

Embracing Individuality in Homeschooling with Adeline Beck

Episode 233

Rachel Winchester [00:00:01]:

One of the best parts of homeschooling is that you have the freedom to fit the education to the child. When children have the freedom to explore their own interests, their homeschool journey becomes extremely unique to who they are. In this episode, Carole sits down with a recent homeschool graduate to hear her story of being homeschooled. I know you'll be encouraged to stay the course and experience this great gift of homeschooling. You're listening to the Homeschool Made Simple podcast. This is a podcast to help you homeschool simply, inexpensively, and enjoyably. Carole Joy Seid has been helping families homeschool for several decades now, and one of those families is the Becks. Their family has been on the podcast in other episodes, which you can find listed out in the show notes. But today, we are excited to share Adeline Becks' story with you. Listen in.

Carole Joy Seid [00:00:50]:

Welcome, friends. I am sitting here with my dear friend, Adeline Beck, and she has just come back from an intensive dance program in Dallas that she can tell you about. But Addie has had kind of unique childhood as every homeschool child does, and I just wanna share her experiences with all of you. So welcome, Addie.

Adeline Beck [00:01:11]:

Hello, everyone. Thank you so much, Ms. Carole, for having me.

Carole Joy Seid [00:01:15]:

My pleasure. So, Addie, tell us a little bit about your childhood, your family. What's what's that like?

Adeline Beck [00:01:22]:

Yeah. I grew up in a Christian home, praise the Lord, with 7 siblings. A few of them have actually, I think, been on this podcast. I think Frank and maybe Henry or

Carole Joy Seid [00:01:34]:

I think Frank and your mom and your dad.

Adeline Beck [00:01:36]:

And my dad. Yeah. So I grew up with 5 brothers, 2 sisters. I'm the 5th child, so kind of right in the middle. I loved it. Homeschooled all the way through high school. I just graduated last year.

Carole Joy Seid [00:01:50]:

And a few months ago.

Adeline Beck [00:01:51]:

Yeah. Just a few months ago. Mhmm. Yeah. It was incredible. I loved I loved homeschooling. I I actually would totally go back and do it again.

Carole Joy Seid [00:01:59]:

If only, like, college was basically homeschooling again too.

Adeline Beck [00:02:03]:

But, no. I loved it. It was amazing. And, yeah, I really, yeah, it was just such a gift. It was the perfect learning way to learn life and adulting and independence and school. And, yeah, it was just it was just amazing. So I love it. Looking back on it, I'm just really thankful for it.

Carole Joy Seid [00:02:24]:

Mhmm. Yeah. And like every child, you had some unique things about you, your learning style, talk a little bit about that.

Adeline Beck [00:02:34]:

Yeah. I think my learning style I definitely I mean, when you're little, you know, your mom helps you with your syllabus and, like, gives you the process and the tools you need to do it on your own. But once I hit probably middle school, closer to my teens, I definitely felt the independence of, like, me wanting to take more ownership of what I enjoyed learning and what I felt most passionate about, learning how to create kind of my own syllabus, with the guidance of my parents, and just your basic math, reading, you know, all those different things. Yeah. I had a lot of freedom to explore what truly interested me. Like, I love gardening. I love food and nutrition and health and nature and all those different things. And so I was able to, like, find books and resources in order to learn more about those things, that I was interested in, and that played into my science and then my math.

And then I love baking, so I used baking as a way to learn how to do math. And math is a hard subject for me already, does not come naturally to me. And so that was a really challenging subject to comprehend, but I feel like having hands on, as I mentioned, baking, that was a really good tool for me to learn how to calculate numbers and, like, do fractions and all these different things. And having a visual, I found that really helpful. I'm a very visual person, so I enjoy, I need I need something, like, tangible, something I can hold or feel or, visually see. So Concrete. Concrete. Something very concrete.

Adeline Beck [00:04:12]:
Concrete.

Carole Joy Seid [00:04:12]:
Yes. So, Addie, what would your life have been maybe as you're picturing it if you'd been maybe in a public school or private school, and how would how would your life maybe have been different?

Adeline Beck [00:04:24]:
That's a good question. I think it would be very different from where I am today. I think,

Carole Joy Seid [00:04:32]:
Like, how did homeschool serve you

Adeline Beck [00:04:35]:
Yeah.

Carole Joy Seid [00:04:35]:
To enable you to to be all that you became? Yeah. Would that have looked differently if you'd been in in school all day?

