



The

# Mother's Heart

For  
MOMS with  
Hearts in their  
Homes

Give Hope

Issue #116  
Jan/Feb 2021

Power of a  
**DEADLINE**



# 2021

## HAPPY NEW YEAR HAVE A BETTER NEW YEAR

Foster/  
Adopt

The First Week



New Year  
Life Skills  
Microclimates  
Sew on Leather  
Adopt Shelter Dog

## Weekly Wakeup



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## Who We Are

We are the Wright family: **Mark** (daddy), **Kym** (mama), **LeShay**-’82, **Chantelle**-’84, **Brent**-’86, **Neal**-’89, **Kelsey**-’91, **Kaylor**-’93, **Morgan**-’94, and **Kaitlyn**-’95. There are eight children: 7 biological with 1 adopted.

Mark is an executive at a large corporation. Kym manages the home: home schooling, baking, gardening, sewing, painting, quilting. They used to live a fast life with both parents working. Kym had her own business as a Wardrobe & Image Consultant. She shopped for and with clients, helping them create the type of image they needed to succeed in their chosen profession. Following God's lead, she eventually closed the doors on her business, and came home to focus on her family. (Kym shares her story in Volume 1, issue #1.)

When writing or making a submission by mail, if you would like notification that we received it, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Or you may send letters and articles by e-mail to:

KymAWright@gmail.com

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PO Box 275  
Tobaccoville, NC 27050

God bless,

*Mark & Kym*

For the last few issues, we have included recent family pictures, for which I have not given credit. Let me take time to do so now.

Kevin Wright Photography is the studio, Kevin Wright took the pictures. He is Mark's brother. You can view his work at: [www.kevinwrightphotography.net](http://www.kevinwrightphotography.net)

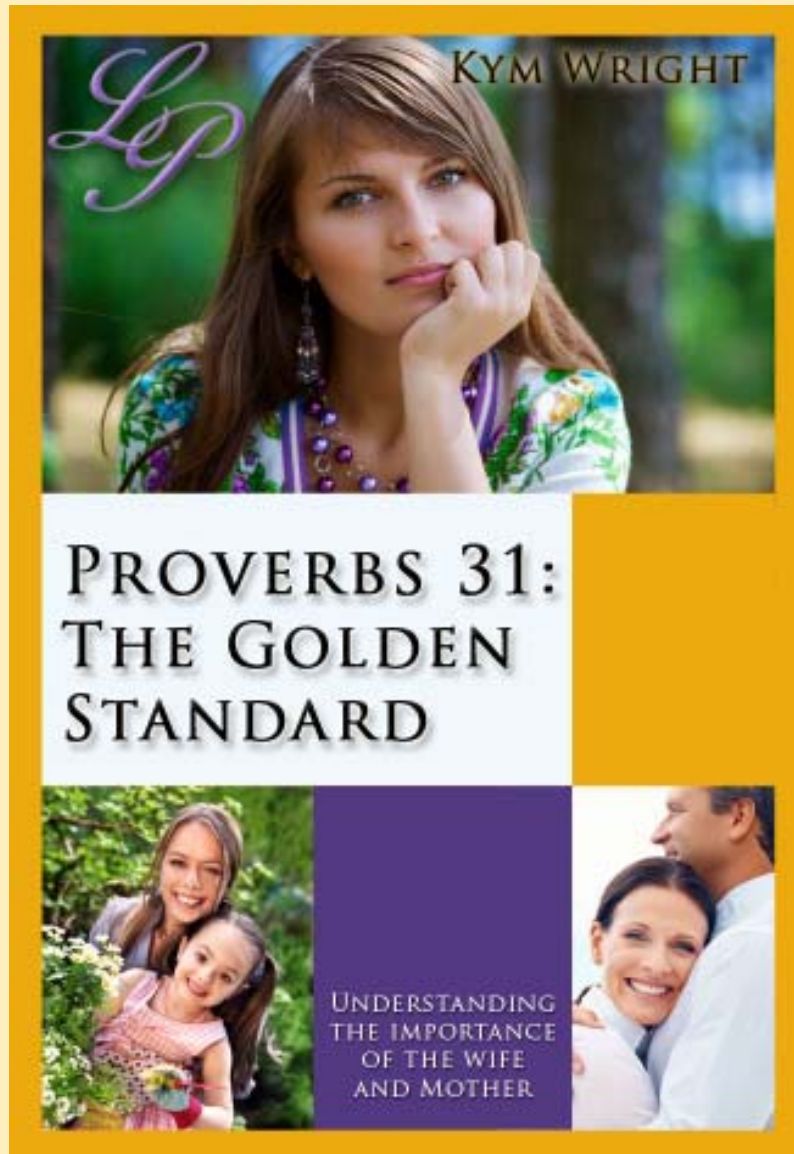


Statement of Faith: We are Christians, believing the Bible is God's Word, salvation comes through Jesus Christ alone, and that God has a wonderful plan for families as stated in His Word.

Photo: L-R: KB, Neal, LeShay (kneeling), Mark, Kym, Kelsey, Kaitlyn, Brent, Morgan, and Chantelle.

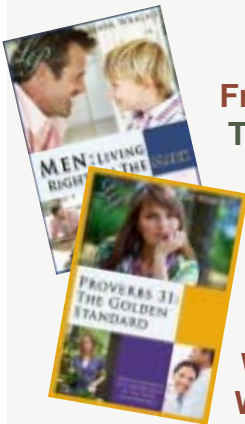


## The latest addition to the family



"Kym Wright is the most Proverbs 31 woman I know. She inspires me to live with joy and purpose, and to do many things well. Her example and advice have been invaluable to my wife and me." ~ Joel Kilpatrick

*Joel Kilpatrick's work has been featured in Time magazine, the Washington Post, USA Today, CBS Radio and the Dallas Morning News. He has authored and ghostwritten more than 40 books, including a 2007 New York Times bestseller. He is the founder of LarkNews.com, the world's leading religion satire website. In 2005, he received the Christian industry's top humor award during Dove Awards week.*



## DIALOGS

**Front Porch Swing**  
**The New Year** ..... 6

## INVITING GOD IN

**Weekly Wakeup with Kym Wright**

**Words & Meditations** ..... 10

*God's word clearly indicates we need control of our tongues and God gives His grace for us to accomplish His will. Let's choose amazing, uplifting words to say to our families and friends. Even in the heat of the moment.*

**Proverbs Makes wise Kids** ..... 16

*Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, shared our desire to fill our children's ears with easy-to-remember truths to guide their lives. Rather than depending on oral tradition, like my granny, he penned a book full of the practical truth God revealed to him. We know it as The Book of Proverbs.*

**Teaching Kids the Bible, Part 4** ..... 46

*With projects ranging from easy to challenging, this mother of eleven and former Montessori teacher presents ideas on how to make Bible truths memorable for children.*

**Hiding God's Word** ..... 102

*Let's continue teaching our children to memorize verses, passages, chapters, names of the books of the Old and New Testaments. Diligently, in ways they can comprehend and remember. This issue, we continue memorizing easy verses for even the youngest learners.*

## RELATIONSHIPS

**Family Time**  
**New Year, New Things** ..... 50

*What better time to begin a new hobby or activity, than with the new year? Let's explore some actual holidays for the months of January and February, and try to do some new things with our families. Making memories.*

**Valentines**  
**Family Valentine Traditions** ..... 68

*Have some fun and start some new family traditions for Valentine's Day.*

**Friends**  
**When Helping Doesn't Help** ..... 60

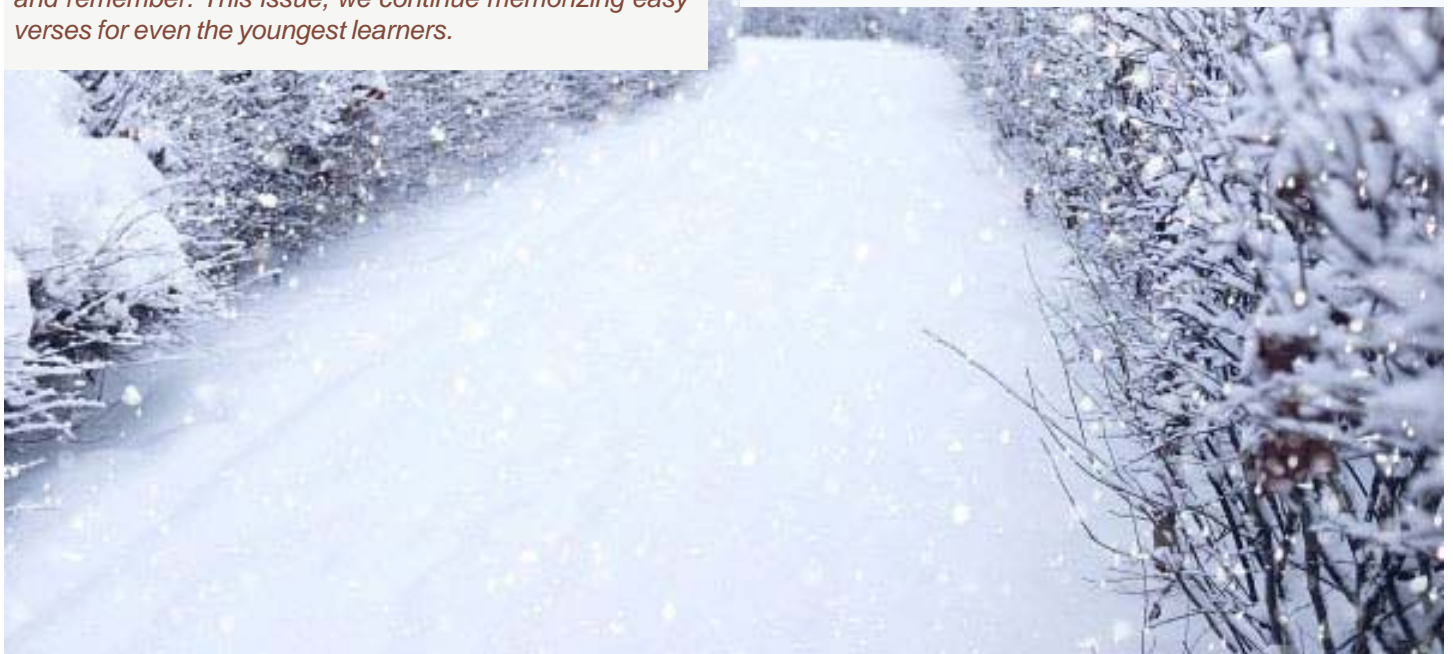
*We can deprive the blessing of serving others by insisting or assuming we are the only ones who can help. Learn more about making wise decisions concerning when and how to help others.*

**Give Hope** ..... 40

*Whenever a person experiences a setback, a crisis, a catastrophe – feelings of being emotionally overwhelmed and hopeless rapidly emerge. More than ever in their lives, people facing major challenges need emergency responders, individuals who come bringing with them the gift of hope. "Hope is necessary in every condition."*

**Foster/Adopt**  
**The First Week** ..... 38

*The Call has come, you've agreed to take in these children. You made it through the first day and night, and even into the second day. What's next?*



## EDUCATIONAL

### Loving your Little Gifts from God Teaching Life Skills ..... 30

*In addition to the three R's of schooling – Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic – what are you teaching your kiddos? What tools and life skills are you giving them today for the future? In this article, we look at some ideas from LeShay and her family, as well as some curriculum to help you navigate this part of the parenting journey.*

### Unit Yak Reptile vs Amphibian ..... 84

*What is the difference between a reptile and an amphibian? Or can you tell a difference? Find out in this short unit with lots of hands-on project ideas and FunSheets™.*

Reptile vs Amphibian	
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### Artist Mini Unit James McNeill Whistler ..... 94

