

CHAPTER 1
RENEWING YOUR MIND
PREPARE TO BUILD

As you were growing up and receiving an education, you were taught in certain ways, using systems and procedures that you eventually assumed to be the “correct way” to teach and evaluate students. Public schools teach using the curriculum of the state; that is, subjects that can be evaluated through national achievement testing. As a child, you might have been allowed to pray in school, but Bible or spiritual training was not a part of the state’s curriculum. This “measurable academics only” approach is based on Greek philosophy. Today’s parents generally believe that achievement testing is the only or the best way to assess a child’s development and educational advancement. The purpose of this book is to show you what your child needs to know to be prepared for life, which is different from basic academic skills.

An old story illustrates how easy it is to be conditioned into a wrong thinking pattern. A husband asked his wife why she always cut off the end of the rump roast before roasting it. She replied, “I’m not sure why. I’ve never thought about it. My mother always cut off the end of the rump roast, so there must be a reason.” A few weeks later Mother visited the family. The man asked his wife’s mother, “We were wondering, why do you always cut off the end of the rump roast before you roast it?” She replied, “I don’t know. I have never thought about it. My mother always cut off the end of the rump roast, so there must be a reason.” This made them all curious. They decided to call the wife’s mother’s mother—the grandmother—to ask her. Grandmother answered the phone. The husband asked her, “Your daughter, granddaughter and I were wondering, why do you always cut off the end of the rump roast before you roast it?” Grandmother replied, “Oh, my roasting pan was too small. I had to cut it off it for it to fit in the pan!”

Many of us have been conditioned to believe that “the state” has all the answers and that the state standards are made by a staff of very educated people. These educated people, chosen by the state, surely know more than parents know concerning what children need to prepare for life.

There are many good home-school books, support groups and workshops available to help re-condition (un-brainwash) parents who realize that the state system does not work. It does not do a good job of educating our children or evaluating our children—there are better ways. It is possible to train and educate our children while maintaining God-honoring perspectives.

Why do I think there are so many misled parents? For many years, I have presented a monthly workshop for parents interested in home education. Each session included a question-and-answer period. Even though the majority of the parents were considering

“Students in this country are being intellectually maimed by relativism in our classrooms. Because we have rejected moral absolutes, the curriculum has no central reference point to revolve around, and no foundation on which to rest. College-level courses have become a confusing blur because no one really knows what’s right and what’s wrong, what’s good and what’s bad.”

—Alan Bloom

“About 1.5 to 1.9 million children United States students (grades K through 12) were home educated in 2000-2001, and the number continues to grow.”

—Brian D. Ray,
National Home Education
Research Institute, NHERI

“During my eighty-seven years I have witnessed a whole succession of technological revolutions. But none of them has done away with the need for character in the individual or the ability to think.”

—Bernard M. Baruch,
Baruch: My Own Story, 1957

“Decency—generosity—cooperation—assistance in trouble—devotion to duty; these are the things that are of greater value than surface appearances and customs.”

—Dwight D. Eisenhower,
letter to Mamie Doud
Eisenhower, June 11, 1943

home education for religious reasons, the questions asked made it easy to determine that most parents have been indoctrinated with a “public school mentality.” These questions will be answered in Section II. For now, let’s look at the motives behind these questions.

The most frequently asked questions pertaining to teaching and evaluating home-schooled students are:

1. How do I find out if my child is required to take the achievement test?
2. How do I know if I am meeting state standards?
3. How do I know if the curriculum I am using includes everything on the Achievement Tests?
4. Shouldn’t I use textbooks, such as the schools use?
5. What about college?
6. What about algebra, higher math, and lab sciences?
7. How will Goals 2000, Outcome-Based Education (OBE), or the new national standards affect the achievement tests?
8. How do I know that the material I am using will prepare my child for life?
9. How do I motivate my child to learn?
10. What about grades?
11. How do I really know if I am doing enough?

