

Rachel Winchester [00:00:01]:

As a parent, I'm sure you know what it's like to feel in over your head. The job of raising children is hard and requires strength and wisdom far beyond what we can muster up in and of ourselves. Thankfully, the Bible has a lot to say to us in our weakness and need for wisdom. This episode is all about encouraging you with timeless truths we all need to hear. 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 home school for several decades now, and I'm Rachel Winchester, a fellow homeschool mom of 3. Today, Carole and I share a few scriptures to encourage you as a homeschool parent.

Listen in.

Rachel Winchester [00:00:46]:

Well, today, I am joined by Carole Joy Seid to talk about some of our favorite bible verses and just some of the scriptures that have been really significant to her in her life and especially in her ministry to homeschooling families and other parents. So we're really excited to share these things that have been personally encouraging to us and hopefully will continue to encourage lots of other folks. Welcome, Carole.

Carole Joy Seid [00:01:11]:

Oh, it's so good to be here, and I love this idea. It was your idea, so credit to credit is due.

Rachel Winchester [00:01:19]:

So we're just gonna kinda walk through some different scriptures in the Bible and talk about them and, yeah, draw out some truths from them and just how they've been personally relevant for you and how you hope that they encourage and speak to specifically parents as they instruct and raise their children in the love and admonition of the Lord.

Let's start with Deuteronomy 6 verses 4 through 9, and I'll read those. It says, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Carole Joy Seid [00:02:26]:

Yeah. So, of course, Rachel, that is the Shema, which is kind of the foundation of the Jewish faith. And Jesus, of course, quoted it when he was asked what was the most important commandment. And I love these, the scripture as you read it because it's so concrete. It's not abstract. It's not theoretical. It's this is what you do to raise godly children. It's very, very practical.

And I love where it says in verse 7, you shall teach them diligently to your children. And I would say that, when people kind of ask what curriculum are we using or how do we raise our kids or what, it's like, no. This is the god curriculum. Like, we're making this too complicated. It's really very simple. Martin Luther said no school that is not based on the word of God can ever, you know, prosper or edify our children. It's so foundational. And so we talk about the Bible morning, noon, and night, we might say in our idioms today.

But in in Deuteronomy, it says, first of all, that we're diligently. I really like that. It's intentional. It's faithful. It's, consistent. And then we talk about them. We don't just, you know, let it, you know, kinda come out of the ozone, but we're really diligent about talking about these things with our kids when. So, basically, we would say in our parlance 247.

When you sit, when you walk, when you lie down, when you get up. It, like, covers the whole day. And then I love the concreteness of this. And if you've been to Israel, this has been taken very literally by conservative Jewish people. It says you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eye. And so in Israel today, particularly, in the more conservative parts of Judaism, the Hasidic people particularly, they wear little boxes on their foreheads and on their hand and they wrap them with leather thongs to keep them on and they're called phylacteries. Inside of the phylacteries is a little scroll, and in the scroll is the Shema. That's what's in the phalactories.

So they do it literally. Then of course they put mezuzahs on the door posts of their houses. So if you have any Jewish friends or people listening who are Jewish, the tradition is that you kiss your hand and then you kiss the mezuzah, which also has a scroll from the Shema as you go out of your house and as you come into your house. And I love the concreteness of this, and I love to see people with scripture all over their houses. My dream is, like, to have good enough skill to actually write on the walls of of my house and put the scripture all over. And I'll put little 3 by 5 cards and, you know, do all those things, but I'd really like to just and even in addition to scripture, like, there's a quote from Taming of the Shrew that I've always wanted to put on the wall and, you

know, different different cool things that are just edifying and keeping it ever before our eyes. And then, yeah, he says you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, and that's literal. And so I love when I go into a house and they'll have, like, a plaque above the door at the side of the front door that says peace to all who enter here.

Just that continual awareness of the word of God saturating, creating a fully placed in our house. And instead of, you know, little Mickey Mouse things on the walls of your children's bedroom, the word of God everywhere.

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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.

Dr. 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 [00:07:41]:

I was putting, 1 of our interns, back in Wheaton. I was putting their little girl to bed. They were moving and and they were packing and doing stuff, and I was babysitting. And I noticed this little tiny girl, I don't know, she was maybe 4 or 5 at the time, but her mother had Proverbs 31 where it says, she shall smile at the future. And she had that in the bedroom of a very small child, which you wouldn't think of that as maybe a child's verse, but yet we can get that into the DNA of our children even when they're very, very young. Mhmm. So I love this verse, and I think it's foundational in homeschool. I can't think of a better verse for people that are, homeschooling their kids than this. So well well chosen.

