

From Law School to Homeschooling

Episode 241

Rachel Winchester [00:00:00]:

One of our favorite things to do on the podcast is to share stories of homeschool families who, as Carole says, have drunk the Kool Aid of this method and are reaping the fruit of it. In this episode, you'll hear from a family whose story will encourage and inspire you. 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 this is one of the families who have attended our seminars and consulted with Carole over the years. We hope this conversation spurs you on in your own homeschool journey. Listen in. Welcome, friends.

Carole Joy Seid [00:00:35]:

I am sitting across the screen with my dear friends, Claudia and Arnold Barba. They are out in Southern California, and I'm here on my porch swing in Oklahoma. And, we're just enjoying the wonders of technology. So welcome, my friends.

Arnold Barba [00:00:59]:

Thank you for having us.

Claudia Barba [00:01:00]:

Thank you, dear dear Carol.

Carole Joy Seid [00:01:05]:

So we have been working together. What did we decide? How many years then? So the girls were 7 and 8.

Claudia Barba [00:01:12]:

Yeah.

Arnold Barba [00:01:13]:

Since all 9?

Carole Joy Seid [00:01:14]: Well, it's since 2009. Do you think our friendship is gonna last? You think? I think it's kind of a fly by night operation, this friendship. You're also,

I'm honored to say, on my board. And so we we do life on many levels together, which is really exciting and rewarding. So I love people to know a little background on your lives because I think it's every life is is just a glory to God's But you and Arnold met at law school at UCLA. But, Claudia, you were born in I don't wanna say it because you say it so beautifully. Say your country.

Claudia Barba [00:01:56]:

I was born in Nicaragua, Central Central America.

Carole Joy Seid [00:02:01]:

Yes. And you came to this country at what age?

Claudia Barba [00:02:06]:

I haven't left since I was 7 years old, but the first time we came, I was 5 years old. We were here for 1 year, then the war ended, so they thought. And so my parents moved us back and not you know, everything was awful over there, so we came back. So ever since I was 7, I have been in Southern California.

Carole Joy Seid [00:02:31]:

Awesome. And, Arnold, you were born in Southern California, but your family's origin was in two beautiful towns in Mexico. And would you say the names of that?

Arnold Barba [00:02:42]:

Sure. My father was born in a tiny little ranch town called El Valle del Guadalupe in Jalisco, Mexico, and my mother was born in a city, named Leon, the state of Guanajuato, Mexico. And they they both integrated to the US in the 19 sixties.

Carole Joy Seid [00:03:02]:

Okay. So you met at law school. Were you believers? I forget your

Claudia Barba [00:03:07]:

No. We we were not believers. We got married as unbelievers, and we had our 3 girls as unbelievers. What? Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:03:20]:

So okay. So when I met you, how what how old were the girls when you became believers?

Claudia Barba [00:03:26]:

By the grace of God, our girls don't know life with unbelieving parents. When when our twins, who are the youngest, when our twins turned 1, the weekend right after their first birthday, we started going to a local church here in our neighborhood, an an evangelical church. And that's where our faith walk began. And so Natalia was, like, 2a half.

Carole Joy Seid [00:03:57]:

Wow. And you both did you come to the Lord about the same time?

Claudia Barba [00:04:02]:

We did. It's it's just it's it's a miracle. It's such a such a grace of God. It just I I just get all emotional when I think about what he has done in our lives, to unbelievers getting married and having kids.

Arnold Barba [00:04:19]:

We were baby believers while we met you.

Carole Joy Seid [00:04:21]:

Wow. I I don't think I really understood that little part of the story. That's beautiful. And then what brought you to to me? How did how did we find each other in this cruel world?

