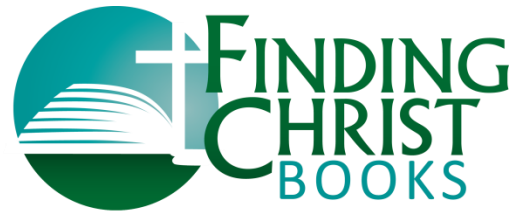


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Removing the Rocks from your homeschooling backpack

What rocks are in our homeschooling backpacks, and what are their consequences on our families?

- Rock #1: You need to do this program because your homeschooling friends are doing it, and they say it is great!
 - Learning Styles
 - Value is in the Lord
 - Their Passion/Your Passion

- Rock #2: You cannot skip any subjects and must finish all of them every day, even if it means doing school until bedtime or on the weekend.
 - Resentful Children, Anger
 - Unrealistic expectations
 - Too much to do
 - Let your kids be kids
 - Planning time, Family Time
 - Your friendships
 - "Sightings"

- Rock # 3: You have to do the program exactly as it says.
 - "Thinking outside the box"
 - Meeting the needs of your child.
 - Freedom.

- Rock #4: I have to do things based on what the books say that every child should be learning in a specific grade.
 - Public School?
 - Frustration
 - Overwhelmed
 - Not there yet

- Rock #5: You start doing extra subjects because your non-homeschooling friends or family start asking questions of your children.
 - Fear of Man

- Rock #6: You do several different programs of subjects just so that you don't miss anything.
 - Hating School
 - Limited Time

- Rock #7: If I don't do these programs, my children may not be able to go to College or be successful in life.
 - Control
 - What is most important?
 - Beauty from ashes
 - Be an example of Christ

- Rock #8: My homeschooling day should look like my friend's homeschooling day
 - Fear of Man rock.
 - Stress
 - Different Situations

- Rock #9: The professionals know better so I need to school the way they suggest.
 - Different Learning Style
 - Dependence on the Lord

- Rock #10: You don't have time for anything but reading, writing and math. It's all about the Academics and your kids being the best.
 - Training up our Children

How can we remove these rocks or keep these rocks out of our homeschooling backpacks?

- Pray.
 - Spouse
 - Different Children/Different plans
 - Keep praying

- Get to know the learning styles of your children
 - Read books
 - Cynthia Tobias: *I Hate School: How to Help Your Child Love Learning, Every Child Can Succeed, and The Way They Learn.*
 - Start to study your child

- Plan ahead for your school year.
 - What is it you need to get done and when are you going to do it?

- Have this general idea above planned out before you go to the convention

- Don't overplan

- Don't depend on *What Every Child Should Know in Grade _____*.

- Don't jump "on the bandwagon" when everyone you know starts doing the newest thing—"fad".

- What to look for in a program/subjects for your family or individual children:
 - Can you group children together?
 - Does it fit your children's learning styles?
 - Does it fit your learning style?
 - Will it develop a love for learning in your children?
 - Is it too much information for each week?
 - Can you do it over 2 years instead of the "required one"?

- Be willing to change if something is not working.

- You can take a program you are already doing and change it to fit your children and your goals. Be willing to think outside the box.