Rachel Winchester [00:08:30]:

I love that. It gets me thinking about in Romans when Paul told the people was it in Athens where there was the idol to the unknown god? And he said

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:41]:

In the book of Acts.

Rachel Winchester [00:08:42]:

In the book of Acts. Yeah. And he said he, you know, said, this is actually, you know, the God that we know.

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:49]:

The 1 I've been talking about.

Rachel Winchester [00:08:50]:

The 1 I've been talking about. And in him, we live and move and breathe and have our being. And I think that's what I was thinking about when you're talking about the concreteness and the reality of God. I've been deep into Francis Schaeffer lately. So I'm thinking the God who is there, you know, for our children to live in this reality of this is the God who is here with us, and he's in our midst.

Carole Joy Seid [00:09:16]:

And he is not silent.

Rachel Winchester [00:09:17]:

He is not silent. Yeah.

Carole Joy Seid [00:09:19]:

I love it.

Rachel Winchester [00:09:19]:

Yeah. And that gets me thinking of, man, what I could ask my kids, you know, what Bible verse would you wanna? We could make something this summer and we could put it up in your room and, you know, get them involved. And how is this meaningful to you? Because it can even be Yes. You know, hard for them to bring it in to their hearts. I guess some of the verses are things which, I mean, I think songs help that, but to just help them own it like that, like, what is, you know, significant to you? This is the verse that's really important to me right now. Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:09:55]:

You know, when J. J. was a little little boy, we had these little Jesus pocket books. We had Jesus pocket book of nursery rhymes, Jesus pocketbook of the ABCs, and they were brilliant little booklets. And they sold them in Christian bookstores and we just collected all of them. And they were just verbatim scripture with these darling little illustrations. And, when I moved here, I took this big board that JJ had painted when he was probably 5 or 6. And you've seen it in my house, but it says God is love and half of the letters are turned around. And he did this all on his own just with no coaching of any kind. But, you know, we listened to bible teaching when he was a child literally around the clock.

And, Greg Laurie, Raul Reese, Chuck Smith, all the different guys and and girls, Kaye Smith, and we just saturated him in the word of God. He'd be playing on the floor with Legos or doing art projects, and he'd be listening to Greg Laurie and laughing. And, you know, when when he was a little boy in foot pajamas, he was in his little bunk bed and he was listening to our radio station, K WAVE, there in Southern California. And I tiptoed in to turn off the radio because I thought he'd fallen asleep, and Chuck Swindoll was playing. And he sat up in his little I remember he's wearing yellow foot pajamas. He sat up in his bed and he said, Mom, I'm listening to my pastors. And it's just like if you immerse a child like a sponge in the word of God, how can it not? And I remember some people coming to our door and they were preaching a gospel other than the 1 that Paul preached. And, little J. J. stood.

We had a young man who worked for us. His name was Daniel. He was like a walking bible. And then I Daniel and I were talking to them at the front door, and JJ snuck between us and started addressing the things they were saying. He was just a little boy, and they're like, well, and he'd be like, what's the Bible says, and then they'd say something else radical.

He'd like, but but the Bible says, and finally, the so called missionaries said, we've never met anyone like this before. How old is he? And they're like yeah. They said, we've never seen anyone like him. And I said, and that's why you're so successful because he knew the Bible. Mhmm. And, of course, they're not used to people who knew the Bible, but he'd just been dipped in it all of his life. So I think it's important to just, you know, waking up, going to bed just exactly as it says in Deuteronomy. I think that's where they are marching orders.

Rachel Winchester [00:12:44]:

Yes. And how those little things just add up. They accrue. It's not wasted that it's just a few minutes here, a few verses here. It really adds up in that when we protect their

innocence and we feed our children's souls with the truth and don't give them false realities, then it really protects them and it does create this. That's what's brewing inside of them. And so then that's what's coming out of them when they are singing, when they are, you know, when you just catch them do it playing and doing things. It's like those are the things that they are singing and you're just so, you know, rejoicing that they're praising God and they're praying to God as they just go about their business in the day. It's so wonderful.

Carole Joy Seid [00:13:30]:

Yes. And that's where, Joni Eareckson taught us years ago did a series of CDs and books, with, Mrs. Wolgemeth. I can't remember her first name, but she was a professional singer. And, they were hymns. And I can remember my granddaughter, Easley, at 3 belting out hymns in the playroom when she was just a little toddler because she I had found these copies of these CDs and books where they tell you the history of the hymn and then you get the CD. Yeah. And she just, you know, listened to them over and over again. That, again, is a wonderful reason why children should have CD players and not just listen to your what you have on Spotify or something, but where they can play something over and over again independently And the same with salty CDs.

So important for your children to have physical Psalty CDs, salty being PSALTY, the singing songbook that will hugely shape your children's theology and spiritual development.