It seems that the state has conditioned many parents to fear teaching their own children. Even the parents looking into teaching kindergarten or first grade at home fear they are not qualified to teach simple things such as the alphabet and basic addition. Of course, we all want our children to do the best they can do in all areas. But, what is the most important thing you can do to prepare your children for life? Teach him algebra, computer skills, writing skills? In all the workshops I have given I have heard the previous questions over and over.

But never once has anyone asked:

1. How can I find out what God’s will is for my child?
2. How do I determine my child’s God-given gifts?
3. How will I know if my child is saved?

4. What does the Bible say we should teach to our children?
5. How did godly men and women teach their children in Bible times?

Many people tend to view life as quartered: partly religious, partly educational, partly professional, and partly leisure-oriented. Yet, everything we do, regardless of occupation—home-maker, businessman, ditch digger, dentist—we should do unto our King. We should be praising and acknowledging Him in learning, work, recreation, and worship—in all things. In the same way, our children need to see their lives revolving around our King—their writing, reading, daily routine, studies, experiments, and friendships. We need to renew our minds—consider God’s ways first!

Before planning the school year, sit down and reflect. The Bible says that no one builds a tower unless they first consider what is necessary (Luke 14:28). The parable on the following few pages is an example of how tragic planning with the wrong focus can be.

BUILDING A HOME: A PARABLE

A man decided he wanted to build a house. It would not be just any house. He dreamed of a big, beautiful, luxury home. He wanted to build the most beautiful house in town.

He carefully thought about the basic building materials, the lumber, the plumbing, roofing, the bricks, and even the nails. He made a list of building materials he would need.

The man found out about a free government program that would help him build his house. He went to the state home builder’s office and filled out the proper forms. He was assigned a free set of blueprints, a state government builder, and a lot. The man was thrilled, for by going to the government he was able to save a fortune. He didn’t have to pay for the blueprints, the builder, or even the lot!

He met with the state builder and showed him his list of building materials. The builder exclaimed, “What a list! You’ve listed absolutely everything needed to build a spectacular home! I’ve never seen someone so well prepared. You have everything from chandeliers to the sewage pump.” The builder added, “I have just the right tools to build your home. This will be a fine house.”

“Let us look forward to the time when we can take the flag of our country and nail it below the Cross, and there let it wave as it waved in the olden times, and let us gather around it an inscribed for our motto: ‘Liberty and Union, one and inseparable, now and forever,’ and exclaim, Christ first, our country next!”

—Andrew Johnson

“With the National public school system under humanist control, and our nation’s public school under similar control, it is obvious to anyone who can see that, under the guise of secularization, the humanists have created the most powerful and pervasive government-funded establishment of religion that has ever existed in the United States.”

—Jay Rogers, Director,
Media House International,
*A Brief History of
Christian Influence in U.S.
Colleges*

“...We must ask how we can kill the god of Christianity. We need only to insure that our schools teach only secular knowledge. If we can achieve this, god would be shortly due for a funeral service.”

—G. Bozarth,
promoting the religion of
humanism

“The shrewd guess, the fertile hypothesis, the courageous leap to a tentative conclusion—these are the most valuable coins of the thinker at work. But in most schools guessing is heavily penalized and is associated somehow with laziness.”

—Jerome Bruner,
The Process of Education,
1960

“I am convinced that the battle for humankind’s future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as proselytizers of a new faith: a religion of humanity... These teachers must embody the same selfless dedication as the most rabid fundamentalist preachers, for they will be ministers of another sort, utilizing a classroom instead of a pulpit to convey humanist values in whatever subject they teach, regardless of the educational level - preschool day care or a large state university. the classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and new - the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with all its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism, resplendent in its promise of a world in which the never-realized Christian ideal of ‘love thy neighbor’ will finally be achieved.”

—From an article in
The Humanist titled
“A New Religion
for a New Age”

Finally, the house was built, and it was truly a magnificent home made with the very best of tools and building materials.

The state building inspector came to check the home. The building inspector was in awe. He said, “You have a fine home. It is beautiful. You have the very best of all the building materials. Your home is in the top ninety-ninth percentile compared to other homes in this area. Your house has passed the state’s standards.” The man moved into his new beautiful home.

