

HOMESCHOOLING
*Learning from the Past with a
Vision for the Future* **Today**



Homeschooling Helper

from the editors of *Homeschooling Today*® magazine
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Win a Trip to Narnia!

Homeschooling Today magazine and Walden Media are giving away movie tickets to the upcoming feature film, [The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe](#).

We will be giving away 4 sets of tickets to 20 families across America! We will draw 5 names each Friday until the opening, December 9th!

If you would like to be in the drawing, send your name, address and phone number to contests@homeschoolingtoday.com



Visit [Books on the Path](#) for our exciting Narnia products!

Sacrificial Parenting

by Terri Fisher

Parenthood is a challenge! It is easy to get lost in the endless daily list - laundry that never seems to be washed and folded at the same time, the repetitive meal preparation, diapers, sick children, lawn care, house care - and miss the bigger picture.

I like to think of children like Russian nesting dolls; each layer looks similar, but there are nuances of difference as the layers deepen. What are our parental responsibilities for those many layers of childhood? How do we help our children develop their gifts and callings in the Lord?

It is difficult and involves parental sacrifice, laying down our lives to train up the next generation while, perhaps, putting aside our own desires or goals to provide opportunities for our children to move forward in new ways. This is what Christ did for each of His children; this is what we do for one another - spouse and children - in a daily sacrifice.

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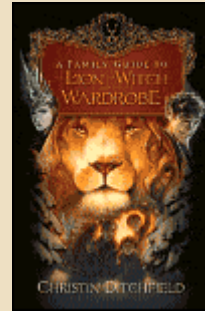
[A Family Guide to The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe](#)

Discover the story within the story in [The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe](#). Over the years, readers of C. S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia have realized that there is much more to these beloved books than talking animals, strange creatures, and powerful magic.

Shimmering just below the surface of the Chronicles are spiritual treasures: biblical parallels and truths just waiting to be gathered up and examined more closely. That's the purpose of this Family Guide.

\$7.99

Don't forget to invest in the [box set](#) or our beautiful [hardback edition](#) of the complete Chronicles! Reading these to your children will create many wonderful memories as well as building their faith!
\$25.99 for the box set and \$50.00 for the hardback edition



Parents bring a vulnerable, needy person into a large, complicated world. A baby's needs are simple, though a bit time-consuming - warmth and nourishment, clean diapers, a safe place to sleep, and unlimited love and affection. This is the stage when parents stimulate a child's senses, encouraging him to learn and explore the world God has so beautifully made. This happens through everything baby sees, hears, tastes, smells, and touches. God created all these senses, so we must use these channels to stimulate our child's learning process.

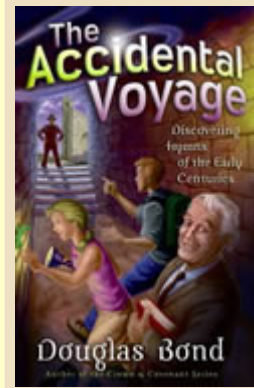
Color stimulation from pictures, clothing, and toys; a world filled with beautiful music; nourishment at the breast and textures in his food are all rich experiences for a baby's development. Talk to your baby throughout the day; read aloud to him, enveloping him with the rhythms of our language. Pay attention to what your baby takes pleasure in; it could be a clue to a future strength or interest. All these are building blocks for your child's future.

As baby blossoms into childhood, the layers deepen and our emphasis shifts from stimulation to education. There is more to life than soaking in all the textures, colors, tastes, sights, and sounds, although we should never cease to appreciate those. Now our child must begin to categorize, organize, and process all this information. He needs to learn to attach the various colors to their appropriate names, the sounds of speech to the symbols we call letters, and the sounds of musical notes to the instruments making them.

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[The Mr. Pipes Adventures!](#)

If there is one thing our children are missing in many churches today, it is an appreciation of the hymns of the faith! Doug Bond, author of the inspiring [Crown and Covenant](#) series, has developed a wonderful collection of adventures that introduce this great legacy. If you want your children to know more of the richness of hymns, consider these books this Christmas!