Adeline Beck [00:04:43]:
Yeah. I think it definitely would have. I think I would have, I think I would have lost if I were to have gone to public school, the importance of my like, using my imagination, and learning how to be playful and how to play as a child, and how to slowly enter into school and learning and developing those muscles in my brain. Like, I think I'm a very much a processor, and I need a little more time to, like, learn and study. And so I think homeschooling gave me the time and the opportunities to, develop that a little slower for myself, and not have the pressure so much of needing to be perfect in every subject. Yeah. And I grew close to my siblings.

I had such I had such close relationships to all of my siblings. Yeah. And there's a lot of us, so I'm so thankful for that. Like, yeah, it just I spent so much time with my siblings. I was able to have time with the Lord, like private worship every day and reading and free time and playing outside. And, yeah, it was just there was so much more flexibility, one, to explore my interests. And then also as someone who needs structure, I was able to then cultivate structure if I needed that, but on my own time and, like, in my own way instead of it doing the same as all of my peers. Mhmm.

So yeah.

Carole Joy Seid [00:06:09]:

Yeah. That's great. Yeah. And then, of course, as time wore on, when did you figure out which way the twig was bending for your life? Which when did that kind of come clear in your mind?

Adeline Beck [00:06:22]:

Do you mean with, like, dance and stuff like that?

Okay. So I found dance; I'm a dancer, professional dancer, actually, and going to college this fall to Chapman University to receive my bachelor of fine arts in dance. But I found dance when I was 10 years old at a conservatory in Minnesota, and that shaped I don't know. The Lord has done incredible things with it truly. I mean, I didn't play a ton of sports before then except for, like, hockey with my brothers and, you know what I mean, running around. But, yeah, I found dance and movement, and I just felt it came so beautifully and naturally to my body and my mind and my soul and heart, and I just, it was an outlet for me to, worship the lord. 1, it's a huge way in which I worship. It's also a large way in which as a quieter and more, like, concrete and internal type of personality, It's how I, like, use my language and speak words. And so Mhmm. That was a huge gift from the Lord to provide that at the time he did, and, it's just developed from there. I just have loved it. I've been in training for almost 10 years now, quite rigorously, and the Lord brought me to, like, a ton of different intensives, a lot of professional opportunities.

Carole Joy Seid:

Talked about some of the experiences you've had recently. It was terrible. And For sure.

Adeline Beck:

So, I went to Israel last July, after I graduated from my studio, and I danced there, at a cup the company is called Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company. So I was in Israel,

so I did that for a month. And then I was gonna go back, this February and do a training program, but, the war broke out, unfortunately, due to those circumstances. And so that was canceled, but the Lord had different plans. So I stayed in Minnesota and was provided multiple professional opportunities with different companies there.

So I was just training. I kept up with my own training as well in the city, taking class, and cross training as well. And then just recently, yes, I just got back from Zion Dance Project. I was at a 2 and a half week dance intensive there, and that is a Christian, faith based dance company. They're excellent.

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:44]:
In Dallas?

Adeline Beck [00:08:45]:
In Dallas, Texas. Yes. They're excellent.

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:49]:
Was this your second time with them?

Adeline Beck [00:08:50]:
This was my second time with them. Yeah. And so it's been about 2 years since I've seen them, but it was such a gift. And, yeah, I was feeling the need to be refreshed and reminded that they're dancers who worship the Lord with their movement. In the secular dance world, it's very challenging. And I was in that this I've just been in that for a very long time, and so I found the Lord, yeah, just urging me to be encouraged and refreshed by people around me who are encouraging and uplifting and, reminding me why I dance, which is to glorify the Lord. And so, yeah, it was incredible. I just got back from it, so I'm very exhausted. But it was amazing.

Carole Joy Seid [00:09:34]:
Been performing all weekend.

Adeline Beck [00:09:35]:
Performing. Yeah. You take class every single day. It's every day, all day, rehearsals. You learn a lot of pieces, incredible choreographers there and company members and truly just people of God. It's it's really beautiful to see. So I made a lot of really great connections. And so yeah.

And I met the Lord in a lot of new ways as well. Which is amazing.

**ad* Rachel Winchester [00:10:00]:*

We are taking a quick break from this episode to let you know about our ebook, 5 essential parts of a great education. We wrote this ebook to introduce you to the Homeschool Made Simple method of homeschooling. It lays out what we consider to be the 5 essential parts of a great education, and you can get the ebook on our website at homeschoolmadesimple.net/ebook. And did I mention that it's free? If you like what you hear in this episode, the ebook will build on the ideas we share here. Download it today and begin deciding what matters most in your child's education. Now back to the show.

Carole Joy Seid [00:10:36]:

Tell me about, your relationship to your parents through these years of being home with everybody together.

