

No Two Families are Alike— Diversity and Fostering Our God-Given Purpose

Episode 247

Rachel Winchester [00:00:00]:

Have you ever said, I just wish I could talk to someone who has done this method? Does it really work? Today, we have a treat for you. In this episode, we are returning to our conversation with a family who uses this method and has seen the fruit of it with their own family. You're listening to the Homeschool Made Simple podcast. This is a podcast to help you homeschool simply, inexpensively, and enjoy. I'm Rachel Winchester, a fellow homeschool mom to 3 kids and the director of operations here at Homeschool Made Simple. I know the second part of our conversation will encourage you. Listen in. So after you went to the seminar last earlier this year, you came home and you wrote down a little list of things you wanted to remember and not forget.

Rachel Winchester [00:00:47]:

When you sent the list to me, there were several points that made, like, comparisons that kind of revealed that you were comparing your kids with public school kids or other people, you know, taught to pass the test, what others are doing behind or different from public school kids. So maybe you could speak about that a little bit.

Hanni Go [00:01:09]:

Yeah. I mean, I think being at Carole's seminar really helped me see, like, oh, I am living in fear that I'm, like, behind or I'm somehow failing my kids. And, you know, when Carole said, like, I felt like the like, you know, sometimes you're listening to something and it just feels like all of a sudden it's like the world stops and you're like, that was for me when she said, like, stop listening to all these influencers who haven't even raised their children yet. You know, that's the the hardship of the world we live in with social media and Pinterest and Instagram is, like, we have insights into what everyone else is doing. But half of these people are younger than me and have children younger than me, and I'm like, I'm worrying that I'm not, you know, being as creative or whatever.

And, you know, when JJ said in the seminar, he was like, why are we comparing ourselves to the Joneses? Like, the Joneses aren't reading. Like, I just read an article. No. That's I mean, that's not true. Right? Public school kids, a lot of them are reading, and there are there are plenty of homeschool parents who are prioritizing reading aloud. And so I don't wanna, like, feel like I'm going bad on homeschool on public schools, but the public schools are not their goal is to not enrich kids with great literature and make them love books. Like, teachers may love that, but they can't teach like that anymore.

I think there's plenty of teachers that wish they could. Mhmm. So, yeah, I feel like I was, like I mean, I went off Instagram all summer. I unfollowed a ton of people. I mean, I pretty much just listened to Carole's podcast, and I listened to the Read Aloud Revival podcast because I feel like Sarah's philosophy fits pretty well with Carol's. Mhmm. It's she always makes me feel like I should be doing less, not more. And that's pretty much, like, the main input that I get besides, you know, reading books, but I don't follow a lot of homeschoolers anymore.

I just decided I feel like Carole has a lot of history and a lot of, what's the word I'm looking for? There's she's graduated a lot of people doing her method that are doing very well and successful, and, the research shows proves that the way she's teaching us to do this works. And I had not read I still have not read all these books. I have them on my shelf, and I'm trying to make my way through them. I've skimmed some of them, but I'm like, yeah, I need to develop my philosophy of education so that when I'm sitting across the table from a friend who is shocked that I'm not doing 5 paragraph persuasive essays with my 7th grader, that I know why I'm not. And I'm like, actually, there's a ton of research. I don't even need to tell the other mom. I don't I don't need to make other moms feel bad about what they're doing. But I can just say, oh, it's okay.

I know that they're gonna be fine. And now do I doubt that sometimes? Of course. Do I have moments where I'm like, is this kid ever gonna be able to, like, spell and write? I'm not sure. But I'm trusting one of my children has struggled with some dyslexia and dysgraphia, but he's overcome the reading part. He's reading, like, Tom Sawyer and Lord of the Rings, and he's a ferocious reader, still struggles with, you know, some of the handwriting and spelling stuff. And so I'm just trusting, based on lots of research and people that have done this for a long time that he will become a great writer. But he doesn't need to be a great writer right now. There's no one is coming and knocking at my door being like, can I see, you know, writing from this child? No one is doing that. And he has plenty of years before he's gonna be in college where we can work on that.

Rachel Winchester [00:04:48]:

Yeah. And he's probably quite articulate.

Hanni Go [00:04:51]:

Yeah. And so I'm just trusting that so many of these, you know, people who've like Carol, who've been doing this for years to just trust the process. And, again, do I have moments where I fear? Yes. Do I have moments where I'm like, I'm not sure about this? Yes. That's why I have this letter to myself.