One day the man and his wife were eating dinner. His wife complained that the doors and windows would not shut. Even the beautiful hand-made kitchen cabinet doors would not shut. As they were talking, it started to rain. It wasn’t a fierce storm, but it started raining very hard. The man noticed a crack in the wall. He got up to look at the crack and saw another crack in the ceiling. Just then, a few bricks fell out of the fine custom fireplace. The man went into other parts of the house. The bathroom floors started to buckle. The base of the sink was coming out of the floor! The plumbing was backed up. The roof started leaking. The man didn’t understand why his beautiful house was falling apart. He called the building inspector. The inspector said he was not responsible for the house. The man called the state home builder’s office to get help. The woman who answered told him that they could only help if the man gave them the house. While he was on the phone, the water pipes burst and water poured into every room in the house. The carpets were soaked and the wood floors warped.

The man called his friends to help. A friend brought a truck to help the man save some of his furnishings. While they were moving the furniture into a truck, the electricity went out. The man was close to tears. He had no idea what was wrong with his home. His friend started looking through the house with a flashlight. He soon discovered the problem. He told the man, “This house has shifted. It has a weak foundation. It cannot survive this storm.” Before he could finish his sentence, the entire house crashed down around them.

The house was built on sandy ground. All the fine fixtures and furnishings—indeed, the entire house, was worthless. The man was very sad.

This parable parallels the building of a home to the training of a child. The fact that you bought this book indicates you are interested in building a home—training your child. I

know you have high goals and expectations for your home (child). The purpose of this book is to take the focus off the tools and materials and keep your focus on the:

- Builder
- Blueprints
- Foundation

The man in the story had a goal to build a fine house (raise a child). His focus was on what would make the house look good to the world (a successful, self-reliant student). The man took the easiest route to have the home built (state). It demanded no time or effort on the part of the man. There was nothing wrong with the basic building materials (knowledge) if the builder used them correctly (curriculum). The man did not know the builder, therefore the builder did not care about the man or the house. The builder used the state's blueprints (curriculum) to provide a foundation of sand (humanism). The man provided sound building materials, but the blueprints called for the builder to bend and distort these materials. The inspector (test examiner) compared the house to the other homes in the area. He focused on the surface results, not the foundation. This book may be able to point you in the right direction to keep your house (child) from destruction. With the right Builder, Foundation, and Blueprints, you can build a strong, fine home.

First you must get to know the right builder. An experienced builder who personally knows and cares for you will help you build a fine home. I know of a wonderful Builder. He is the architect who designed the Blueprints for the world's most stable home. He is known for providing the strongest foundation available, guaranteed to weather any storm. This home will last for eternity. The builder is God through His Holy Spirit leading you through life. The blueprints are the Bible, God's Word, giving instructions for every step of the process. The foundation is Jesus Christ, the Rock of Salvation.

God will provide the foundation and build the house as a free gift to you. You and your child only have to ask Him to take over. God expects you to provide the tools and He will show you the best materials for your home (academic training). He will use the materials wisely if, by faith, you allow God to shape the materials according to His will.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

(MATTHEW 7:24-27)



Photos of brand-new, fine house destroyed due to a bad foundation.

"In spite of God's urgent plea to protect and nurture the mind in accordance to His ways, millions of Christians separate the heart from the mind of their children by sending them to public schools. The reason many Christians allow this to happen is because they have a dualistic view of humans that goes back to ancient Greece and has lasted to this very day. Plato believed that man had a spiritual and material dimension and the two should not be combined. That is why Christians, even to this day, have departmentalized their Christianity. For example, the concept of 'going to worship' is based on Christianity being something we do rather than what we are. Surely we would not send our children to a state church on Sunday, where the god of humanism is served. Yet we do allow our children to go to the place of humanistic worship five days a week."

—Kevin J. Pierce,
Worldview Ministries

"Education is that which remains, if one has forgotten everything he learned in school."

—Albert Einstein,
Out of My Later Years, 1950.

"The papers today say that illiteracy has decreased. The more that learn how to read the less learn how to make a living. That's one thing about a little education. It spoils you for actual work. The more you know the more you think somebody owes you a living."