*James Abbott McNeill Whistler was an American-born, British-based artist. His most famous painting is the iconic Whistler's Mother, the revered and oft parodied portrait of motherhood.*

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## HEALTH

### Kidz & Exercise ..... 24

*How does your family include exercise in your day-to-day lives? Why does this matter? In this article, we look at how the Millers move their bodies, keep active and why they make it a priority.*

### Special Treasures Running ..... 80

*Looking for a lifelong source of exercise for Morgan, we've tried many avenues. Finally, we found a way for him to stay active, that he really enjoys. With his long legs, he's made for running.*

## MENTAL HEALTHINESS

### Making Time Power of a Deadline ..... 64

*We can achieve so much more when we impose personal deadlines. Whether planning a project – whether research, writing, sewing, rug hooking or other area – if we will take the time to add a “target date” for completion, we will work harder to get that project finished on, or well before, time.*

## HOMESTEAD

### The Fuzzy Side Adopting a Shelter Dog, Part 1 ..... 72

*Have you and your family been contemplating adopting a new dog to add to your pack? Have you considered a rescue or shelter dog? In this first adoption installment, we look at the prep work before you find your new furry friend. We discuss family considerations, where to start with research and lead for search engines to connect with your new canine companion.*

### Microclimates: Know Your Land ..... 106

*Knowing the idiosyncrasies of your land will give you more success in growing gardens, orchards, vineyards and other plants and trees.*

### DIY: Do It Yourself Sewing on Leather ..... 108

*As more people are beoming DIYers (Do-It-Yourselfers), what was formerly left to the experts is now becoming familiar territory for the adventurous. Sewing on leather is an example. So, I share tips, tricks, resources and books to help you jump in and try!*

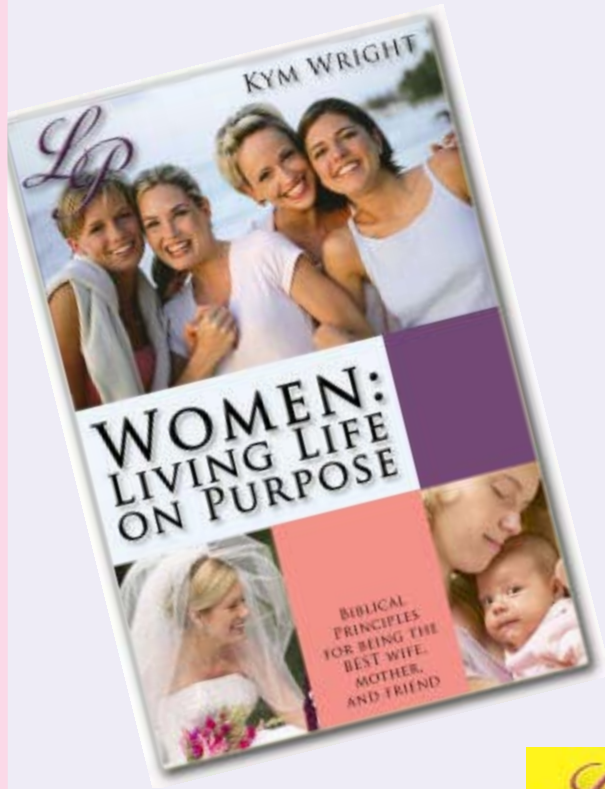


*Kym and Mark's father,  
Bob Wright.*


The start of a brand new year! Last year had some unforeseen challenges for all of us. May this year bring adventure, but not misadventure!


Well, Mark, Morgan and I all contracted COVID-19. We were sick, fatigued, and had the fever and chills. But, we didn't have to go to the hospital. We weren't on a ventilator. We only took over-the-counter medicines. And we were back to near normal in about 6 weeks. We are very grateful.

Has your family been hit by the coronavirus? Did you make it through okay? Mark's father did not fare so well. Due to a blockage, he had to have emergency surgery on Thanksgiving Day. All went well until he got COVID-19 at the hospital. At 86 years young, he was already having some breathing problems, so the virus sent him reeling. He





*LP Women Living Life on Purpose*

*LP Women Living Life on Purpose*  
I am now reading your book  
Thank-you!  
Kerry 

*LP Women Living Life on Purpose*  
I loved *Women: Living Life on Purpose*  
I have been waiting to read  
some more from you and your family. I am excited.  
Kelly Q. 

*LP Women Living Life on Purpose*  
I am now reading your book  
Thank-you!  
Kerry 

*LP Women Living Life on Purpose*  
I loved your magazine and study  
*Women: Living Life on Purpose*.  
God bless,  
Jenna 

*LP Women Living Life on Purpose*  
you certainly have a knack of  
inspiring others!  


lived for a bit more than a week, then went to be with the Lord, and his beloved wife, Mark's mother.

We know he was ready. We know he's in a better place. But it still hurts. We miss him. We'll miss gathering at his house for family visits. Sadness fills our hearts as we move into the new year.

Which brings me to this issue which is brimming with good information and tips for living a full and rich life.

LeShay is teaching life skills to her children and shares with us some about cooking and sewing. She also tells us about their exercise routine of walking, running, biking.

Another series she's started is adopting shelter animals. They're a bit different than starting with a young animal from birth, or soon after. They have baggage and a story. Sometimes it's hard to figure out their triggers. But, LeShay is researching and figuring a lot out for us.

Lori shares wisdom from her grandmother, and how the Book of Proverbs helps make wise children.

For Valentine's Day, we have some cooking recipes and ideas for making this a family celebration.

Julie helps us find some new hobbies for the new year.

And Karen keeps us focused on teaching our children the Bible - in ways they can understand.

Victor helps us give hope to others, while Juliana assists us in figuring out when helping really doesn't help.

A new column is the DIY - Do It Yourself. I share tips for sewing on leather. It's different from fabric, but is fun and turns out great.

I take you through the thought-process of the first week with fostering or adopting.

Special Treasures is about running and finding a suitable form of lifelong exercise for Morgan. Who knew his body was made for long runs?

In My Garden is about microclimates: what they are, how to find them, how to deal with them. Knowledge is power in this situation. It's worth figuring out your land for better growing success.

Reptile or amphibian? That's a tough one made easier with a few tips. A Unit Yak written for kiddos on telling the difference.

Whistler is the artist of the day. Enjoy his works and learning more about his art.

My favorite topic: Power of Deadlines! Research shows if we add a due date to our goals, we'll have a better chance of getting them done. I'm all for that!

The holidays are over. Life is getting back to normal. Let's gear up for the wintery months of January and February. If you tend to get a little down in these months, try making a plan to keep yourself moving forward.

I well remember the year I made some specific goals for *after* the holidays. Christmas is such a wonderful celebration of family and friends, and I plan for it all year long. Then January hits and I was unprepared for the let-down. Wiser me is now picking up my goal-setting and making sure I have things I'm looking forward to in the new year.

How about you? Do you have new goals for this year?

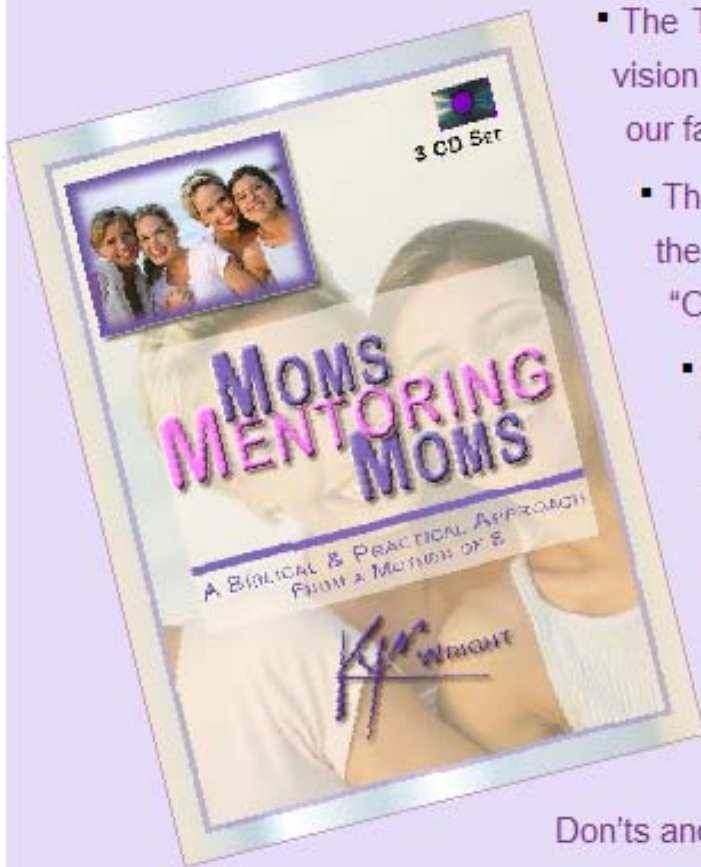
Love from our house to yours,  
*Mark, Kym & Kyds*



# MOMS MENTORING MOMS

Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.

Titus 2:3-5, NAS



- The Titus 2 verses give us women such direction and vision for our lives, showing us how we are to relate to our families and the way we are to behave.
- They also give great insight into our ministry. This is the portion of Scripture that sparks us to label it the "Older Women Teach the Younger Women" verses.
- But I've always just referred to it as *Moms Mentoring Moms*, since that's really what it's all about.
- This is where those of us older moms, or those with more experience, are encouraged, instructed and warned to act in certain ways and to teach these things to those younger than ourselves.
- These verses basically tell us the Do's, the Don'ts and Why of it.

- How do we live this?
- How can we practically reach out to other women and share?
- What do we share?
- In Titus, we learn our roles as younger and older women . . .



## Words & Meditations

Words are, of course,  
the most powerful drug used by mankind.

~ Rudyard Kipling

Then I want to be a first-class addict. Addicted to the powerful words of believing in others. Especially those in my immediate family.

How many times have I said words which belittle, discourage, undermine, or cut another deeply? And how much I have regretted it? Meanness does not come easy to me. I don't automatically think mean things about others. It doesn't roll off my tongue, like some are prone to.

Yet, there are some situations in which meanness slips right on by my lips. I'm tired. A child is unkind to a sibling. I'm facing the wrong side of my cycle. Spouse doesn't notice I've accomplished something I've worked on for a long time. And the words seem so easy to say.

I speak those things I mean in the moment, but later realize they are only *from* the moment – not from my heart.

But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not

achieve the righteousness of God.

*If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.*

James 1:19, 20, 26 NAS

I want to bridle this weapon I bear. To thrust it into its sheath, and close my lips. To be in control and unsheath it only to praise others. To speak words of kindness. To encourage and lift them up. To be a powerhouse of strength to them and their lives.

*So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. Behold, how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! . . . and sets on fire the course of our life*

James 3:5-6, NAS

My desire is to set on fire the direction of my children's lives with my tongue. To help them discover

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the gifts and abilities in them. To fill their ears and mind and heart with stupendous belief in themselves and God. To inspire greatness. To strengthen their view of who they are in Christ, and what they can accomplish with His help and blessing.

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.*

Ps 19:14, NAS

From one mother to another,

**Kym**

Oh, God, grant a blessing on the words I speak.

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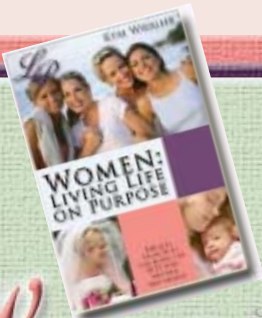
**New Book from Kym**  
"I searched for you like some good news" - my sorrowed and beloved husband for his little one. Without our help!

**New Speaking Series!**  
"I graduated Katelyn, the one who takes care of our babies, and we pulled our legs down to the same shelter. And from leg to leg about a smothered corner of our life is a bundle of empty love. Just recently from, we hurried, to the way far high were still shaky when she tried to stand or follow her own."