Adeline Beck [00:10:43]:

Yeah. I mean, I love my parents. They're incredible. I'm so thankful for the way they have raised me and my siblings, and just the example they have set for us is just, it inspires me to wanna be a parent one day, similar to the way they parent and just, yeah, so many things. I don't even know if I could mention all of them on on this short podcast, but, truly, I just, the care and the thoughtfulness and the, intentionality behind the way they choose to parent is so evident to me. And Yeah. They each have their have a general way of parenting us all, but they come to us individually with what we need, because we're all wired very differently. Me and my siblings are all very different.

Carole Joy Seid [00:11:30]:

They are.

Adeline Beck [00:11:31]:

And so yeah. And just as to again, because dance is my passion and what I would like to do as my career, they have just supported me tremendously with that. In any way they can. And so having that support system behind you and encouragement has been, truly wonderful, to have that. So I'm really appreciative of that. And, them, just leading me closer to Christ as well, reminding me who I am, in God's image. And, yeah, having that foundation in our home was really, really helpful.

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:08]:

Talk about the work ethic that they instilled because I really observed that at your house.

Adeline Beck [00:12:13]:

It's so true. Yes. Work ethic is a huge value in our family. We are all very much hard workers, sometimes even workaholics. It's true. But it was very formative for me as, like, a little girl. I remember just, like, even the just the simplest of things of working with your siblings. Basic chores around the house, that was a daily thing every single day. We all had different chores. We were put to, and just basic life skills that everyone should know how to do, like laundry, dishes, basic stuff, folding your clothes, brushing your teeth, you know, doing yard work, all of those things.

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:55]:

Talk about Yeah. The grocery shopping.

Adeline Beck [00:12:57]:

Grocery shopping. Yes. I ordered the groceries. I mean, I'm going to college now, so I won't be doing that anymore. But for, like, 2 years, I've been ordering the groceries for our family, and then, I order them, like, a few days before, and then I pick them up on a specific day when I come home from dance. And then I put the groceries away for our family.

Carole Joy Seid [00:13:15]:

Huge huge job right there.

Adeline Beck [00:13:17]:

Huge job. Organize the fridge and the pantry, and then it's all set for the week for my mom. So that's been a really good skill to learn. I didn't really realize, like, it's actually a pretty big job.

Carole Joy Seid [00:13:27]:

It's huge.

Adeline Beck [00:13:27]:

It's huge, especially for a big family. And so that has been really helpful, and it's been me too as someone who enjoys food and eating well to, bring that into my family's life as well. And, for those of us who value it in my family, it's been a real gift to, like, create new meals and meal plan a little bit, prep and, like

Carole Joy Seid [00:13:49]:

I was wondering. So who decides what to order and how do you do that? Because every mother on on the podcast is going, wait. How do you do this? So how do you and your mom coordinate that?

Adeline Beck [00:13:59]:

Yeah. So me and my mom think very similarly when it comes to food. So at this point, I know most of the time what our family likes to eat. And what we consistently know everyone will enjoy. And then I will add a few things periodically to switch it up. But we have the staples of, like, your dairies, your eggs, your meats, and then fruits and veggies. A lot of produce we have.

So I have an assortment of those that I order every single week, which seems to fit us better. I think doing it that way than, like, meal prepping and planning, like, 5 meals in advance. That's not really how we do it, but Yeah. We just have some consistent The basics. Like, basic Mhmm. That we have every time, and then we kind of go from there. Yes. But there are times where I will connect with my mom before I order and just, like, clarify if she's thinking something more specific for the week, then we'll, I'll make sure to get those things.

Normally, it's just around produce. We do a lot of salmon, and it's we keep it very simple. It's just high protein and a vegetable, and maybe we add in a carb or a gluten free pasta or rice or something along those lines. So, and milk for the boys, of course. They love their milk.

Carole Joy Seid [00:15:12]:

That's such a great training. I mean, when so many young women get married and they have no life skill, and then they're trying to, like, learn everything, like, the week they get married. But you kids and your family, boys and girls Yes. You can run a home. I mean, I've seen Truly. Work that goes on in your home. And Yeah.

Wow. And the being on 5 acres on a lake. And all the upkeep of that property and the boats and I don't even know all that gets into it, but it's massive. And then mom has a huge garden.

Adeline Beck [00:15:46]:

Garden. Yes. It's it's a lot of work, but it's good work. And I really enjoy working. It's it's so, like, therapeutic, and it's also really good, I think, for children, especially when they're young to an extent. Of course, you can add more, I think, as you as you age and get older. Mhmm. But it's been really neat to see it in my siblings as well, in my younger siblings, like, watching them grow up and and the way they work as well.