Claudia Barba [00:04:33]:

We Natalia had started kindergarten. So the the the interesting story is that we were living in West LA, and Arnold moved us to Camarillo in Ventura County in order to avoid the LA Unified School District. And we were unbelievers. Remember? And so our kids were set to go to a public school, and he moved us out here for various reasons. And we came out here not knowing anybody, friends or family out here, and our kids never made it to the public school system because then we became believers and decided that our girls were going to go to the local Christian school. And so Natalia did kindergarten. Sofia, all 3 of them did preschool, and Natalia did kindergarten.

And that year, after Natalia finished kindergarten that summer before her 1st grade, there was a lot of uneasiness within me of thinking that I am now I had that's what it was. I had been taken a parenting class. Remember, I'm a brand new believer going crazy with 3 little kids, not knowing what I'm doing. And someone, introduces me to Chelsea and Kirk Cameron's, ministry. And I take a parenting class. And I learn all about authority. You know, the the the the authority that the Lord gives parents over their

children. And I just loved learning all of that and I saw the fruit of biblical parenting in our home.

And then the summer was coming to an end and I'm like, and now I'm going to give away my authority to a teacher. And this was not even a public school. This was a lovely Christian school. After prayer, we decided that we were gonna homeschool, and we pulled Natalia out after the 1st week of 1st grade. I just cried that whole week because I was leaving my daughter at 8:30 in the morning and not picking her up until, like, 2:30. I just missed her terribly. So we decided to homeschool.

The principal turned to Natalia and said, your parent I forgot exactly what she said, but the the gist of it was your parents love you so much, Natalia, and they are doing such a wonderful thing by homeschooling you. Principle of the Christian school because her sister was a homeschooling mother, and so she hands over they were using Abeka. And so she hands over all the Becca, books that we had just purchased. And I go and I school at home, my first grader. And and and I had a friend who said, "Oh, honey, you have to go to a Carole Joy Seid seminar." I don't know why. Right? I'm homeschooling.

Right? And so that was how we were introduced to you. Arnold came along. I said I can't do this alone. And, I mean, as I hope I hope that it really comes out, you know, how important the father's role is.

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:13]:

Arnold, jump in here and tell us this is Claudia's perception of your journey, but tell us your perception and and what did you think that first day at that seminar? Did you think you got dropped out of a spaceship? What were you what were you thinking?

Arnold Barba [00:08:29]:

No. As a as a young believer or or early in my faith walk, I was drinking out of a fire hydrant and intently so because I had so much to learn. I didn't know how to lead my wife or my children, but I was utterly devoted and submitted to the sovereignty of Christ. I just needed to know what that looked like in my life. And so I did I did learn a lot through that parenting course that, Kirk, taught the men of the women that were in Chelsea's class, and we learned about the delegated authority that God gives parents, over their children. And it's written a non delegable duty, to train our children up in the admonition of the Lord. And so when Claudia felt that conviction about that, it resonated with me too. And so I definitely wanted to support that, especially because I was seeing the fruit of of doing it the Lord's way at home.

And, not the natural outgrowth of that is now also schooling. So, I gladly went to a seminar because I saw my oldest daughter breaking out in hives, eczema, and my wife pulling out her hair. And I'm thinking the the intent is right, but the execution is a little off. Let's get that right. And so we went to your seminar, and, much of what you said was in perfect alignment with what we were learning in the homeschooling parenting class. And so it was making perfect sense, and I was immediately excited about doing it Carole's way.

Carole Joy Seid [00:10:10]:

Oh, that's beautiful. So you made some major changes, and, we've walked together all these years. And now I'm out of the job because all 3 of your girls have graduated from your home. And tell us what the girls are doing.

Arnold Barba [00:10:27]:

Well, Natalia, our oldest, I should back up. We we homeschooled all of them through high school, which we called Luke C. Turner Academy of Letters and Science, the long term, because we use the great books program to train them up in in height in their high school years, and we found a la carte opportunities for the STEM portion of their training. The lord provided folks like Dr. Steve, a retired scientist who love to teach students, physics and chemistry and biology. So, they had a a full scale 4 year program that could have gotten them admitted to any UC system, because we that's that's the goal we wanted for them in college prep honors type of experience. Yeah. Natalia, with my help, drafted a list of of colleges to apply to, and she landed on attending Biola University because of their Torrey program. And she graduated this last May from Biola with completing the the Torrey honors program and, a degree in business with a marketing emphasis.