**The Mother's Heart is now available!**  
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# Bird Adventure!

by  
*Ker*  
WRIGHT



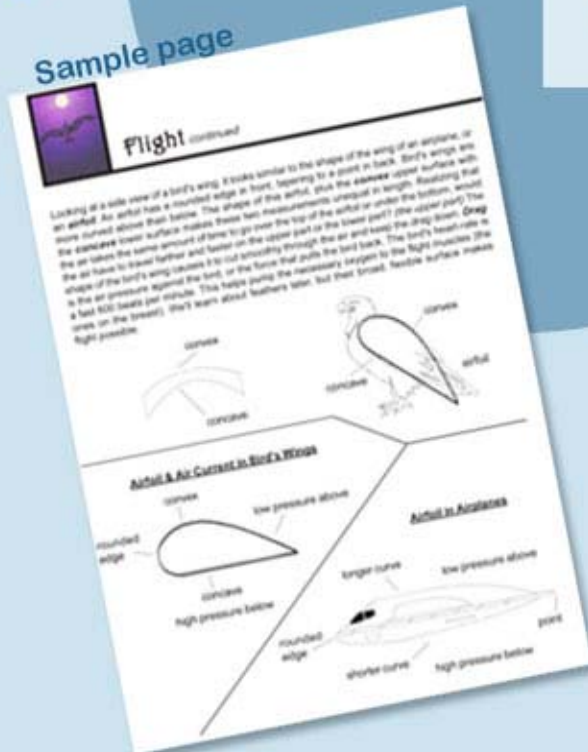
## Learn

- Bird identification
- Types of beaks & feet
- Anatomy
- Flight & migration

## Do

- Eggsperiments
- Incubate eggs
- Rubberize a bone
- Field trips & more

### Sample page



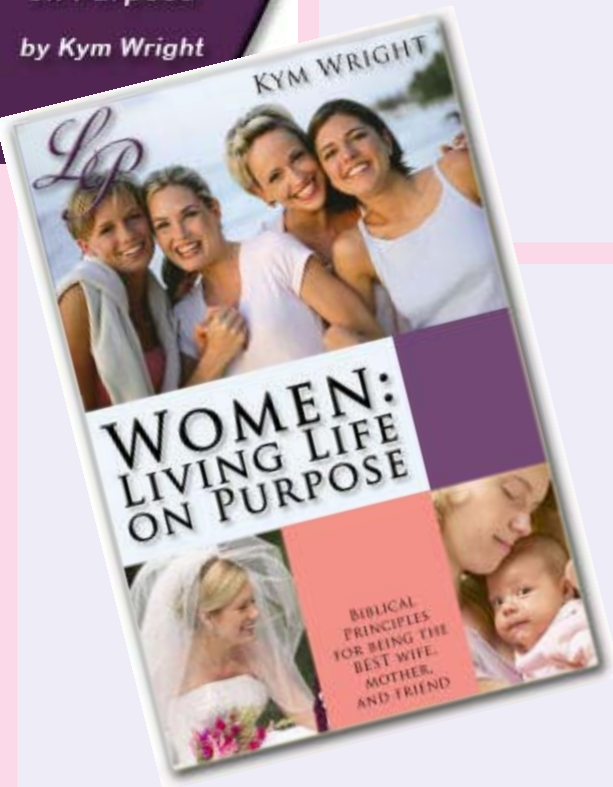
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*Lp*

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Living Life  
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has helped me to

keep the focus  
in the right place



Cecilia G

*Lp Women Living Life on Purpose*

I need to be reminded

to keep going  
keep being faithful



M, Mother of 8

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renew your vision

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# Microscope Adventure!

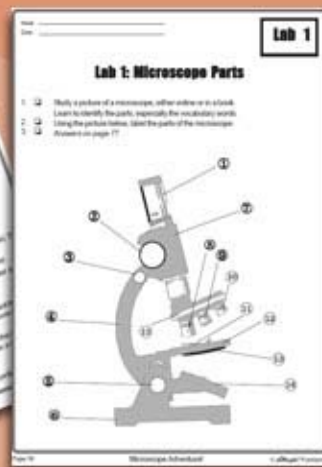
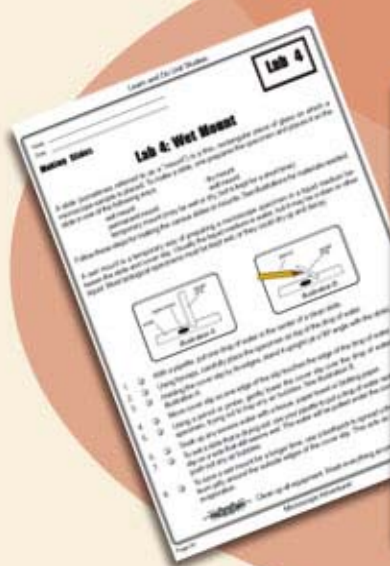
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**Learn**  
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Set-up & usage  
Focus & techniques  
Magnifications  
History

**Do**  
View plant cells  
Observe animal cells  
Grow water microbes  
Use stains & dyes

## Sample pages



Learn and Do

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# Proverbs *makes* Wise Kids



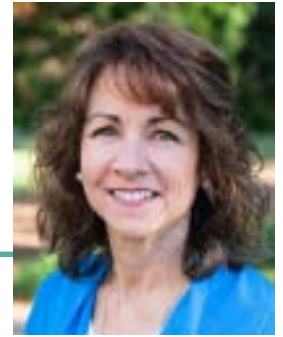
**My grandmother was a treasure trove of wisdom. A combination of life experience and quirky humor, her no-nonsense approach to life taught me much. Even now, more than a decade after she passed, I still find her words coming out of my mouth.**



## Lori Hatcher

Lori Hatcher is a 17-year homeschooling veteran and the author of [Refresh Your Faith, Uncommon Devotions from Every Book of the Bible](#). A women's ministry speaker, she enjoys helping busy women connect with God in the craziness of everyday life. She loves long walks, chocolate covered almonds, and sunshine. She and her pastor husband live delightfully close to their four grandchildren in Lexington, South Carolina. Connect with her at [www.LoriHatcher.com](http://www.LoriHatcher.com).

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“A penny saved is a penny earned,” (immediately followed by) “No, you can’t have that.”

“Don’t burn the candle at both ends,” (when she thought I was studying too much), usually accompanied by, “You’ll ruin your eyes.”

“Cleanliness is next to godliness,” (usually when she was scrubbing behind my ears).

Eighteenth-century preacher Charles H. Spurgeon wisely observed, “The voices of childhood echo throughout life. The first learned is generally the last forgotten.”

As Christian parents, we want the voices of our children’s childhood to be infused with godly wisdom and insight. Far more than worldly wisdom and experience, God’s truth overflows with spiritual insight and a depth of knowledge we cannot obtain apart from His revelation.

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, shared our desire to fill our children’s ears with easy-to-remember truths to guide their lives. Rather than depending on oral tradition, like my granny, he penned a book full of the practical truth God revealed to him. We know it as The Book of Proverbs. On its pages Solomon weighs in on the topics of values, moral behavior, human life, and right conduct.

God inspired Solomon’s treasure trove and preserved his wisdom down through the ages. Like our spiritual forefathers and mothers who used the book of Proverbs to guide their children’s spiritual education, we, too, can use it as the foundation of our teaching.

Listen to Solomon’s motive for writing the book of Proverbs:

“The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, to re-

ceive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion” (Proverbs 1:1-4 NKJV).

Isn't this exactly what we want our children to learn? Wisdom, justice, judgment, equity, prudence, knowledge, and discretion. O Lord, may it be so in our children's lives!

## Tips for Incorporating Proverbs into Your Family's Life

You may wonder how to incorporate the wisdom of Proverbs into the daily rhythms of your family life. Here are five tips:

**1. Choose a proverb of the week.** Write or print the verse and place it in easy-to-see spots around the house. On the bathroom mirror or refrigerator, at the dinner table, or in the car. Each day, whenever your family gathers, read the proverb three times. After a day or two, take turns trying to recite it. You'll be surprised at how quickly you learn it simply by reading it and hearing it every day. My family used carpool time to work on Scripture memorization.

**2. Use a proverb as a conversation starter.** Ask questions: What do you think this means? Can you think of a situation where this might be helpful? Have you ever experienced this? Can you think of a time when you didn't follow this principle? What happened? Remember, we want our children to learn to apply God's Word to their lives, not just obtain head knowledge.

**3. For young children, teach a proverb through song.** Pair it with a familiar tune and sing it a few times each day. Music makes memorization so much easier. And when a tune gets stuck in someone's head, it can play for hours. How powerful would it be to have a scripture memory tune playing all day long in our children's heads?

**4. Supplement with a children's book focusing on Proverbs.** One of my favorites is *Wonder & Wisdom, Everyday Reminders from Psalms and Proverbs*. A follow up to the *Tiny Truths Illustrated Bible*, *Wonder and Wisdom* contains daily readings



from two books not usually included in most illustrated Bibles. This resource is perfect for children aged 4 - 8 years.

Other Proverbs-based books are *God's Wisdom for Little Girls* (Ages 4-7), by Elizabeth George, based on Proverbs 31, *God's Wisdom for Little Boys*, by Jim and Elizabeth George, (ages 4-7), *A Light on the Path: Proverbs for Growing Wise* by L.J. Sattgast; and *Pearls of Wisdom: Stories Based on the Book of Proverbs from the Bible*, by James Samuel.

**5. Use Scripture memory games to make memorization fun.** Check out these websites for creative ideas: [12 Seriously Fun Memory Verse Games](#), [13 Creative Bible Verse Memory Games and Activities for Kids](#), and [19 Memory Verse Games –Make Scripture Stick](#).

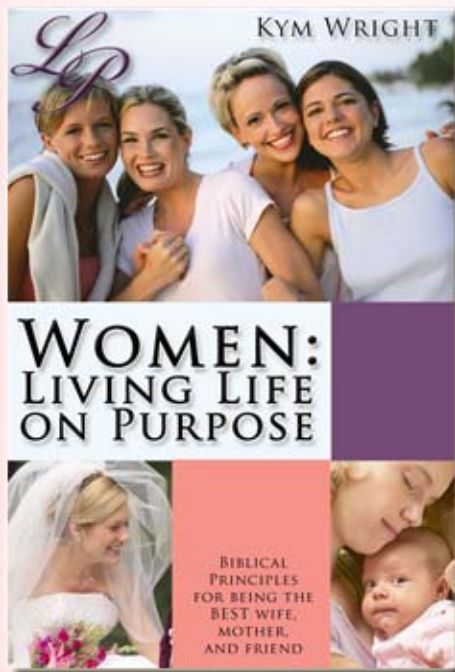
I'm Convinced! What Next?



# Curriculum



# Women: Living Life on Purpose



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# The Mother's Heart Magazine



# CD Sets Living Life on Purpose



Hopefully by now you recognize the value of infusing your family with wisdom from the book of Proverbs. Now that you're convinced, you may be unsure where to begin. There are, after all, 915 verses in this powerful book. (Sounds like the assignment of a lifetime.)

Conveniently, Proverbs contains 31 chapters, so many adults read a chapter a day in their devotional time. From their reading, they choose a favorite verse to spotlight during family devotions. If you'd like a quick start, however, here are fifteen of my favorite proverbs.