Rachel Winchester [00:05:10]:

Yeah. And that was my the third thread I really saw was just the importance of having a fully developed philosophy of education. You kind of allude said it or alluded to it multiple times of just, like, better late than early. Read these books, you know, be grounded. Don't be able to just be pushed around just because I hear about what somebody else is doing. And I think that's why, like, going back having these books on your shelf, the successful homeschool handbook Mhmm. Especially because it's, like, basically just story people's stories and stuff, and they kind of extrapolate, points from their stories. But it's such a good pep talk.

Like, to pull that off the bookshelf and then to just read a chapter and be like, yeah. This is gonna work. Like, I don't need to worry. Like, I can you know, even if you don't have a friend doing it or someone who has graduated kids already or somebody in the exact same situation, you can read those books and they can be the friend who is encouraging. And and also all the episodes that we've done with families who share their testimonies and the kid the kids have graduated and things, those are so powerful to go back and listen and just hear all the different getting to rub shoulders with those people has built me up of just like, yeah, this is fine. This is gonna work out just fine because all these kids, not just like one off here and there, but dozens and dozens and dozens of children who are flourishing. And like you said, not just fit the mold, but they fit the mold of who God made them to be.

Hanni Go [00:06:54]:

Yeah.

Rachel Winchester [00:06:55]:

Not just this box that somebody outside decided they need to fit into, But the person that God designed them to be so that every person in the family is uniquely them and not, oh, yeah. They all belong together because they dress exactly alike and they do the same things and they say talk about the same things, and they have the same hobbies, and they eat the same food. Like, no, they all go together because they've

just lived life together, and they have the same philosophy of living and this kind of liturgy and lifestyle, but they're all this full expression of who God made them to be. And I think that's really the beautiful part of it is that every person gets to be the ballet dancer, the writer, the engineer, the, you know, Rhodes scholar. What I don't know. The it's endless what it can be, you know. Be missionaries, work overseas, whatever. And it's amazing to hear all the stories, and those are really what inspire me and keep keep me going too.

Hanni Go [00:07:58]:

Yeah. And what a privilege that we get to partner with that. I mean, it makes me teary thinking about it. I'm like, I get to be a part of this story that God is writing in my kid's life. And, hopefully, someday, they my kids will, you know, my mom read aloud all the time, and we had tea together, and we lit candles. And, I got to have time to paint in the afternoon because I loved it, and I didn't have the pressure of all the homework that, you know, I would have probably had in public school. And so it's a privilege. It's it it really is.

Now sometimes, does it feel like a burden? Absolutely. I mean, it does. Let's be honest. Some days, I'm like, I have not been alone in a long time, and there's some hard things happening in our life right now that I'm needing to process with the Lord. And so I'm just, like, having to get creative and be like, okay, God. Like, I need some space for you to to meet with you, and and he he you know, God's a creative guy. He helps us. He helps us.

Hanni Go [00:08:58]:

And so, it's just that daily dependence on him.

Rachel Winchester [00:09:02]:

Yeah. You you might have heard this before since you've consulted with Carol, but she'll tell me, you're living the dream. I know. That's one of her phrases.

Hanni Go [00:09:10]:

Yeah.

Rachel Winchester [00:09:12]:

And as, as she's said that to me over and over again, it the Lord was like, Psalm 16, the lines have fallen for you in pleasant places. And that's really what she's saying is that I have a great inheritance and that this is a gift that God's given us to steward, and we are living the dream

Hanni Go [00:09:33]:
We are.

Rachel Winchester [00:09:34]:
That we get to, you know, and and so even though there is hardship, even though there is time of like, when am I gonna have this alone time or this time to process or all these things to navigate. But to have her voice in my head to say you are living the dream. Yeah. It just completely puts this frame around it that changes everything. And that I whenever I hear I immediately interpret it to say, the lines have fallen for you in pleasant places.

Hanni Go [00:10:03]:
Totally.

Rachel Winchester [00:10:04]:
Like, this is this is really a wonderful thing

Hanni Go [00:10:08]:
Yeah.

Rachel Winchester [00:10:09]:
That we get to do.

Hanni Go [00:10:10]:
It is. And there are people that want to and, you know, financially can't because they both need to work or whatever. And and I think, you know, I remember going to Target with all 4 of my kids, you know, when they were all really little, and people would just be like, wow. You have your hands. They would always say, you have your hands full, and I would say it with really good things. Like, they they are I'm so blessed that I get to be them. Because it's like our culture is like, oh my gosh. You are burdened down by all these 4 kids.

And I'm like, no. It is a blessing that I get to be a mom to these 4 kids. And, you know, again, I have days where I don't always feel that way, but it is. It's a blessing, and and I believe we'll see the reward someday of our fruit. You know? Sarah McKenzie from Read Aloud Revival, she always says, like, you can't pull the fruit, the the plant that's growing. You know? Can't pull it out to see if it's growing. Like, it takes faith. It takes faith in God to trust that that what we're doing is working.