Like, it's it's encouraging to know. And especially when you do it with your siblings, that is a way in which we bond a lot. And the way we spend a lot of quality time

together is through chores, actually, and especially outdoor chores. And it's a way we can, like, collectively serve one another as well because my family is extremely independent. We're all very independent, and so sometimes I think, the chores actually help us come together more unified. And, yeah, quality time than what the family is spending with.

Carole Joy Seid [00:16:49]:

So And even when the big kids come home, they jump right in on these big project. Yeah. And right. Nobody's like, well, I'm just here smoking a cigar. Yep. It's like, no.

Adeline Beck [00:17:00]:

No. No.

Carole Joy Seid [00:17:01]:

Like, everybody's outside. That's right.

Adeline Beck [00:17:03]:

Everybody knows. Everybody has their jobs. And it changes, though. Like, as we get older, like, my senior year for me, I wasn't home a lot, so there definitely was some flexibility there for me where I just didn't have the flexibility or time. I wasn't even home enough to help with the normal chores I was used to.

Carole Joy Seid [00:17:21]:

Because you were teaching?

Adeline Beck [00:17:22]:

Teaching. I was dancing a lot, performing, and then, I was nannying a lot too. That's also my other main job. So it was just a lot. I couldn't really do all of my main chores, but I kept up with the simple ones, like laundry.

Carole Joy Seid [00:17:34]:

And you did the groceries. So if your kids can drive too, finding ways for them to do chores in those ways

Tell me about the place of reading in your family's life.

Adeline Beck [00:17:50]:

Mhmm. Yeah. That's a good one. So we love books in our family, especially my mother. We have so many books in our house. Yes. And I would say it varies from each of us kids. I personally have had an interesting journey with reading. I love reading. I am

learning how to, create more of a habit of reading in my life. If I'm being honest, dance has taken up so much of my time and so much sacrifice that it is hard to squeeze in other hobbies and other interests, especially as I've gotten older.

But, I am trying to get back into it for sure. I'm not as much of a natural reader as in, like, during my free time. That's what I do, but, I'm learning how to incorporate that in ways that works for me. So I have some siblings who can just sit down and read book for hours and hours and hours. That probably wouldn't be my approach, but I enjoy listening to books on tape. I enjoy listening to podcasts. So I find other ways as well where I can be maybe multitasking or in the garden and, like, listening to a book or before I go to bed, even just like incorporating 15, 20 minutes, especially as you get older. My dad loves to read. He reads every single night before he goes to bed, and it's a really good example and reminder for me as someone who's not as big of a reader, to just quiet my mind and my body, and I am not the best rester as well. I have a hard time resting. And so that's been a good example set by some of my siblings who are more inclined to do that.

Carole Joy Seid [00:19:26]:

But not all. Yeah. But not all. Some brothers, one in particular, that has some learning challenges

Adeline Beck [00:19:32]:

Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:19:33]:

And more on the ADHD Yeah. You know, spectrum.

Adeline Beck [00:19:37]:

Dyslexia. Yes. That's right. Yeah.

Carole Joy Seid [00:19:38]:

And so there's high energy in him. He's a bike racer.

Adeline Beck [00:19:42]:

Yeah.

Carole Joy Seid [00:19:43]:

Right? And so and you being a dancer, I mean, you've found your path. Yeah. And what I love about your parents is they bless you in your individuality. It isn't a one size fits all

family. No. We're all gonna do this, and we're all gonna go to this school, and we're all gonna everyone is so different. Yeah.

Adeline Beck [00:20:02]:

Yeah. And I'm so thankful for that. Like, I feel so confident in who I am and who I am in Christ because of the way my parents have raised us in that way truly, and it's such a gift. And every time I explain to people, like, our family and who we are, everyone's just, like, astonished because we all truly do so many different things. But we have a lot of similarities as well, and we're unified in a lot of really big ways, but we're all very different art brains and art. Thinkers, creative people in our family, and a lot of physical athletic people as well in our family. That's a huge value for us as well.

I think it's important to find those areas, especially if all of your kids enjoy different things. I found it beneficial to be able to relate to my family in, in those ways as well so we can find some common ground and connection. Especially when everyone's home, everyone's in the house, it can be kind of chaotic and a lot. And there's a lot of personalities and all those things, and it's very fun. But sometimes we need a moment of just, like, coming together as a family, as one. You know?

Carole Joy Seid [00:21:10]:

And one of those things I know is that mom and dad have both read out loud.

Adeline Beck [00:21:15]:

A lot. Yeah.