Be observant as all this is taking place. What strengths do you see in your child, and what special interests? Does he love to make bold strokes with paint or perhaps tell long stories with great imagination and flourish? Maybe the insect world is all he thinks about. Whatever it is, encourage it! Like the layers of paint applied to a masterpiece, you are applying layers of experience.

As your child grows in body, mind, and spirit, the nesting doll will reveal several new layers. There is a movement from childhood to youth, and youth develop passions! It is a very exciting time of life, but this stage can take enormous amounts of time, energy, and personal sacrifice on your part. There will be different types of sacrifice for different types of children. It may be a sacrifice of time and financial resources. Sometimes it will be a sacrifice of an older child's assistance at home to allow him to develop and pursue the gifts God has placed in him. All things must be kept in balance, but we parents are asked to lay down our lives in time, example, and resources for our children.

Youth is a time to inspire! For many youth, nighttime is the time they want to talk. You only thought that you were done with losing sleep when your little one slept through the night! But now, when the house is silent and most of the family is asleep, you can really get to heart issues with your youth. Get out the coffee, tea, or cocoa and listen. (Yes, you will have dark circles under your eyes the next morning.)

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[Teach a Child to Walk!](#)

The [Walk-O-Long](#) is a tool to safely lift, hold, balance, and provides self-confidence for young toddlers. This fun tool is a u-shape plush roll that fits around a toddler and fastens with a snap buckle. The simple yet innovative invention, endorsed by orthopedic surgeons, chiropractors, physical therapists and delivery nurses, allows a parent to easily lift a child, teaching balance and coordination. It is also appropriate for use with special needs children. The [Walk-O-Long](#) is available in washable pink and blue Hawaiian print, solid pink and blue micro suede, and zebra and cheetah faux fur. \$24.95. For information, call 866-522-2452 or visit www.thewalkolong.com.



Find out your children's passions, the driving forces in their thinking, and where the Lord is leading them. You, their parent, can provide the opportunities to inspire their passions. This freedom is one of the greatest gifts and advantages of homeschooling: our children don't have to wait to begin the pursuit of their vocation!

There are many examples of how this may play out for you and your family, and I can tell you from our experience that it does work and it is worth it! All four of our children had specific areas of interest.

Through our investment of time, resources, and often our own labor, our children were able to develop skills and gain experiences that proved formational to their callings.

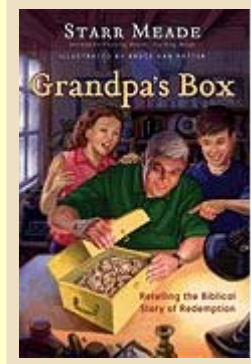
For our youngest sons, this meant learning filmmaking at a young age. They felt a strong calling to this field. Because most of the reading material in this area has some inappropriate content, my husband sacrificed time to edit the books that had good instruction and to preview movies when they were young teens. They are now responsible for their own reading and viewing. We certainly do not want to keep our offspring in a perpetual state of dependency or immaturity. Continual protection from the temptations that all adults face only encourages failure when tests come. Discernment needs exercise. We continue to invest our time and energy by helping with educational opportunities for our grown sons and others in the area of filmmaking.

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Grandpa's Box

Learn with Marc and Amy as Grandpa shares his stories of the great war we are all fighting. See how his special box of wooden carvings illustrates the wonderful stories of the Bible.

Starr Meade, the author of the popular [Training Hearts, Teaching Minds](#), takes children to a deeper understanding of God's plan of redemption told throughout all of Scripture. Each chapter emphasizes what we learn about God, not just what we learn about individual characters in the Bible.



Parents often feel that the road is long and almost never-ending at the beginning of the journey. Our strength seems too little, our patience too weak, our selfish nature too strong. But with God's grace and mercy, Christ calls us to follow His sacrificial example, trusting that as we lay down our lives, he will bless our children with the strength and vision for their calling in service to the kingdom of Christ . Isn't that our parental desire?

Terri is the wife of Mark Fisher , mother of four grown children, and grandmother of six. She loves learning as well as teaching and looks forward to a lifetime of it. The Fisher family resides in San Antonio, Texas.



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