—Will Rogers,
The Autobiography of Will Rogers, 1949

	HOUSE ON THE SAND	HOUSE ON A ROCK
BUILDER	State	God
BLUEPRINTS	State Curriculum	Bible
FOUNDATION	Humanism, false gods	Jesus

The academic Check Lists in this book are only a list of basic building materials. You, the child's parent, must decide on the more important foundation and choose whom you want to build the house.

DEFINITION OF "EDUCATION"

A look at the different definitions of "education" from different sources can be quite revealing.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

This was the original dictionary by Noah Webster, reflecting the thoughts and values of the early American Christian culture.

EDUCATION, n. [L. education.] The bringing up, as of a child, instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts and science, is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties.

ED'UCATE, v.t. [L. educo, educare; e and duco, to lead.] To bring up, as a child; to instruct; to inform and enlighten the understanding; to instill into the mind principles of arts, science, morals, religion and behavior. To educate children well is one of the most important duties of parents and guardians.

To know what is meant by "religious education," one must examine the definition of the word, "religion."

RELIGION: 1. Religion, in its most comprehensive sense, includes a belief in the being and perfections of God, in the revelation of His will to man, in man's obligation to obey His commands, in a state of reward and punishment, and in man's accountability to God... 2. ...the performance of all known

duties to God and our fellow men, in obedience to divine command, or from love to God and His law. [The phrases “divine command” and “His law” are synonymous with what is contained in the Bible.]

God’s Word was an essential part of American education in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Three vital elements contained in the 1828 Webster definition were:

1. The future station (occupation or calling) of the child
2. Religious training
3. Parental responsibility

Compare the 1828 definition to that found in today’s Webster’s Dictionary (the name “Webster” was kept, but the new dictionaries bear no relation to Noah Webster):

Today’s Webster’s New World Dictionary

EDUCATION: 1. The process of training and developing the knowledge, skill, mind, character, etc., especially by formal schooling 2. knowledge, ability, etc. thus developed 3. formal schooling at an institution of learning 4. systematic study of the methods and theories of teaching and learning.

Today’s definition is totally void of the three principles listed in the 1828 Webster definition.

ONE THING IS NEEDFUL

When Martha was too busy preparing her home to learn from Jesus, He said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried about so many things, when there is *one* thing that is needful.” He was not saying that Martha should never tend to housework, just as we should not ignore the basic skills. But the basic skills are a fraction of a weight on a scale compared to what Jesus said is the *one* needful thing—sitting at His feet learning the paths of God—the *one* thing your child needs to prepare him for life!

Christians are commanded to be anxious for nothing. The achievement test and standards are only tools. Proper use of them will allow us to better evaluate our children—as long as we keep the right perspective.

“I’ll take the standards, warnings and solutions God gave to Moses or King David, King Solomon or the Prophets, over anything that Bill Clinton, Ted Kennedy or a pagan Supreme Court could ever offer.”

—Terry Randel

All education is indoctrination into a religious worldview, whether it be the true religion of Christianity, or any of the myriad false religions invented by men. All education is undergirded by presuppositions about the origin of the universe, the origin of man, the purpose of man, ethics governing relationships between men, and the continuing existence of the universe in an orderly and predictable manner. It is an inescapable fact that all of these basic assumptions are fundamentally religious. Therefore we must view the schoolroom as the place where children are indoctrinated into the religion of their society. The school is, in effect, a temple. The question which Christians in twentieth century America are late in asking is this: “Into what religion do the government schools educate our children?”

David Sant, *The Religious Nature of Education*,
Patriarch Magazine

"The humanism that is being taught in our schools, media, and intellectual circles will ultimately lead people to the Antichrist, because he will be the consummate figure of humanism."

—Pat Robertson, 1989

"Brainwashing is a system of befogging the brain so a person can be seduced into acceptance of what otherwise would be abhorrent to him. He loses touch with reality. Facts and fancy whirl round and change places. However, in order to prevent people from recognizing the inherent evils in brainwashing, the Reds pretend that it is only another name for something already very familiar and of unquestioned respect, such as education or reform."

