

Making Time for Things that Matter

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A clear mission, focused goals, and good habits can help your days reflect your values.

Do less; do it better

- Have a focus for each day
- Plan less than you think you can do
- Plan in things that really matter
 - Prayer
 - Family dinner
 - Reading and reflection

Routines: Plan once; do forever

Automate important, but repetitive tasks

- Meal plan
- School day sequence
 - Example: Get school totes and drink; sit down; copy a verse; be ready to start school
- Home, yard, and auto care
 - Same time each week, month, year
 - Monday: wash day; etc.

Habits

Sow a thought; reap an act.

Sow an act; reap a habit.

Sow a habit; reap a character.

Sow a character; reap a destiny.

Master Planning

Hold regular planning sessions:

- Twice a year: big picture planning for family
- Weekly: Focus and outline, including errands and meals
- Daily planning routine sample:
 - Prayer
 - Morning glance at **weekly focus**
 - Choose **one top priority** for the day
 - Reflect on the virtue of the day (BF)

Lesson Planning

Plan lessons once month or once a semester, rather than once a week or on the fly.

- Once a semester: focus and outline
- Monthly: check progress with semester and yearly plans
- Weekly: focus, outline, checklists

Templates

Create templates for repetitive tasks.

- Time map
- Meal plan (calendar)
- Model-based writing process (Absorb, Consider, Transform, Create)
- Rubrics
- Home cleaning and maintenance (Flylady.net)

Order

Neat enough; clean enough.

- Bookshelves for books
- Totes or bins for school
- Store extra linens and cleaning supplies near where they are used.
- Store off-season items away from living space
- Put things back before dinner (BF)

“The sweetness of lips increases learning . . .”

Batching

Look for ways to do things in batches.

- Double a recipe and freeze
- Count out vitamins once a week
- Make a week or month of copywork at the same time
- Put away groceries in meal sets

Training

Create a system to help your children help you.

- Make training easy on yourself with a simple system, e.g. Servant of the Day or Zone Superintendent.
- Model what needs to be done
- Teach the details (VERY important)
- Make a checklist
- Ask; don't assume

“The mother who takes pains to endow her children with good habits secures for herself smooth and easy days.”

—Charlotte Mason

Grow in wisdom and virtue

Practice responding in ways that reflect the fruit of the spirit.

Model the virtues, attitudes, and life balance habits you want your students to cultivate.

Let your children see you reading, studying, and learning new things.

Have the art and music in your home reflect your highest values and remind you of your mission.

“Cease endlessly striving for what you would like to do and learn to love what must be done.”

—Johann Wolfgang Goethe

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

“For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:29-30

Resources

DoingWhatMatters.com (my blog)

Benjamin Franklin's planning model:
doingwhatmatters.com/simple-schedule-benjamin-franklin/

Laying Down the Rails: A Habit Training Guide
<https://simplycharlottemason.com/store/product-category/product-habits-parenting/>

Flylady.com (free emails to help you create household routines)