### 15 Favorite Proverbs for Children (and the Adults Who Love Them)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Proverbs 4:23:

A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. Proverbs 11:25 (NIV)

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise. Proverbs 12:15

Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will increase. Proverbs 13:11

He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed. Proverbs 13:20

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1

A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24

Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls. Proverbs 25:28

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold. Proverbs 22:1

A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back. Proverbs 29:11

### Proverbs-Based Resources

- [\*Wonder & Wisdom, Everyday Reminders from Psalms and Proverbs\*](#) by Joanna Rivard
- [\*God's Wisdom for Little Girls\*](#), by Elizabeth George
- [\*God's Wisdom for Little Boys\*](#), by Jim and Elizabeth George
- [\*A Light on the Path: Proverbs for Growing Wise\*](#) by L.J. Sattgast
- [\*Pearls of Wisdom: Stories Based on the Book of Proverbs from the Bible\*](#), by James Samuel

#### Bible Memory Idea Websites

- [12 Seriously Fun Memory Verse Games](#)
- [13 Creative Bible Verse Memory Games and Activities for Kids](#)
- [19 Memory Verse Games –Make Scripture Stick.](#)

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Proverbs 4:23

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty. Proverbs 21:5

Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him. Proverbs 26:4

As a child, I learned much from my precious granny. When I became a Christian, I learned about a source of wisdom even greater than hers. Solomon captured some of this wisdom in the book of Proverbs. We can trust the entirety of the Bible—and the Holy Spirit—to teach us the rest.

As Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, when we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, He'll fill our lives with everything we need to help our children grow up wise. As you begin this new year, I hope you'll incorporate the timeless teachings from the book of Proverbs into your family life. May God richly bless you as you rear your children in the Lord.

# Photography Unit

## Learn & Do Units

Lesson Plans  
Literature  
History  
Hands-On

**Learn**

- Camera types & parts
- Digital camera usage
- Lens types & film
- Focus point & lighting

**Do**

- Compose photos
- Photograph children & adults
- Try special effects & more
- Create silhouettes
- Group shots

4th grade & up

Order online at: [www.learn-and-do.com](http://www.learn-and-do.com)



[www.Learn-and-Do.com](http://www.Learn-and-Do.com)

[www.TheMothers-Heart.com](http://www.TheMothers-Heart.com)

# Spiders Unit

All Ages

## Learn and Do Unit

**Learn**

- Spider species
- Diet & life cycle
- Habits & habitats
- Anatomy

**Do**

- Observe in the wild
- Memorize anatomy
- Dissection
- Compare web types
- View spider's claw

Order online at: [www.learn-and-do.com](http://www.learn-and-do.com)

[www.Living-Life-on-Purpose.com](http://www.Living-Life-on-Purpose.com)

# Volunteer Unit

## Learn & Do Units

Lesson Plans  
Literature  
History  
Hands-On

**Learn**

- Volunteers in history
- Why volunteer
- How & where
- Organize a group

**Do**

- Personal assessment
- Organization research
- Build a resume
- Earn credit
- Congressional Awards

Order online at: [www.learn-and-do.com](http://www.learn-and-do.com)

# Women Living Life on Purpose

*Lp*

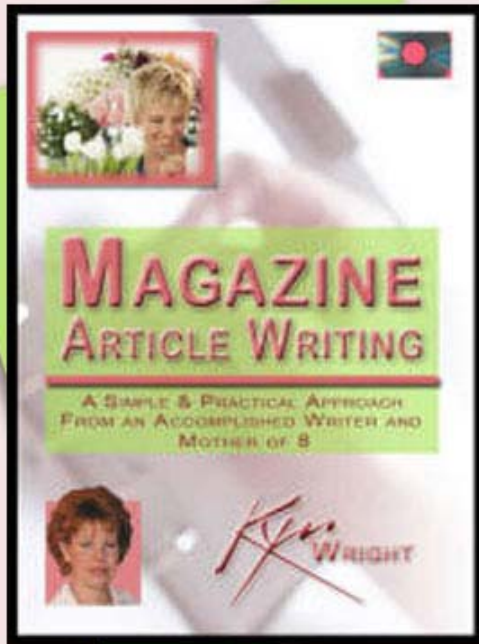
**WOMEN: LIVING LIFE ON PURPOSE**

\$19.<sup>95</sup> [www.Living-Life-On-Purpose.com](http://www.Living-Life-On-Purpose.com)  
~~\$25.95~~ for one year of Mommy Primer

presents

# Magazine Writing

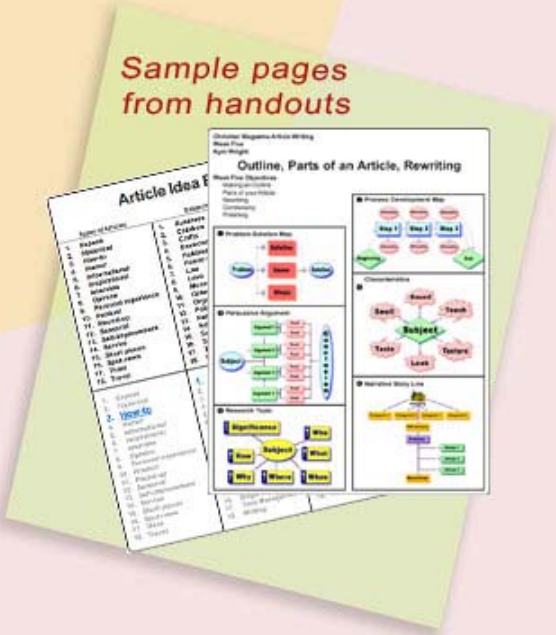
by *Kyr* WRIGHT



Let the story inside you become a blessing to others

In this 6-CD set you'll learn how to get published.

- ♦ Interesting ideas and angles for articles
  - ♦ Suitable markets for articles
  - ♦ Match your ideas to markets
  - ♦ Ways to research articles
  - ♦ Irresistible query letters
- ♦ Market your ideas or articles
  - ♦ Structure your articles
  - ♦ Submit your articles
  - ♦ Copyright laws
  - ♦ Get published



[www.Learn-and-Do.com](http://www.Learn-and-Do.com)

# Floral Adventure!



## Learn

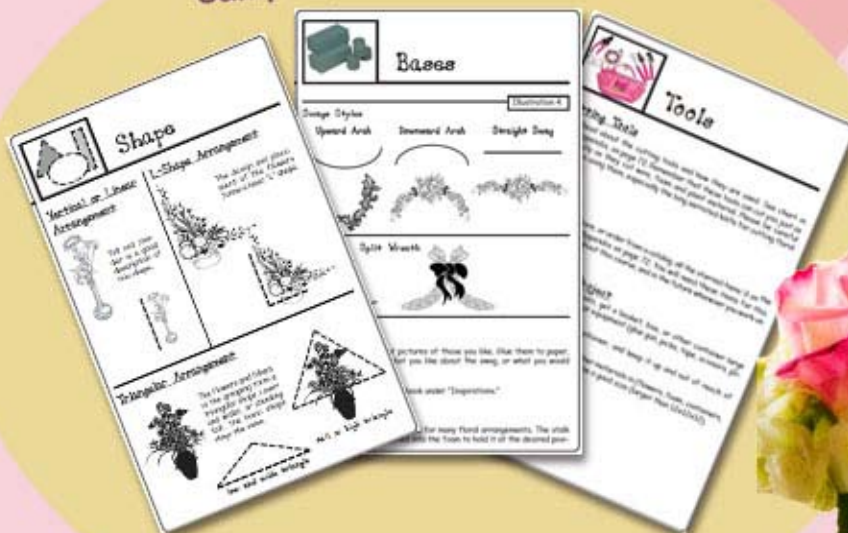
- Tools of the trade
- Bases & containers
- Materials & gadgets
- Design & inspiration

## Do

- Practice arranging
- Make bows & loops
- Dry & preserve
- Marketing plan

Learn and Do

Sample pages



Order online at: [www.Learn-and-Do.com](http://www.Learn-and-Do.com)



# Kidz & Exercise

## Exercise



**A tired puppy is a happy puppy.**

~ Puppy Preschool



*LeShay and her kiddos love finding ways to exercise and move about. From yoga to jogging, hiking to dance parties, she finds ways to engage the kiddos and burn their energy in fun and enjoyable ways. When she's not outdoors with family and pup, she also enjoys quilting, crocheting, scrapbooking occasionally and reading.*



When I was 15, I had the opportunity to get my own dog – pick of the litter from the neighbor's pups I had helped deliver. To prepare, I researched and read as much as I could on raising and training a young canine. My favorite book, *Puppy Preschool*, offered this advice that would stick with me through the years, "A tired puppy is a happy puppy." To help you both make it through the puppy phase, exercise and keeping the pup busy was essential. Come to find out, children are not much different from puppies in this regard! Children learn by doing, seeing, being. And they are happiest with routine, running around and rest.

As I've mentioned in other articles before, children learn best by observing and being involved with our lives and decisions – much more so than just being told what to do. They have more interest in what we do, more respect for us as we do it and retain the habits more readily and easily if we model them. This applies to exercise and many other aspects of life. I've found the nuclear family plays a huge role in who these children will grow up to be, their decisions, their habits, their thought processes, their discipline and drive. Some psychologists refer to this as their "Family of Origin." The things we choose and do now creates a legacy for our children. So, starting when they are young with solid and healthy habits will pay dividends in the years and generations to come!



# Color Adventure!

by  
*Ken*  
WRIGHT



**Learn**  
Color theory  
Neutrals & intensity  
Color schemes  
History

**Do**  
Create color wheels  
Paint tints & shades  
Color warm & cool tones  
Make a rainbow

## Sample pages



Learn and Do

Order online at: [www.Learn-and-Do.com](http://www.Learn-and-Do.com)

For us as a family, we love goals. We are goal-driven and love to check achievements off our lists. We begin our exercise endeavors with goals. And we establish the why: why do we want to walk or jog? Why do we want to bike or swim? For us, it's about feeling good, maintaining healthy, happy bodies and having fun doing it together. My personal goal this year has been walking and jogging – to get more fit and to be outside more. The girls have been riding their bikes more, so we are all working on endurance and increasing our distance little by little. Before the girls were content to pedal around our court, but now they can easily bike 2-2.5 miles!

Previously, walking 2 miles took 35-40 minutes for me. Now, I can walk and jog in intervals – 2.5 miles in 30 minutes. We are all works in progress, inching forward towards our goals. When the girls were little and Liam wasn't even a twinkle in my eye, we were doing good to go 1.5 miles walking. I would put the little girls with their bottles or sippy cups in the double stroller, leash up Xander (our previous pit bull) and off we would go for our daily walk. Then we graduated to 2 miles of walking while I pulled the girls in our double wagon with snacks and Xander pulled me. Now that they're older, the girls like to walk or ride their bikes while I exercise. Liam goes in his stroller or rides in the ErgoBaby on my back. When we go hiking through the woods, the ErgoBaby saves the day when Liam gets tired of running!

Bumping up the girls' endurance has also made it possible for us to take "adventure rides" into the neighboring subdivisions. For my birthday, the family got me a beautiful bicycle – a bright yellow Margaritaville edition cruiser! Lovingly named "Miss Margarite," we can now pedal off together as a family. Our favorite biking venture is to ride through our neighborhood, walk the bikes along the main road, then pedal through the sub down the street. The houses and landscaping are pretty, the roads are nice and wide, and there's a little dead-end area with a bench and sidewalk area. Here, we love to take a break, enjoy a small snack and drink while we watch the little bunnies and squirrels dart about in the woods next to our spot. This little pass through also leads us bikers to another adjoining subdivision that has an exciting hill to ride down. The girls squeal in delight

as we "fly" and Liam yells "YAHOOOOOOOO" from his bike "buggy" trailer behind me! The total route is about 4.5 miles long and it takes us an hour to an hour and a half each time we do it. In nice weather, we'll go once or twice a week on this longer tour. Because we have slowly been increasing our exercise, we're able to go do adventures like this and not be sore or completely dead!