Rachel Winchester [00:11:05]:

Mhmm. I love that. You said that your husband's Asian, and you're Norwegian. So maybe what have been some of the specific challenges that you've faced, I guess, as you raise biracial children and are trying to kind of meld those ethnicities together in your family.

Hanni Go [00:11:21]:

Yeah. I guess I have wanted my kids we're we we live in a pretty diverse area, actually. And so I don't think they necessarily feel the difference, and we're they're growing up in an age where a lot of kids have biracial parents or whatever. But I have wanted them to understand their cultures, and so we have intentionally like, I'm Norwegian, and part of my story even with my husband was not just feeling like a white person, but really learning my ethnic background. And so we, like, got a lefse maker so we can make lefse on holidays and, learning about that. And then we did a study, like, on cultures around the world. And so we my husband's, Chinese Filipino, actually. And so just trying to find things that incorporate those cultures, into the books we read, making sure we have diverse picture books that have, you know, Asian kids, featured in them, and and thankfully, there are more and more good books, available for that.

And so it hasn't been a huge issue, but it's just I think it's just brought my awareness of wanting to make sure that we have diverse, diversity in what we read and also as we study history. So, for example, when we studied studied, you know, when people how people came to the United States in American history, it's like I tried to make sure that, you know, we learned how did Asian Americans come to America and learn about Gold Mountain and how did they enter and then how did more European people enter and, you know, it it's challenging at younger ages because you don't wanna introduce too hard topics too early. I think that was maybe a mistake that I made because I felt so, convicted that I wanted my kids to understand, you know, some of those harder topics. But I think, in hindsight, I think I introduced some of them to my older kids too early, and so I'm trying to navigate that with my younger one. That's the beauty of getting to kinda start having this little one that's a little different. You get to kinda learn from your mistakes.

Rachel Winchester [00:13:32]:

Yes. Yeah. I can think of 2 friends right now. 1 is married to a El Salvadorian, and then my other friend is, like, similar to you, Chinese. They have in laws who speak other languages. And even if they speak English, there's still this whole world that they want to be sure to not cut their kids off from and really embrace even though it's it's different from their background. And I think you make a great point that we're all from somewhere. Even if if we're in America, we all have roots from somewhere else.

You know? I have roots from Ireland and England. But, so, yeah, I think that's really interesting to make that point and to really kind of know, you know, some of my my husband's relatives, they, like, know their history. Like, who, how many generations back came from England, who, what their name was and all this kind of stuff. And I think that's really cool that you can, it's not just about one or the other, like, being where you're from, but being able to, like, give your children this robust understanding of, like, we come from more than just, like, our neighborhood. Yeah. And, you know, the immediate people that you know by name and firsthand. You know, there's a whole train of people that have come before us, and we have inherited things from them. I think that's really lovely.

Hanni Go [00:14:54]:

Yeah. It's been a definitely a journey. And being in full time ministry, my husband worked, specifically focusing on ethnic minority students for a lot of years, and so that also was a journey of, you know, hearing other people's stories and then, really caused me to wrestle with, you know, what it what it means to be a white person in America. And it wasn't until I started to understand my own ethnic background, that I I I showed up to the table a little differently. So, yeah, I think it's important for us to know where we come from, and there were some very specific even cultural things. I won't go into the specifics, but there's something called I I don't know how you pronounce it, but Jontay law, which anyone in Scandinavia would know what it is. It's basically a bunch of rules, like, I will not be better than anybody.

I can't even remember all of them. There's 10 of them, but they're very, like basically, don't stand out. Don't think you're better than anyone. And when I read that and studied that, I realized how much that that is totally how my family is. And, you know, because my kids are pretty great and we homeschool, like, I get complimented all the time on how wonderful my kids are, and I sometimes, like, oh my, my kids are you know? Then they are sinners just like everybody else. But it's like, I don't wanna stand out or don't want people to whatever, and so I've had to kind of wrestle with, oh, yeah. This is actually really impacted me, but I would not have known that if I had not studied kinda my own culture and how that impacts us. And we all have that, even if we don't know it.

Rachel Winchester [00:16:30]:

Yeah. Wow. That's really fascinating. Well, I feel like we could talk forever. Yes. But

Hanni Go [00:16:36]:

Yeah. We will

Rachel Winchester [00:16:37]:
cut it off.

Hanni Go [00:16:37]:
Sounds good.

Rachel Winchester [00:16:39]:
Save the rest for another time, but I really appreciate you talking with me today.

Hanni Go [00:16:43]:
Yeah. Thanks so much. It's been a lot of fun.

Rachel Winchester [00:16:45]:
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.