the word of God.

They've laid that foundation in their own lives, and they will stand when others are blown by every wind of doctrine that comes through town. So I think it's so essential to lay that foundation in Bible college. And there are other good Bible colleges as well, the Cape and Ray and some of the other schools that are great, but they're shorter terms. I mean, the Calvary Chapel Bible College is two full years of school. And you can go to Maui and you can go to Jerusalem and you can go to Germany. But the key is really letting your kids dip themselves into the word of God like a teabag and hot water and be mentored by godly professors and rub shoulders with godly kids who are serious about their faith. They're not just there because mommy and dad want them to go there. It'll change your child's life to go, to really study the word.

Because a lot of christian colleges, you take, like, maybe one Bible course, but this is nothing. But, you know, you take Hebrews, you take Old Testament survey, you take the titles of John, you take the book of Genesis, the Pentateuch, whatever. And it's like being in a seminary, except some seminaries are cemeteries. You know, they don't. They don't always teach the word as they should. Yes.

Rachel Winchester [00:22:42]:

Keep it simple, because it is a weighty thing to be teaching and training children, but that when we go to God, then he can equip us and help it to be us, to have that quiet confidence and that peace, knowing that we're entrusting these things to him and because it is a weighty thing, but that he will carry us through and give us the wisdom we need to do the job he's called us to do.

Carole Joy Seid [00:23:09]:

That's right. So from the day they're born, the word of God, the word of God, the word of God. You know, the Muslims, I've been told, when a child is born, lean over the baby and say, there is one God and his name is Allah. And from the minute that child is born, born, they are implanting their worldview in that child's life. And as the Catholics traditionally used to say, give us a child until they're seven, and they'll be a Catholic the rest of their lives. And so getting that biblical worldview implanted in your children morning, noon, and night, singing, quoting scripture, memorizing scripture, it's just. It will shape their destiny and their lives. And the Pows that were imprisoned during the vietnamese war in what they facetiously called the Hanoi Hilton, where they were being tortured and literally battling for their sanity.

But several of the young men, some of the POWs had, had gone to Sunday school, and they knew some scripture and they knew some songs, and they would tap them because they were isolated. They were never allowed to see each other through the building. And when they were released, they said that was what kept them from going insane. And many of the men became believers through the experience of these few guys who knew scripture and who knew some Sunday school songs. And that is what kept them alive and afloat. And the importance of that wet cement period in your children's lives, where they believe whatever you tell them and you're telling them the truth. It's so important. And that's where the salty, you know, songs and stories come from.

And we did an interview with Psalty and Psaltina, Ernie and Debbie Rettino. And maybe we can put that in the show notes, the link to the number of that interview.

Rachel Winchester [00:25:22]:

Yeah, for sure. Because the power lies in the word itself. And so as we put the seed out, we just put the seed out and we entrust the work to God that he's going to bring forth the fruit in our children's life. And maybe using the examples, like you said, of these other religious people are really taking seriously these formational years and that we can often discount them of, well, they'll get it later or it doesn't really matter, we can dilute the message or something. But that really, these are so, such integral times and even the whole time that they're in our home as children until they launch out into the world, it's such a huge, such a small part of their actual whole life. And so just to put the word of God and trust that it will bear fruit in time and in season, and we can trust those things to God.

Carole Joy Seid [00:26:18]:

Yes. And the Seeds Family Worship cds are just priceless. Again, for implanting the word, hiding the word in your child's heart. Yes. That's how a young man cleanses his ways. It says in proverbs, psalm 119. I'm sorry, in psalm 119. And that is the truth of the word, by hiding God's word in their hearts.

Rachel Winchester [00:26:44]:

When I was in college, you gave me two of those cds, and I would be in my studio doing architectural projects and listening to those. And I still have them memorized because I just listened over and over and over again. And I have those verses hidden in my heart. And another one that I really like for myself is the corner room. And they have whole albums of psalms. And then they also have an album for kids specifically that are more like short verses. And they've done sections of Isaiah 52 and 53, but it's really artistically done, and those have deeply ministered to me.

Carole Joy Seid [00:27:30]:

That's wonderful, honey. And then, of course, the versus project. We did an interview with Ryan Gikas, who has created a free app, the versus app. And again, you know, hiding the word in our children's hearts. With kids worship music, if it's the word of God, they will remember it the rest of their life if it's set to music.

Rachel Winchester [00:27:54]:

Well, thank you for sharing these scriptures with us, and I think that we'll be encouraged.

Carole Joy Seid [00:27:59]:

My privilege.

Rachel Winchester [00:28:00]:

You've been listening to the homeschool made simple podcast. If you're looking for a Bible reading guide, Carole and I both use St. James Daily Devotional Guide for our daily Bible reading, and we can't recommend it enough. If you enjoyed this episode, we'd love for you to share it with a friend who needs some encouragement. Thanks for joining us this week on the Homeschool Made simple podcast. Remember, Jesus commandments are not burdensome. What he calls you to do, he will enable you to do blessing.