Another fitness outlet we enjoy together is yoga. For years, I have loved yoga – I love the flow, the peacefulness and the strength it builds. This past year, I made it a goal to do yoga at least 4 times a week – to strengthen and stretch my body and to start the morning off feeling good. I also included the children this year, so we put a segment into our school schedule each day to do 10-15 minutes of yoga following Miss Jaime in Cosmic Kids Yoga. I queue the video up on YouTube through our TV, the girls lay out their mats while Liam sits on a blanket, then we all do the yoga poses together. Through this practice, the children are learning to enjoy yoga, move through the poses, follow their breath and ground in peace and gentleness. They can determine where their bodies are in space and feel their bodies stretching and moving.

Some of the exercises we engage in at home are walking, jogging, biking, hiking, yoga and lots of outdoor play. However, during the extreme winter weather days, we have been known to field trip to many types of indoor play areas (pre-Covid 19). We love trampoline parks; jumping is a great form of exercise and is fun for all ages! We also used to do play dates with friends at indoor playscapes such as "Zap Zone" and other chain play areas. At times, we even met friends at mall play areas to enjoy company while burning off steam. However, Covid-19 has limited those options for us this year, so we are getting creative.

We now enjoy "Dance Offs" thanks to our Nintendo Switch and Just Dance 2020. The kids and I will move our bodies through 3 or 4 songs and get our heart rates up. We'll laugh at the moves and the rendition each body does. We'll get the tunes stuck in our heads, and we'll cheer each other on in winning the virtual crown. Other times, we'll groove to

some good music while making dinner – sometimes turning periods of waiting into an impromptu dance party. The InstantPot is doing its magic for 30 minutes? Dance party! The brownies need to bake for a bit? Let's groove to more tunes. Or, if the kiddos are still wound tight before bed, I'll turn on a collection of YouTube videos I compiled including the "Freeze Dance," "Hillsong Youth's Monkey Dance," "The Penguin Dance" and, yes, "Baby Shark." Once we've done the first few, I can appreciate the energy level draining and the kiddos blowing off the last bits of steam for the night. I will warn you, the Monkey Dance is not for the faint of heart or the recently post-partum mum. Jump around at your own risk!

# Learn and Do Library Adventure!

by *Kym* WRIGHT

**Learn**

- Library etiquette
- Classification systems
- All about books
- Library history

**Do**

- Access online
- Create library lists
- Make a library notebook
- Reserve books online

**Sample pages**




Order online at: [www.Learn-and-Do.com](http://www.Learn-and-Do.com)

# Learn and Do Units


by *Kym* Wright




Hands-on  
Fun  
Science  
Vocab  
Writing  
Literature  
History




**COLOR ADVENTURE!**




**BOTANY ADVENTURE!**



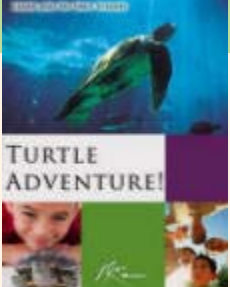
**MICROSCOPE ADVENTURE!**



**BIRD ADVENTURE!**



**PHOTOGRAPHY UNIT STUDY**



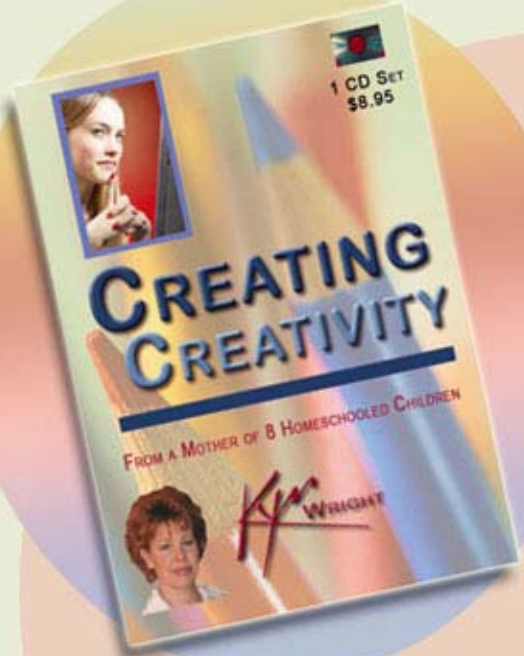
**TURTLE ADVENTURE!**

*LP* Series *Women Living Life on Purpose*

*Kym* by **WRIGHT**

# Creating Creativity

Creativity is a vital element in life, and teaching it to our children is integral to their future success.



**Turn Off the TV!  
Unplug Electronics!  
Get Creative!**

Rules are what the artist breaks; the memorable never emerged from a formula  
- Bill Bernbach  
Brilliant Advertising Agent

Children between the ages of two and seven are very imaginative. This is the best period for the development of imagination, creativity and thinking abilities  
- Professor Chiam Heng Keng

Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of imagination  
- John Dewey

Imagination is more important than knowledge  
- Albert Einstein

Help your child develop  
♦ imagination  
♦ creativity  
♦ problem-solving



Order online at: [www.KymWright.com](http://www.KymWright.com)

# Teaching LifeSkills



Train up a child  
in the way he should go,  
and when his is old  
he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)

Raised as a Keeper at Home, then working as a vet tech for 17+ years while also dabbling in accounting and banking, LeShay returned to her roots as a stay at home wife and mother in 2013. She and her hubby are raising and homeschooling their kiddos in mid-Michigan currently. She enjoys cooking, sewing and schooling with their littles, as well as reading, writing and adventuring with their kiddos and dog.



## LeShay Wright Miller

Growing up, I always wanted a reason for things – a “why” to the things I was learning and doing. As I aged, I thought my momma was so cliché in her response as to why I was doing chores, helping around the house and learning life skills: “So you’ll know how to do this when you get older.” Now that I am a homeschooling mother, I see so much wisdom in her words! I, too, teach my children with my eyes to the future. “How can I best set my children up well for their futures?” “What should they know how to do by the time they start college?” “What will best help the family – ours now and theirs later?”

This concept is really born of **intentionality** and keeping a **long-term perspective** on things. For instance, it would be far faster and easier if I just cooked meals myself instead of engaging the children to make things with me. However, by investing time, patience, and direction in cooking now, I’m teaching them to be able to make food for themselves and others later. And in mere cooking there is so much else to be learned: measurements, weights, temperatures, times, consistency, following directions, nutrition, planning and serving others! The key here is making the space to do just this. Creating mind space to slow down, break everything into steps, guide with grace, teach with patience and applaud the endeavors. Creating counter space so all the

kiddos can be involved. Creating time space so the process is not super rushed or pressed for other commitments. Creating the heart space to love and invest in each child at different points.

So, what general life skills have I learned and am gratefully teaching our kiddos? Some of the ones we have started and continue to build on are: cooking, baking, washing dishes, cleaning, sewing, crafting, list making, schedule making, and investing in relationships with God, family and close friends. We do little bits of these things weekly – learning little pieces, practicing them and building on the concepts.

For **cooking**, a few times a week I’ll call one of the kiddos in to help me prepare dinner. Our 2-year-old, Liam, loves to make rice in the InstantPot. We count 1-2 cups of rice, 1-2-3-4 cups of broth, a sprinkle of salt, then into the cooker it goes. Then Liam “pushes buttons” to set the pressure cooking and timer. We check the



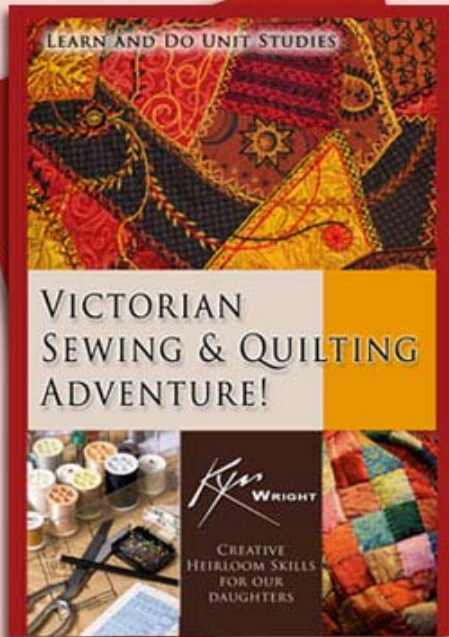
Miss Bee whipping up a chocolate cake for her birthday!

*He that is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much... If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit your trust the true riches? Luke 16:10, 11, ASV*

Learn & Do  
presents

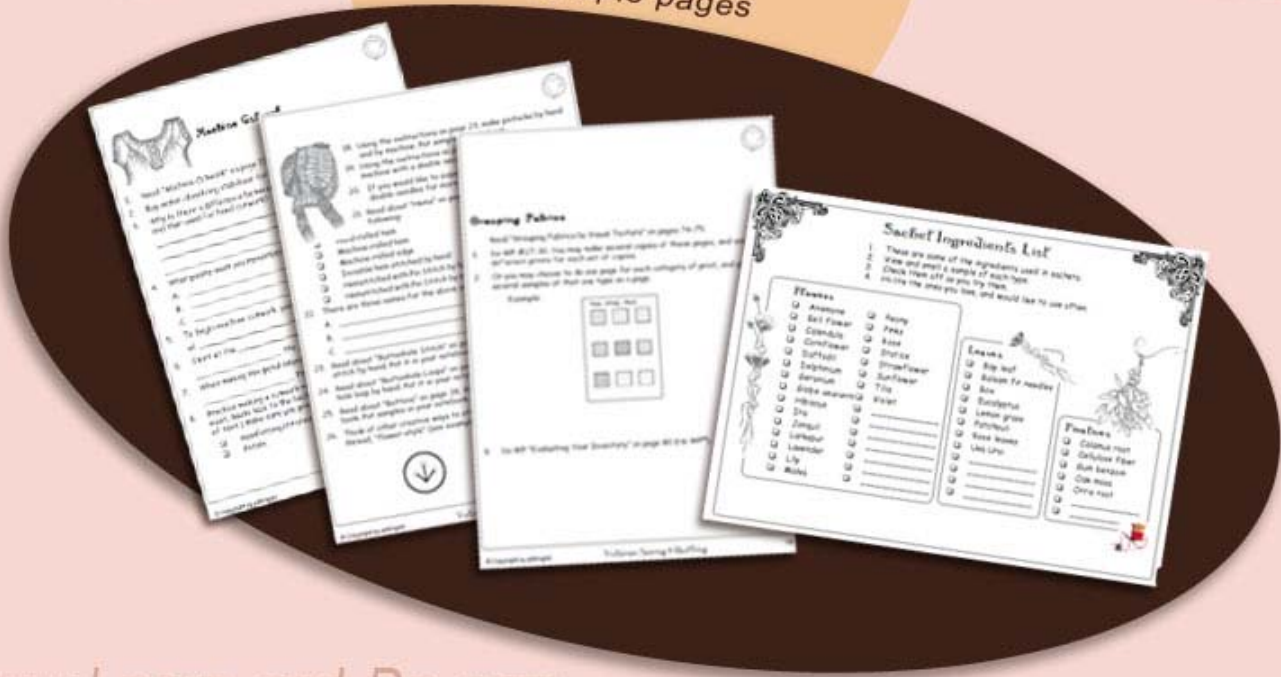
# Victorian Sewing Quilting Adventure!

by *KW* WRIGHT



- ♦ Study color in relation to fabric
- ♦ Sew with antique and modern lace
- ♦ Quilt - appliqué, crazy patch & blocks
  - ♦ Elegant beading
  - ♦ How about tatting?
- ♦ Build a fabric collection
  - ♦ Heirloom sewing
- ♦ Silk ribbon embroidery
- ... and so much more

Sample pages



[www.Learn-and-Do.com](http://www.Learn-and-Do.com)





*Maddie making some zucchini muffins!*

lid and the pressure release together, then the rice is set to go! Maddie likes to help with making sauces, finding ingredients or searching out condiments in the fridge. Bee loves baking, desserts and anything fancy. They all take turns doing different tasks; so far their favorites have been pizza night, taco night and

any time they get to make gluten- and dairy-free brownies or cinnamon swirl muffins.