Carole Joy Seid [00:21:15]:

What are some of your happy memories with that?

Adeline Beck [00:21:18]:

Ugh, Narnia, the Narnia series, 100%. My dad, he read a book to us aloud every single night when I was little Yeah. Up through, like, middle school for sure and even high school. That was such a sweet time, and it put me to sleep even better too. I mean, like, it was such a safe haven. Like, truly just there's also something about I feel your father reading to you.

Adeline Beck [00:21:41]:

Actually. Like, I loved my mom reading, but we had her all the time for school as well. And so having your dad at night, like, sit in the room and we all would jump on the bed and we'd just lay there, and then most of us would be falling asleep. But it was such a

sweet place and, like, connection we had with him as well, especially when he was gone for work and all that.

Carole Joy Seid [00:22:02]:
And he's such a cuddler.

Adeline Beck [00:22:04]:
He is. He's such a cuddler.

Carole Joy Seid [00:22:05]:
Mhmm.

Adeline Beck [00:22:06]:
Yeah. He love his love language is definitely physical touch. So those were really special memories and the Narnia series for some reason specifically, but our family loves those books. And *Little House on the Prairie* too.

Carole Joy Seid [00:22:20]:
I think those are the two best series you could ever read.

Adeline Beck [00:22:23]:
So those were good. Yeah.

Carole Joy Seid [00:22:24]:
Yeah.

Carole Joy Seid [00:22:24]:
Are you planning on homeschooling your own children?

Adeline Beck [00:22:27]:
Yes. I am. I think I'm still exploring why for myself. But I just have seen and I I see this in other homeschool families as well, but there is something so I don't even know the word for it. It's just so different and beautiful and, like, wholesome, and it feels fitting for the way in which I want to raise, like, godly children.

And, I I know just from my own experience how much it blessed me. And so if I can create that environment, for my children, and I know the way I think even too just the confidence I have in who I am. And I just am a very confident person. And yet am very social and love getting to know new people and, like, can still go to school, and I'm going to college and can be in a lot of different environments and feel very

comfortable in that. And I think that homeschooling provided that, those strengths for me. And I would love to create my kids just the freedom and flexibility to explore who they are and what they enjoy because it's so important.

Carole Joy Seid [00:23:44]:

And, so you're talking about individualized education. Personalized and individualized. How about if you pray for the families that are listening to us for that very thing? Because you're a fruit of that, that your parents let you be you. Praise the Lord. And I'm so glad they did.

Adeline Beck [00:24:01]:

Me too. Me too. Let's pray. Oh, Lord, I just, thank you so much just for homeschooling. Thank you that it exists, that there is freedom, Lord, to, raise your children in this incredible way. And I thank you for all of the families out in the world, Lord, who are desiring a more wholesome, and godly way to raise disciples of you, Lord, to share the gospel in this world through their many gifts and talents, Lord. And I ask, just for all the families who are desiring to experience this and, try, homeschooling, Lord Jesus, that you would grant them the wisdom and the understanding and the insight on what their family specifically needs because no family is gonna do it the exact same way. And I just ask, Lord, that they would feel encouraged, 1st and foremost, that they desire to give their kids, a fruitful life, a fruitful and godly life is what we truly desire. And so I pray, Lord, that you would grant each each parent peace of mind knowing that it is not about doing it perfectly or following a specific curriculum to the nth degree or, doing all of the possible activities you could ever do. It's it's truly getting to know your child, and who they are and who you have created them to be. And a parent's love and a parent's, connection with their child is the greatest thing ever, I believe. And so I just ask, lord, that you would encourage parents, and encourage children out there as well who are who are being raised in these wonderful homes. And, may you be the center and the focus, Lord, for how we homeschool our kids and for how we raise our children, and teach us to be more playful and more childlike as well. I'm still learning how to do that. And I'm only 19 years old, but, yeah, it's easy to lose that, especially in our world right now. And so I ask that you would grant us that flexibility, and creativity of mind and expand our mind and our thoughts of your goodness and your love for us. Thank you for, miss Carol and just the goodness, the blessing she is to all of these wonderful families, and people that she meets. She's just a true treasure and a gift from you. I'm thankful she's in my life. And so, yes, bless this day in your name.

Carole Joy Seid [00:26:28]:

Amen. Thank you, Addie. Thank you. What a joy this has been. God bless you, honey.

You've been listening to the Homeschool Made Simple podcast. If you like what you heard in this episode, please leave a rating and review on Apple Podcasts or Spotify. Or share this episode with a friend. It means so much when you help us spread the message of Homeschool Made Simple with others. 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.