—Edward Hunter,
Brainwashing

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF EDUCATION

The primary purpose of education should be to train the whole person for lifelong, obedient service, just as it was in Bible times (home was the center for education then). God never changes. He still has the same desire for us to know Him.

Our first goal must be to teach our children God's ways and His paths. We home schoolers cannot be so worried about fractions or spelling that we skip the one needful thing: sitting at the feet learning from our Master, through Bible study and prayer. We can prepare our children for whatever direction their gifts and talents lie; however, God may take your child in another direction. A Christian who is striving to find God's Will for his life will be equipped in the important traits, prepared for anything in life.

Knowing the facts and scoring high on achievement tests is not a formula for success. The education required by the state is not true education. Christians' questions should not be, "What score did she get on the achievement test?" or "What job or college is he prepared for?" The questions should be, "Is my child prepared to use the gifts and talents God has given her to carry out His Will in her life? Is this child seriously directed toward holiness, right relationships, and fruitfulness?"

WISDOM ACCORDING TO GOD

God's Word promises that wisdom can be attained by all who seek and follow it. Those who keep God's moral and ethical laws will be rewarded with long life, health, possessions, respect, security, and self-control (Proverbs 3:2-4).

This wisdom begins when man humbles himself before God in reverence and worship and is obedient to His commands. This is quite different from the Greek and American views of wisdom sought through philosophy and man's rationale as a way of explaining the mysteries of existence and the universe.

Christian wisdom appears to be foolishness to the people of the world. But it is wiser than the philosophy of this age, which comes to nothing. The foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. Wisdom is revealed through God and received through His Spirit. Christians have the highest and most complete wisdom in Christ.

For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:19-31).

REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING WISDOM

The requirement for wisdom is a desire to follow and imitate God as He has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ, without self-reliance and especially not in a spirit of pride: *A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction (Proverbs 1:5-7).*

The person who seeks wisdom diligently will receive understanding: *For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 2:6).* He will benefit in his life by walking with God: *That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous (Proverbs 2:20).*

FRUITS OF TRUE WISDOM

The fruits of wisdom are many, and the Book of Proverbs describes the characters of wisdom. In New Testament terms, the fruits of wisdom are the same as the fruits of the Holy Spirit. *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law (Galatians 5:22-23).* *But the wis-*

“...Suppose the child, the human being, is an evolutionary product, simply a more complicated animal, without a soul, especially without an immortal soul.... The end of man is doom, pitiless and dark. All the labor of the ages is destined to extinction and must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruins. Suppose on the other hand that God created man in His own image and breathed into him the breath of life, with the result that those redeemed by Christ shall glorify God and enjoy him forever.”

—Gordon H. Clark
Christian Philosophy of Education

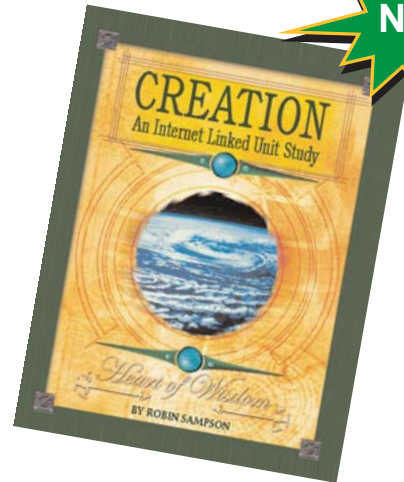
“A nationwide study using a random sample of 1,516 families from one organization’s membership, found home educated students to be scoring, on average, at or above the 80th percentile in all areas on standardized achievement tests. Note: The national average on standardized achievement tests is the 50th percentile.

The research findings are consistent that the home educated do equal to or better than conventional school students on achievement tests.”