With **cooking** comes the washing of dishes. The girls are getting quite adept at rinsing off the dishes and silverware to load in the dishwasher. They are confident and competent in washing the metal or plastic mixing bowls, pots, bigger utensils and drying. Even Liam likes to play in the “bubble water” and pretend he’s helping! This is an important part of cooking everyone can help with. And it sets groundwork for cleaning up and doing dishes for themselves later in life.

**Sewing** is a newer skill added to our repertoire. This school year, we started working through stitching activities on my Singer sewing machine using a book called *Sewing Fun*. The pages and lessons walk the girls and I through the parts of the machine, proper usage, stitching straight line, learning to pivot, sewing curves and building up to small sewing projects. To keep it interesting, we also are making very simple dolly quilts as we go along. Large, simple squares sewed in straight lines to prac-



*Miss Maddy learning to sew a straight seam using ruled paper*

tice straight seams. I also thread needles for them on the weekends so they can “sew” Barbie clothes for their little dolls out of my fabric scraps. I’ve taught them how to tie knots, hand stitch a seam and introduced them to tying off at the end. They laugh as they tell me how similar it is to the Kindergarten “Stitching Animals” we had when they were younger. Go figure; building those life skills!



*Bee working on a dolly quilt.*

Within all this teaching is also the leading and guiding of how to navigate and cultivate **relationships**. I try to be mindful to point them to God and His involvement in our lives, His love for us, and how to love others. More than life skills, I want them to value and invest in their relationships with God, family and others. We retry words when they come out mean, hurtful or sharp. We apologize and ask how we can make things better when we wound or upset someone. And we weave God’s word throughout our daily lives. This looks like Quiet Time coffee and candles with God every morning. It looks like devotions, discussion, and prayer as part of our school intro. It looks like sharing some of the things God is doing in Mommy and Daddy’s lives. And it definitely looks like praying together aloud: for help, for praise, for thanksgiving.



*Gluten and dairy-free, this chocolate double layer cake was delicious!*

To further **show them God in our lives**, I choose to love Dave (Spouse) well. We keep open communication, we show love in the things we do and the way we treat each other. Not only is this investing in our marriage, but it is setting the foundation, the expectation, for our children as to what biblical mar-

riage looks like. It is far from perfect - we are two imperfect people following God and living with each other while raising a family. And we all know that can get messy at times! But God. He comes in and rounds off the edges, grows us and uses all situations for good. He has brought us a loooong way since we first married – bettering us, saving us from ourselves and our negative traits. Giving our children visibility and appreciation to this is the greatest life skill I know.



*Liam cuddling the cantaloupe - he's so happy and loves to help!*

There are many Christian curriculums available to homeschoolers now – so much more than when I was growing up and being taught at home! We use **Abeka** and **My Father's World** currently. I love the way **My Father's World** teaches everything from a central biblical point. We study God's word, then dive into history, science, math, language, reading and writing all from a godly perspective. To further this, there are life skills-based curriculum available for more hands-on home economics learning. Some of the most popular and widely used for girls are **Keepers at Home**, **Keepers of the Faith** and **Far Above Rubies**.

The **Far Above Rubies** curriculum teaches young ladies the skills they need for keeping a home, cooking, sewing, self-care, and self-value. By seeing themselves through God's eyes and finding the purposes He created each one of them for, we are setting them apart in this crazy world and giving them the foundation they need to thrive.

The **Keepers at Home** curriculum is designed for girls around middle school, though younger girls can easily be involved.

**Keepers of the Faith** teaches girls 4-16 years old. **Far Above Rubies** is high school curriculum. There is also a younger study on [FreshlyMessy.com](http://FreshlyMessy.com)

for preschool aged girls called **Proverbs 31 for Pre-school**.

For young men, **Contenders for the Faith** is a biblical curriculum geared towards masculine life skills and following God the way He lays out in His word. There are three volumes for the gents – taking them from 4-years-old up to 16 years. In **Little Contenders for the Faith**, 4 to 6-year-olds can begin learning basic skills, godly boyhood and doing projects. **Contenders for the Faith** is geared towards 7-16-year-olds and builds them up in their relationships with Christ, family and growing godly character. There is a **Companion Notebook** available for this older curriculum that helps teacher and students complete the curriculum in an organized fashion.

Some parents, homeschool groups and/or churches take this curriculum and begin small groups with it – providing their children with godly instruction, opportunity to learn life skills and chances for positive social connections. When we were younger, my mother taught us **Far Above Rubies** to supplement our academics in high school. As the younger set of kiddos came of age, mom began a **Keepers at Home** group in her house, inviting mothers and young girls to come learn alongside them. Baking, sewing, learning and laughing brought this tight-knit group together and formed amazing and lasting friendships over the years and miles. One of my dearest Sister-friends is from this original group. I wasn't really part of it as I had already moved out and was working full time, but the Bird girls became near and dear family friends. Abbey, the oldest, has been a cherished and kindred spirit with my sister, Chantelle, and I over the decades. We've shared in our journeys through marriage, motherhood, teaching our littles and growing in faith. And we still laugh and love each other though states separate us all. Savannah, Abbey's little sister, is still tight friends with my younger sisters, Kelsey and Kaitlyn. These relationships started budding in the **Keepers at Home** days and have blossomed throughout the years.

Whatever life skills and values you choose to invest in your little ones will be priceless in the years to come. The world and society are so quick to place significance on things that don't matter in the long

run: popularity, materialism, appearance... By giving our children these gifts and perspectives early on, we can help them live fulfilling lives and do well in the world God created us in. We can show them the importance of seeing ourselves through God's eyes and doing what He has purposed for us to do. And, with intentionality and effort, we can give them the tools to do it. What seeds will you plant and tools will you give your children?

## Resources

As mentioned above, here are some of the curriculum websites and information. Click on the title to be taken to the website.

[Above Rubies website](#)

[Contenders for the Faith \(boys\)](#)

[Far Above Rubies](#)

[Sampler](#)

[Keepers at Home](#)

[Keepers at Home startup groups](#)

[Keepers of the Faith \(girls\)](#)

[Proverbs 31 for Preschoolers](#)

[Sewing Fun book](#)

Milligan, Lynda, ["The Best of Sewing Fun with Kids: Best of Sewing Machine Fun For Kids,"](#) C&T Publishing, January 2004.

Learn and Do  
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**Color Adventure!**  
by *Kyr* WRIGHT

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Color schemes  
History

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Analogous  
Complementary  
Tertiary Color  
Triadic  
Split  
Monochromatic  
Neutral Colors  
Warm Colors  
Cool Colors  
Local Color  
Massachusetts

Order online at: [www.Learn-and-Do.com](http://www.Learn-and-Do.com)



*Maddy checking her stitches.*



New covers for our farm units!

It's almost like new baby. We love when we upgrade the units and have them printed. They look so nice.

Enjoy learning about goats and poultry.

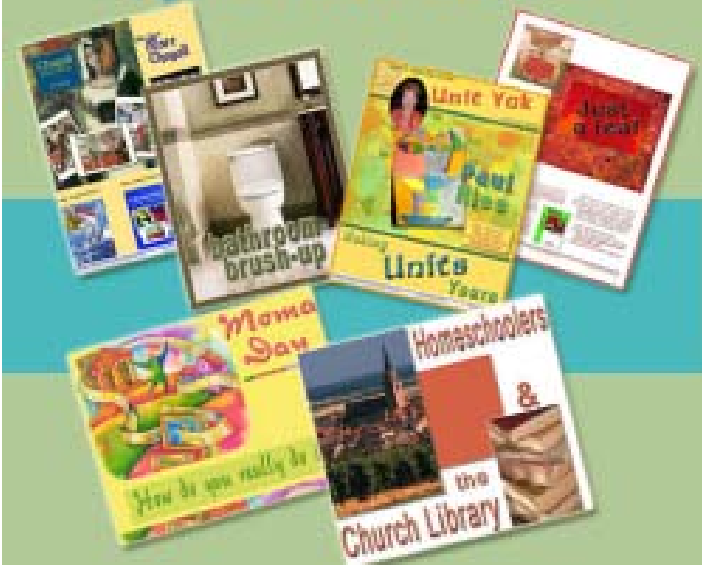
- Learn the breeds, feeds, and needs of goats or poultry - and have fun in the process.
- Hands-on, book-learning, practice milking at home - without a goat!
- Supermarket dissection, to learn the anatomy of a chicken.
- Raise your own for show, a business, food production, or just for fun.





[www.KymWright.com](http://www.KymWright.com)

Kym's Kwik Guides



[www.KymWright.com](http://www.KymWright.com)



Learn & Do for MOMS!

[www.KymWright.com](http://www.KymWright.com)

# *The First Week*



Mark and Kym fostered 20 children in the years they opened their home to children, and learned so much.

## Kym Wright



As we continue discussing what to do on the first few days of having foster children, let's talk about them going to school. Our first fosters were with us for a week before the schools were ready for them. We had a while to entertain them and some good time to prepare them for the next steps.

As mentioned before, they really just want to feel accepted in school, so their clothing choices on the first day are important. When signing the child up for school, try to take them with you, if possible. Let them see the layout of the school. Find where each of their classrooms are. Let them see what the kids are wearing – you might mention that they take note, observe intentionally. Look at the notebooks, backpacks, hairstyles, shoes. This way, your child will have the opportunity to blend in. As non-fosters, we probably can't understand how important this is. After having no access to nice clothes or things, this is their main dream. It's our opportunity to help them achieve it, while viewing the future of them not needing to feel so socially accepted. A delicate balance.

Find out where they get on the bus at home and at school. Locate the area. Find out their bus number and bus driver's name. Do they have assigned seating? This information gives them a level of familiarity.

Moving on to the first medical appointment. Many times, these children have not been to a doctor. They've been treated at home, or sometimes at an emergency room. It's important to talk with them about what's going to happen, from entering the waiting area, to when they call your name. Go into the room with them and stay the entire time. If they're older, give them the option of you staying or leaving once the doctor comes in. Offering to hold their hand dur-

ing the exam might be helpful. Or you might just stand nearby, to encourage them. Ask them about any medical issues: previous ear infections, throat problems, infections, yeast problems (mostly for girls). Give them the opportunity to ask any medical questions they have. Make sure they have any medications they're taking with them, or at least the name, dosage and how long they've been on it. Do they have seasonal allergies? Do they take over-the-counter medicine for it? Or prescription?

Things you need to watch for, while they're living with you: Do they have normal bowel movements? Daily? Every other day? Do they have parasites? (They look like grains of rice in the bowel movement.)

Are they bulimic? What for this with the guys also. Are they anorexic and don't want to eat? What are their eating patterns like? Do they gravitate towards sugar and junk food? Most of our foster never met a vegetable they liked! Let them smother veggies with ketchup or butter with lemon. Whatever it takes. Or mix shards of veggies into meatloaf or other foods. Their bodies need nutrition. But take it slowly. Food equals comfort many times, so don't change everything on them at once. A sibling group who lived with us was raised on McDonald's for every meal. We introduced them to homemade food slowly. Eventually, they were able to cook meals from scratch, start to finish!

The bottom line is to help them cope with all of the changes going on, while finding out as much history from them as you can. Walk them through each new situation and give them information about what's coming up, so they can walk through it with as much grace as possible.

# Give



**Today Wes Craven is a highly successful Hollywood film director but when he was 19 he contracted a rare illness which left him paralyzed from the chest down.**

**Being hospitalized, immobile, away from home, family and friends left him feeling extremely depressed and despondent.**



Victor is a minister, journalist and author of a dozen books including *Lessons for Living From The Twenty-Third Psalm*.