Rachel Winchester [00:14:35]:

Yes. I totally agree with that. And the last thing I was gonna say about this verse is just the how you often talk about how Christianity is a reasonable faith and how you're you know, how Deuteronomy says we shall talk of them when you sit in your house and as you walk along. There there will be questions. There will be things as we try to understand the truth of God's word and that we can welcome those conversations. It doesn't have to be dogmatic. It can be, let's talk about this. What does what does this mean? You know? Oh, I I've been thinking about this. You know? We can enter into those conversations with them.

Carole Joy Seid [00:15:13]:

That's so good, Rachel.

Rachel Winchester [00:15:15]:

Yeah. Yeah. Let's go to number 2, Matthew 11:28.

Carole Joy Seid [00:15:21]:

So Matthew 11:28-30 is my life verse. And it took me a long time as an you know, I used to think I had life verses, but this is my life verse And the Lord confirms it over and over again. And in some Anglican liturgies, this is read. These are called the comforting words in the book of common prayer. And when I'm in a church where these where the scripture is read at the beginning of the service, I just feel myself sigh and it is my it is my favorite verse in the whole Bible. So shall I read it?

"Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Oh, my word. So shall I tell you the pertinence of these verses and why it's meaningful to me?

Rachel Winchester [00:16:31]:

Please do.

Carole Joy Seid [00:16:33]:

Well, I mean, every word of it is just pure gold to my soul. So we often feel very like, we're just working, working, working, and we're heavy laden. What a poetic I love the scripture. How how could you say that any better than that? Heavy laden, heavy burdened. And come to Jesus and he will give you rest. How will he give us rest? By taking his yoke upon us. And so when we do that, he's carrying the weight of that yoke, and we're just looking good in that yoke like, yep.

But Jesus is carrying that yoke, and we're just cruising. And then he says, and learn from me, and this is profound. I am gentle, or the King James says, I am meek. Meek, which doesn't mean like panty waist. It means you are if the word meek is an English horse training word, which means power under authority or control. So you take a wild stallion and you, in England, you would say you meet the horse. We would say you break a horse, but in England, you meet it. And it doesn't mean that the horse is just gonna sit around smelling flowers the rest of its life.

It could be a incredibly powerful racehorse or whatever, but it's under control and authority. And so it's not just a wild animal, but it's a powerful heart. Lowly in heart, like, if Jesus was lowly in heart, which means he had a very low opinion of himself, basically, or he walked in humility in humility of heart. How absurd for me to think I am anything. If Jesus was lowly in heart, I can crawl under him because I know that I'm

safe. So he's meek. He's lowly in heart. And he says, when you're that way, that's when you find rest for your soul.

Who isn't looking for rest for their soul in the world in which we live? And so but the way we find it is not by building our own kingdoms, but it's getting low so that he is high. And then he goes on to conclude, my yoke is easy and my burden is light. And so as pastor Chuck taught us at at Calvary Chapel, if you're carrying a heavy burden, take it off because Jesus never put it there. We put it on ourselves, he would say to us, or other people put it on us. And in the homeschool movement, I would say that is my biggest concern is people, as we used to say in the in the hippie movement, they lay their trip on us. And so, you know, they're always everybody's got a wonderful plan for your life when you homeschool. And and when you come to Jesus, he says, honey, just lay down. Let me bring you some tea and rub your feet because his yoke is easy and his burden is light.

And when we cuddle up with Jesus, there's no striving, there's no exhaustion, there's no hyperactivity. It's entering into his rest and ceasing from our own labors, which brings us to Hebrews.

Rachel Winchester [00:20:12]:
Is it 4 or is it,

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:14]:
Yeah.

Rachel Winchester [00:20:14]:
4:9?

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:16]:
Uh-huh.

Rachel Winchester [00:20:17]:
So in Hebrews 4 starting in verse 9, "So then there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience."

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:38]:
So, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, and Sabbath means rest. So it means rest, rest, or Shabbat, Shabbat. And so there remains a Sabbath rest for the

people of God for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his own works as God did from his. When did God rest from his works? Well, there's 2 times that I can think of, 1 at the end of creation and the other from the cross when Jesus said, It is finished. And so in both cases, we cannot improve upon what God has done. What a comfort. It's like a little child saying, do you want me to help you? It's like, nope. It's it's good.

I just painted the house or I just baked a cake or whatever it is. And when we enter into God's rest, we come in and we get to eat the cake because God doesn't need our help, and we can just cease from striving and enter into his rest. In some in some versions, it's it says here, it says rested from his works, but it also can say, we cease from striving. So because this verse is so important in my life, I have named my house after it and our retreat ministry is named Sabbath Rest for that same reason because it's so integral to a healthy Christian life to cease from our own labors because Jesus paid it off. The price has been paid and we can't do anything to add to his redemption work that he bought for us on the cross. Such a comfort.