—National Home Education Research Institute

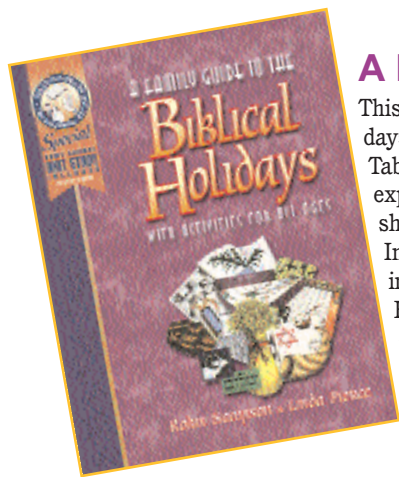
We hope you enjoyed the sample pages from Heart of Wisdom.

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Creation: An Internet Linked Unit Study

“This is more than a study of Creation --This is a study of Christianity versus humanism”This new unit study is a multi-level (grades 4-12) Bible focused, study utilizing the Charlotte Mason approach (living books, narration, etc.), lifestyle of learning methods, and the Internet! All Biblical doctrines of theology, directly or indirectly, ultimately have their basis in the book of Genesis. Therefore, a believing understanding of the book of Genesis is a prerequisite to an understanding of God and His meaning to man. **Price includes password Internet access** to updates, and links to hundreds of sites that correlate with the study.

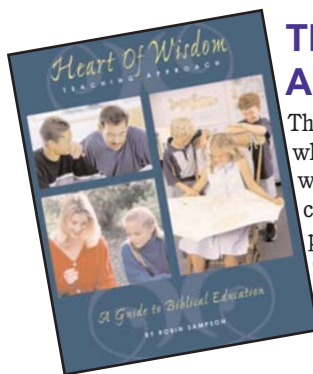
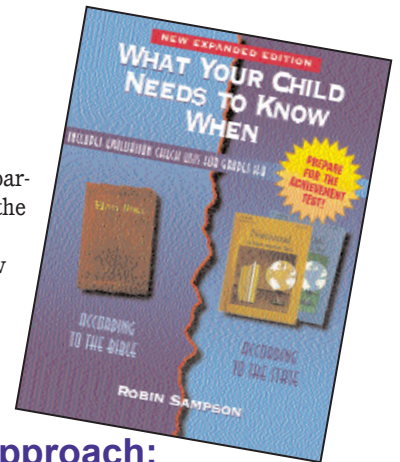


A Family Guide to the Biblical Holidays

This giant, 585-page telephone-size book gives an extensive look at the nine annual holidays: Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles, Hanukkah, Purim and the weekly holiday--the Sabbath! This book explains the historical, agricultural, spiritual, and prophetic purposes of each holiday, showing how each points to Christ and creative ways to teach them to your children! Includes projects, crafts, recipes, games, and songs for celebrating each holiday. Also includes instructions for a weekly Bible study and instructions using the Special Home School Section to incorporate the teaching of the biblical holidays with the academic school subjects! Excellent, fascinating information about the true New Testament Church and our Hebrew roots also included! ISBN 0-9701816-0-4. [Read Excerpts at BiblicalHolidays.com](http://BiblicalHolidays.com)

What Your Child Needs to Know When

Revised 2001. This is long-time homeschool best seller. Concerned homeschooling parents are always asking, "Am I doing enough?" This book is the answer. It includes the checklist for academic evaluation for grades K-8 and explains why children need to obtain not just academic knowledge but, more important, the Godly wisdom to know how to use the knowledge! Includes chapters on true Biblical education methods (compared to classical Greek) and the Heart of Wisdom teaching approach! ISBN 0-9701816-1-2. 312 p.



The Heart of Wisdom Teaching Approach: A Guide to Biblical Education

This book provides you with the methods, program, and resources for a 12-year course of study where students spend half the school day studying God's Word and the other half studying God's world (academics). Students study history chronologically and science in the order of the days of creation. This book will instruct you, step by step, how to give your child an Bible focused, comprehensive education from preschool through high school; one that will train him or her to read, to study, to understand, to love to learn and most importantly to desire and seek true wisdom. The Heart of Wisdom teaching approach is a beautiful, exciting blending of Bible first philosophy, the Charlotte Mason approach, Hebraic education, Delight Directed learning, 4 Step Lessons, and more.