**Victor M. Parachin**

**A staff nurse,  
whom he knew as “Nurse Jane”  
took it upon herself  
to bring him hope  
and make his life bearable again  
“even if it meant breaking every last  
one of the hospital’s rules.”**

Nurse Jane brought him his favorite food: cans of Chef Boyardee spaghetti. She took him for drives in the country and “snuck me and a young female patient into the nurses’ lounge after hours for a TV date.” During a frightening time in his life “nurse Jane gave a kid some wonderful moments. I’ve never forgotten her,” Craven says.

Whenever a person experiences a setback, a crisis, a catastrophe, feelings of being emotionally overwhelmed and hopeless rapidly emerge. More than ever in their lives, people facing major challenges need emergency responders, individuals who come bringing with them the gift of hope. “Hope is necessary in every condition. The miseries of poverty, sickness, of captivity, would, without this comfort, be insupportable,” noted British writer Samuel Johnson. Here are some ways to give the gift of hope.

### **Define yourself as a giver of hope**

The world is sadly in need of more people who bring light into the dark places of life. Intentionally align yourself with that small but influential group. In your daily encounters with people, be the one who practices hope and plants hope in discouraged hearts. Vow to yourself that you will be the one who holds up the banner of hope whenever you meet a person who is thrashing about in darkness and despair. Cultivate in yourself the basic ingredients of a hopeful personality. These include:

*“The joy that comes from reading the insights that are revealed in this modest volume is the stimulation that it brings to the reader. You actually end up saying, or at least thinking ... ‘I want to make this a part of my approach to living.’ ... Discover and enjoy that God is still able to be your shepherd and mine.” — From the forward by Joseph M. Wilcox, Minister Emeritus, Gurnee Community Church*





- A tendency to expect the best not the worst
- An optimistic outlook on life
- General and consistent feelings of confidence in self and others
- Daily enthusi-

asm for living

- A deep belief in the power of people to overcome
- Being a Philippians 4:8 person: “Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.” (New International Version)

### Be there

The Bible reminds us to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of others. “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”<sup>1</sup> When there is a major crisis, the personal touch is most effective. Do all you can to be there.

In 1968, the home of musician Roy Orbison burned down. His two young sons, Roy D and Tony Orbison, were playing with matches when the flames went out of control. Both boys died in the fire. Orbison’s best friend, Johnny Cash, was on tour at the time. As soon as he heard about the tragedy, Cash canceled his tour dates and chartered a jet to bring him home so he could be with Roy Orbison. When he arrived, it was obvious that Orbison was completely devastated by the death of his two sons. Cash recalls what transpired when he visited his friend, Roy: “I was still at a loss for words that seemed anywhere close to adequate, so I said what I could: that I loved him and that I wouldn’t know how to handle it if I lost my own son that way.” It took a long time for Roy Orbison to recover but he was able to adjust to the loss because good friends surrounded him with love and support. Martin Luther King, Jr, stressed the importance of expressing personal caring: “Pity may represent little more than the impersonal concern which prompts the mailing of a check, but true sympathy is the personal concern which demands the

giving of one’s soul.”

### Be there with an open heart

When a friend has been hit hard by one of life’s blows, be there without an agenda. Arrive with a completely open heart, open mind, and open spirit ready to do whatever needs to be done. Abide by this biblical wisdom from 1 Peter 3:8: “Be sympathetic...be compassionate and humble.”

A woman tells of a time when it became clear her mother-in-law was losing her battle with cancer. She asked her own mother for guidance because “I wanted to do everything I could to express love and compassion. But I didn’t want to be weepy or smothering.” Her mother offered this wisdom in two words: “Be willing.” Then she added: “Be willing not to know what to do but willing ask. Be willing to learn and understand that your mother-in-law is learning too. Be willing to just be with her.” She found that advice extremely helpful saying, “When I felt insecure or fearful, I would recall my ‘be willing’ mantra, and it would gently guide me back to the loving path.”

### Present an alternative perspective

Often when one is in crisis, negative emotions and negative thinking rule. Gently try to balance the negative with the positive; the hopeless with the hopeful. Help struggling friends reframe their attitudes so they expect the best, not the worst. Ruth Stafford Peale, wife of minister and author Norman Vincent Peale, recalls a time when their youngest daughter came home from school in tears. Elizabeth was eight at the time. Through tears she informed her mother that her friend, Becky “had been mean to me.” As she sobbed, Elizabeth vowed she would never speak or play with her. “The more she went on, the angrier and more resentful she became,” Mrs. Peale remembers.

Finally, Mrs. Peale asked her: “What do you know about Becky’s home life?” Startled by the question, Elizabeth admitted





she knew nothing about Becky's personal life. "I happen to know it's not a very happy one," Mrs. Peale explained to her daughter. "Becky's

parents are divorced. Her mother has married again, and Becky doesn't get along with her stepfather. Her real father, whom she loves, never comes to see her. She's an unhappy, confused little girl. Maybe she did act badly toward you, but I don't think it's because she dislikes you. It's because there's great unhappiness and loneliness in her life." By helping her daughter see the scenario from a different perspective the hurt was softened, and the friendship was salvaged.

### Gently nudge your friend to trust God

It can be extremely helpful to remind your friend that God is still a loving God and remains in control of our lives even though we may not feel that way. Consider sharing hopeful scriptures such as these with a friend who is engaged in an emotional and spiritual life battle:

- I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving kindness. I will build you up again and you will be rebuilt.<sup>2</sup>
- Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.<sup>3</sup>

### Offer encouragement

Try to remember that you may be the only person who can restore joy and generate hope to a person's life. Be the voice that tells a discouraged person, "You can do it," or "I believe in you." Fortunately, when the apostle Paul was imprisoned, he had a cheerleader named Philemon. Paul thanked him saying: "Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother have refreshed the hearts of the saints."<sup>4</sup>

Jelani Freeman entered foster care at age 8 after his mother checked herself into a psychiatric hospital. He was shuffled from foster home to foster home until he reached his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday when his foster care came to an end. With no family support, he started college completely on his own. He took student loans

and juggled three jobs. Since he had no home, he stayed with friends during breaks or worked at residential camps in the summer. He says he persevered through undergraduate years and went on to earn a master's degree *because he had high school teachers who encouraged him.*

### Help your friend to see what's right

When we're in crisis mode, it's easy and natural to see only what's wrong. At those times we can all benefit from a friend who can gently help us shift our gaze and see what's right, what's working for us rather than against us.

Joseph Telushkin, a rabbi and author, tells of being at a service when the presiding rabbi asked if anyone in the congregation had good news that occurred over the preceding week which he or she wished to share with others. One by one, people stood up announcing engagements, anniversaries, visits by family members or friends whom they hadn't seen in a long time. "I was moved," Rabbi Telushkin says. "The question, 'What good thing happened to you this week?' motivated people to remember the good things that were going on in their lives, and not just their problems."

Rabbi Telushkin and his wife decided to bring that ritual into their home. At the beginning of each Friday night Sabbath meal, they ask family members and guests to share something good or memorable that happened to them during the week. "Usually, everyone, even those who have had difficult weeks, can think of at least one pleasurable moment that occurred."

When attempting to generate hope, try asking your friend "What good thing happened to you this week?" Or, "What parts of your life are good?" By asking those kinds of questions, you can help your friend summon up the positives which are easily overlooked.

1. Philippians 2:4
2. Jeremiah 31:3
3. Isaiah 51:11
4. Philemon 7

# Spider Adventure!

by  
*KW*  
WRIGHT



## Learn

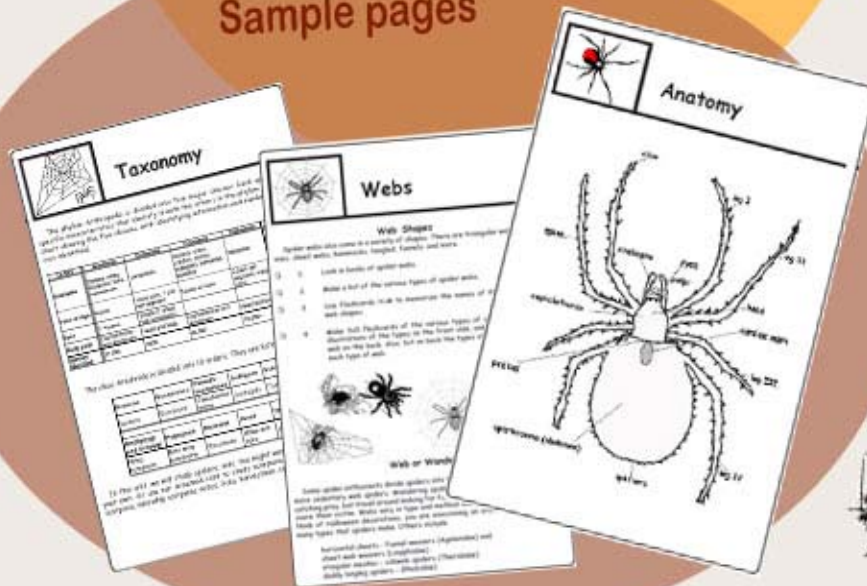
Anatomy & life cycle  
Types of webs  
Habitat & diet  
Poison & venom

## Do

Dissection  
Spider collection  
Identify spiders  
Observe webs & silk

Learn and Do

## Sample pages



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# Microscope Adventure!

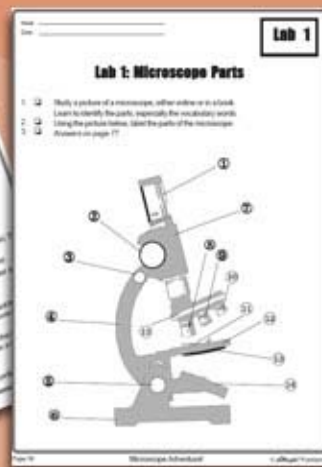
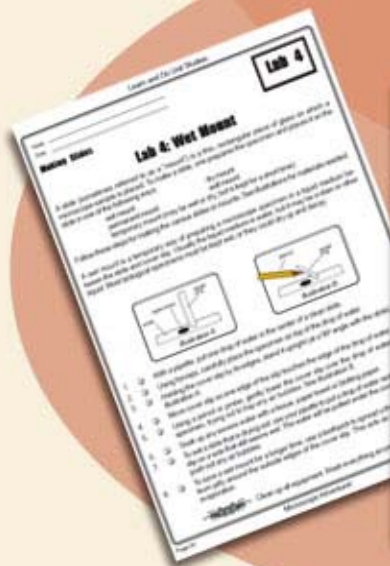
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Set-up & usage  
Focus & techniques  
Magnifications  
History

**Do**  
View plant cells  
Observe animal cells  
Grow water microbes  
Use stains & dyes

## Sample pages



Learn and Do

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In past issues of *The Mother's Heart*, I shared ideas on how to teach children biblical truths using 1 John 1:1 as an outline.

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life.*

In this article, I continue to offer suggestions on how to take the written Word and turn it into something small hands can handle.

*Karen is the mother of 11 children, grandmother of 16, former homeschooler and Montessori teacher (now retired). Surrounded by children most of her adult life, she needed to understand and master the training and discipline of children. However, she started from ground zero in both understanding and performance.*

## Karen Rode



The Montessori school where I taught had a religious education program called the “Atrium.” When Maria Montessori founded her schools in Italy, she included the Atrium classroom to explain to children the spiritual truths behind the rituals of the Catholic church. The church instituted those rites to make abstract truths concrete for worshippers. Maria took that idea a step further to make the invisible, visible for children.