Rachel Winchester [00:22:32]:

Yes. Indeed. It really is. Yeah. I just think if we just live in those truths, then how much peace we can have, and we can we don't have to take on all the things. And, you know, sometimes when we, like, declutter or something, we just look at something and are like, what what can I take away? And we kinda take away a couple things and but it's really, like, take everything out. And then what needs to be here? You know, what does God want to be here now in this in this space? How would he create it? And we can walk in that lowliness of heart with him.

Carole Joy Seid [00:23:13]:

It's relaxing, isn't it? And as we educate our children, there's always more to do. There's always the cool curriculum to buy. There's always the next activity to drag all 29 children to and all it it's this never ending saga of produce and perform and work. And my kids can run faster than your kids, and my kids are doing algebra and the playpen.

And he calls us to come aside a while and rest as he said to the disciples. I love all the rest verses in the Bible because our personalities, at least mine specifically, I think I was raised with a real performance basis and, to enter into his rest.

And that makes me think of of the 23rd Psalm. And my spiritual director, Carrie, the other day when we had our appointment, I meet with her once a month and she's like my tune up, my spiritual tune tune up. She's such a gift in my life. Mhmm. But she said, she was feeling that the Lord was laying the 23rd Psalm on her heart for me, and I'm

like, oh, yeah. And so she read it, and we were silent afterwards and just meditated on it. But I would say some of the key verses for me is, of course, the first verse, the Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

Rachel Winchester [00:24:49]:

Mhmm.

Carole Joy Seid [00:24:49]:

He makes me. And I had a picture of the Lord, like, putting his hand on my chest and throwing me to the ground in a, you know, cozy way, like, lay down. He makes me lay down.

Rachel Winchester [00:25:01]:

Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:25:02]:

And then because of that in verse 3, he restores my soul. And out of that rest is the restoration of my soul because it is very easy to get weary as you're raising children, as you're doing all the tasks, as you're disciplining and disciplining and breaking up 1 more fight and wiping 1 more nose and cleaning 1 more counter. And and But he restores our soul. How? By making us lie down in green pastures. Again, not doing 1 more task, but ceasing from our own labors, ceasing from the striving and entering into his rest. Zephaniah, he sings over us and and he dances as he thinks about us. Like that's how he feels about us. He rejoices over us with singing.

And if we can cease from our own labors, enter into his rest, the families that minister to my soul are the families that walk in that kind of peace and they're not striving, they're not overextended, they're not over performing. Those are children, as Doctor. Sears used to say, that are feel right children. You can just see the sense of well-being that they have in their lives and it's because they've stopped performing and they're just dwelling in goodness and mercy all the days of their life. Yeah. Yeah. That's a keeper.

Rachel Winchester [00:26:42]:

I love that. That refreshment and that being still that we can really slow down and we don't have to run around frantically. And that that is a lie to think that if we just do the next thing or 1 more thing, it won't hurt us or it won't, you know, cause any damage, but that really to and there are probably there are seasons of busyness or things being

more frantic than they are, but even still being able to find those pockets of actual physical rest. And then also, like you're saying, having that identity of that, I am in Christ, and I am loved.

Right now in our Saint James devotional guide, we're reading the end of the gospel of John and just how Jesus prayed that the people who follow him and believe in him would know the love that the father has for each person in the son.

Carole Joy Seid [00:27:45]:

That's right. You know, when you realize the love that the father has for you in Christ, it just radically changes everything.

You can't earn it. It's it's already yours. You cannot earn it. Yeah. You just have to receive it. And like a winged child, you're at peace in your mother's arms.

Rachel Winchester [00:28:09]:

Well, we can wrap up for the day on that. I think that's a good thought to end on and just encourage people to go to these scriptures for themselves, read them, meditate on them, and just hear what God would have to say to each each 1 for themselves.

Carole Joy Seid [00:28:27]:

To hear that still small voice. You've gotta be quiet to hear that still small voice.

Rachel Winchester [00:28:33]:

You've been listening to the Homeschool Made Simple podcast.

If you're looking for a Bible reading plan, Carole and I both use St. James daily devotional guide for a daily Bible reading, and we can't recommend it enough. While it's important to have a daily habit of Bible reading, it's also good to take time for silence and solitude, soaking in God's word for us. Carole has created a place for homeschool moms to get away and rest in Guthrie, Oklahoma. If you want to learn more about Sabbath Rest Her Retreat Center, visit our website at homeschoolmadesimple.net/sabbathrest to learn more and plan your own retreat.

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. Blessings.