Carole Joy Seid [00:11:46]:

And Natalia has been on the podcast, and she is one of my favorite homeschool graduates. She is just the most vibrant, vivacious, and joy filled young woman. And, so the Torrey honors program, Arnold, for people who don't know, is a great books course. Correct? Kind of based on the Oxford model?

Arnold Barba [00:12:10]:

It is. So, the great books program, there's several across the country. The the way Biola does it is they have a reading list starting from freshman year, fall semester, ending in spring semester, senior year, and it's it's organized chronologically, in some in some sense, with scripture sprinkled in throughout. So they cover the entire bible, but they also cover, some select texts that make the canon that we call the classics.

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:45]:

The Iliad, the Odyssey, the Aeneid, city of God, like, the name of God.

Arnold Barba [00:12:50]:

Absolutely. All those texts.

And it's it's a rich education. It teaches them how to think critically because you're grappling and wrestling with text that grapples with the meaning of life and all the big questions that we all face.

Carole Joy Seid [00:13:11]:

Love it. You know, Biola is always the school that I recommend, and it's so thrilling that Natalia has graduated and now finding out that she's actually working for Biola in in one of their, programs. So she is just my little poster child of of learning, but then the other 2 girls are equally my poster children. So we we've hit it out of the park with all your girls. So tell us about the twins.

Arnold Barba [00:13:40]:

Sofia and Gabriela are they're gonna be 21 this October.

They they also have the same exact curriculum in their high school years. We found, this godly grandfather in our home church at the time who, taught all 3 of them using the Oxford method, as a tutor. They would read the text together, like, homework was to read the text, and then they would come together and he would examine them on their reactions to the reading and using literary analysis to deep dive into the author's argument in the narrative. They learned how to write college papers starting in the 8th grade through him. Tom Chaffin was a tremendous blessing to them.

Carole Joy Seid [00:14:34]:

That is such a key tool. I mean, really, basically, the one thing we need to do to prepare our kids to go to college, if they're going to college, not college isn't for every child, is to be able to write a term paper. And most Americans, myself included, are sent off to college with no clue on really how to do that. So that's such a great

Arnold Barba [00:14:55]:

Yeah. They learned how to write a thesis statement and then, present argument based, supporting arguments for it, through him. And so they were ready in college. Sofia, the younger by 3 minutes of the twins is,

Carole Joy Seid [00:15:13]:

I'm sure her sister never lets her forget.

Arnold Barba [00:15:15]:

That's right. She received, a trustee scholarship to attend Azusa Pacific University. And so the Lord has granted her much grace with a tuition free experience. And like Natalia, she's in the honors program. So APU also has a great books program, and she's in that. They are slightly different in that they also include rhetoric or, public speaking experiences, and, they include trips to musicals and museums. Oh. So it's it's, I think, closer to, what what Francis Schaeffer would would ascribe to kind of like the unit study. And then, she's also pursuing a business degree.

Carole Joy Seid [00:16:06]:

Wonderful.

Arnold Barba [00:16:07]:

And then Gabriela, the older of the 2 by 3 minutes, she's attending, the master's university in Santa Clarita, California. And that's a wonderful small tiny, Christian liberal arts, university. So the chapels there are they're they're a dream. You know? They have people like Vodie Bauchum and our own pastor Paul Twist, Ligon Duncan. People like that come and preach to these college students. Top notch stuff. Yeah. And she's also pursuing, a business degree in entrepreneurship.

Carole Joy Seid [00:16:44]:

Wow.

Rachel Winchester [00:16:47]:

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