In Montessori education, all concepts, academic or spiritual, are taught tactically and visually with objects placed on a tray or in a basket. After a teacher presents the lesson, the activity is placed on a low shelf, available for the child to repeat the work as often as he desires. The Atrium presented many of the stories of Jesus and His parables in 3D.

### **The Good Shepherd**

For example, to teach John 6 to a child, place plastic fencing material from a play farm set in a basket or on a tray. Add sheep, a figurine of Jesus, and a wolf. Include a circle of green felt material or artificial turf.

Tell the story as you set up the sheepfold. The main point of the lesson is, “Jesus knows you and calls you by name. He knows all about you and loves you so much He lays Himself down at the door of the sheepfold to protect you.” What a powerful truth to

embed into the mind of a young child as he or she plays!

### **The Parables of Jesus The Treasure in a Field**

Read the parable to your child and create this activity. Acquire a shallow container with a lid. A salad container from Subway works well. Fill it with sand and small items and animals that can be buried in the sand. Include an object to represent the treasure. Provide a plastic spoon and/or miniature shovel and rake so the child can hunt for and dig up the treasure.<sup>1</sup> Place the sand container on a cafeteria size tray to contain the sand and objects as they are repeatedly discovered and reburied.

I have seen toddlers and preschoolers spend many happy moments with this activity. Of course, the younger the child, the greater the necessity of close supervision. A toddler will happily throw sand everywhere if not reminded, “Sand and objects stay on the tray.”

### **The Lost Coin**

The sweeping work in a Montessori classroom can be adapted to teach the parable of the lost coin. On a cafeteria tray, place a bowl of artificial leaves, acorns, or other material along with a kid-size whisk broom and dustpan. Include a coin.

Teach your child the parable and demonstrate the activity. Spill the items to be swept onto the tray. Locate the coin and shout for joy. The more exuberant your expression, the more fun for your child and the more memorable the lesson. Sweep the items into the dustpan and return them to the bowl.

You can make this more true to the biblical story by hiding the coin in the pile of leaves in various corners of the house. This can be an activity to look forward to daily after your toddler eats breakfast or as a reward for some work accomplished.

It is very important to provide quality tools for your child in digging and sweeping activities. Your child is refining his motor skills. He needs high quality tools that actually work. [Flimsy, plastic, play tools that bend and break frustrate your child and create resentment towards work.](#)<sup>2</sup>



### **The Pearl of Great Price**

In a small purse or treasure box, place a pearl and a small Bible. To play the game, have your child gather fake jewels, paper money, or some of his favorite toys to

“buy” the pearl of great price.

### **The Leaven in Three Measures of Meal**

Make this parable concrete by doing it! Bake bread or yeast rolls. Explain how yeast penetrates all the bread making it rise.

#### **Works of the Flesh/Fruit of the Spirit**

Studying opposites: high/low, big/little, near/far is standard education for a young child. You can add biblical teaching to this concept by contrasting and comparing the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit.<sup>3</sup>

### **Two Trees in the Garden**

One of my more ambitious endeavors to make the Bible concrete for children involved creating wall-size fabric hangings of the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

I used bright, true colors for the Tree of Life and

murky, gaudy colors for the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. I appliquéd the trunk and tree crown on a sky-blue background for the Life tree and a stormy, grey background for the Evil tree. The foliage of each tree displayed pictures I created from coloring books and painted with fabric paint. The fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, etc.) became the delicious fruit of the Tree of Life. “Misery, sorrow, fear” pictures were applied onto the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

A slit in the trunk of each tree and a bag attached in back became the “heart” of each tree: gold fabric for the Tree of Life, black fabric for the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. In the heart of the Tree of Life I placed a small Bible and other small books of the sayings and stories told by Jesus. In the heart of the Good and Evil Tree I placed stones, taking the idea of the stony heart<sup>4</sup> in the Old Testament and combining it with the list Jesus gave in Mark 7:21-22: “...out of the heart of men, proceed...”

My “stones” consisted of irregular shaped denim fabric, stuffed with Poly-fil and emblazoned with pictures from coloring books to depict wicked thoughts, stealing, covetousness, and so forth. I traced these pictures onto white felt and colored them with fabric paint. Other pictures were sewn onto the top of the tree to depict the fruit: “misery, fear, sorrow, death.” Covers for the fruit, attached with velcro, were made with glittery fabric because the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was “pleasant to the eyes.”

I imagined these wall hangings being a great teaching tool for my church’s nursery as children threw the stones around, removed the velcro covers from the fruit on the trees and matched them again. However, my life circumstance changed before my vision was fully implemented so I don’t have a report on the effectiveness of my idea. A simpler version of this teaching could be created from cardboard or construction paper.

### **Critical Thinking Exercises**

For older children, a study of Bible stories contrasting the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit is extraordinarily enlightening. Begin by researching the dictionary and Strong’s Concordance definitions of each word. Find a story that depicts the truth of “whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap.”<sup>5</sup> Righteous actions bring blessings, selfish and hateful



actions bring negative results. Compare and contrast these opposites.

For example, Joseph resisted adultery, running away from Potiphar's wife. Even though he suffered in prison for his righteous deed, in the end, he became second in command in Egypt, fulfilling his divine destiny.

King David committed adultery with Bathsheba and ordered her husband killed. As a result, their first child died, and David had to flee for his life when Absalom led an insurrection against him. David's adultery was in secret, but when Absalom conquered Jerusalem he committed adultery openly with David's concubines. What made these consequences even more grievous is it was through David's own son. Absalom died, suffering his own consequences for his sin of rebellion against his dad who was God's chosen leader.


This study of opposites can be pursued through all the works of the flesh. It fulfills in a practical and memorable way Hebrews 5:14 (NLT): *Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.*

In the next issue of *The Mother's Heart*, I conclude my discussion of how to make the Bible come alive for your children, presenting more activities of "that which our hands have handled."

(Endnotes)

- 1 [www.selfhelpwarehouse.com/collections/sandtray-tools/products/sandtray-sized-sand-toys-4-piece-set](http://www.selfhelpwarehouse.com/collections/sandtray-tools/products/sandtray-sized-sand-toys-4-piece-set)
- 2 [www.forsmallhands.com/cleaning-up/indoor-clean-up](http://www.forsmallhands.com/cleaning-up/indoor-clean-up)
- 3 Galatians 5: 19-22
- 4 Ezek. 11:19
- 5 Galatians 6:7

Go on a



# GOAT ADVENTURE!

- Study is focused on the feed & needs of goats
- History & myths
- Scientific Classification, breeds and goat anatomy are covered, as are milking, health and diseases
  - Business & Marketing Plan & a Buying a Goat form
  - Cheesemaking
  - Goat Genetics
  - Scripture
  - Vocabulary words
  - Field trip ideas
  - Writing assignments
- Science experiments
- Resource lists

Learn something new for

# National Hobby Month



# Look, I am doing a new thing...

Isaiah 43:19 ESV



*Pick a new hobby.*

Happy New Year! A fresh start and the prospect of exciting new adventures with those you love. Plan to do lots of “new” things with your family during the upcoming months. January and February are often dreary and cold, which is all the more reason to find something to celebrate every day. Try some of the zany January and February holidays below or make up some of your own unique family ones to start a new year.

## National Hobby Month

Start a new family hobby to share together. Perhaps your family would like to start a collection. Rocks, coins or stamps? What would you be interested in collecting? Why not try something crafty, like quilting or painting? Would your family be interested in woodworking? Maybe you’d like to become an expert at chess or take up a new sporting activity, like disc golf, bicycling, jogging, or hiking. Try out new cooking skills like cookie or cupcake decorating. You could even learn to make balloon animals, juggle tennis balls, or master face-painting. So many new hobby opportunities await, and wouldn’t it be more fun to share the activities with the family? You might want

to pick one hobby for the entire family to enjoy together. Additionally, each person could pick a new hobby, and then designate one night a week as “hobby night” for each person to pursue that activity. And at the end of the evening, you could gather together to share accomplishments.

Here are a couple of verses to keep in mind when starting a new hobby:

***So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 ESV***

***Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might... Ecclesiastes 9:10 NIV.***

## Cuddle Up Day

Celebrate this one for more than just one day by cuddling under blankets with the kiddos to read a new chapter book or a host of new picture books. Snuggle together on the couch under one big blanket, on the floor in front of the fireplace, or in one of the kids’ beds to read a chapter at a time or several fun picture books.

Check out these websites to get some ideas of winter picture books to read.

[Reading Website 1](#)

[Reading Website 2](#)

[Reading Website 3](#)

## Houseplant Appreciation Day

Appreciate God's floral creations and take great care of the ones you keep in the house. Water your houseplants faithfully and offer plenty of sunshine for those plants needing direct sunlight to flourish. Consider purchasing a new houseplant and a plastic spray bottle to brighten the day of someone you know, like the widow down the street or the lonely friend whose grandchildren have returned home after Christmas or the mom of a newborn. Before delivering the plant, write on the plastic watering spray bottle with a permanent marker one of the verses below. Then have each person in the family write a note of encouragement to the recipient of the new houseplant. Deliver the notes, houseplant, and water spray bottle to the person you've chosen to celebrate the holiday!



Memorize some of these verses below to celebrate Houseplant Appreciation Day.

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, "Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

*John 7:37-38 ESV*

But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. *John 4:14 KJV*

And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega – the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life." *Revelation 21:6 NLT*

Therefore, with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. *Isaiah 12:3 KJV*

Check out these websites to learn more about taking care of houseplants.

[Houseplants 1](#)

[Houseplants 2](#)

[Houseplants 3](#)

## National Heart Month

Have fun with this heart craft and make heart-people for each member of the family. Begin with a large heart cut from red or pink construction paper. Glue wiggly eyes in place and draw on a nose and mouth. For the arms and legs, cut strips of paper and fold them accordion style. Then glue in place. Glue yarn in place for hair.



Use a Bible concordance to search for Scriptures containing the word "heart." Write the verses on heart-shaped cutouts. Stretch out a clothesline-like string in the family room and use clothespins to attach the cutouts. Read the verses frequently throughout several weeks and see how many you can commit to memory.





## Grapefruit Day

Gather the family in the kitchen and prepare this grapefruit recipe together.

### Breakfast Treat

1½ cups all-purpose flour  
 2 teaspoons baking powder  
 ½ teaspoon salt  
 1 cup sour cream  
 1 cup sugar  
 3 eggs  
 2 teaspoons grapefruit zest  
 ½ teaspoon vanilla extract  
 ½ cup oil

### Glaze

⅓ cup freshly squeezed grapefruit juice  
 ⅓ cup sugar

---

½ cup powdered sugar  
 1-2 tablespoons freshly squeezed grapefruit juice

1. Preheat oven to 350° F.
2. Spray a loaf pan with vegetable spray and set aside.
3. In a small bowl, stir together flour, baking powder and salt.
4. In another bowl, whisk together sour cream, sugar, eggs, grapefruit zest, vanilla extract.
5. Whisk the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients, adding a little at a time until fully incorporated.
6. Using a spatula, fold oil into the batter.
7. Pour the batter into the prepared loaf pan and bake for about fifty minutes, or until cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean.
8. While the cake is cooking, heat grapefruit juice and sugar in a small pan until sugar dissolves and mixture looks clear. Set aside.
9. When the cake is done, cool in pan for ten minutes. Loosen edges with a knife, then flip onto a serving dish. While the cake is still warm, pour the grapefruit-sugar glaze over the cake and allow it to soak in. Once the cake cools, combine powdered sugar with grapefruit juice and drizzle over the top of cake. Say grace, then enjoy the sweet breakfast treat.

Find unique ways to celebrate the blessing of those you love and create lots and lots of new memories in a new year that you'll treasure for a very long time!

*Grapefruit Varieties. Find new flavors to try.*



**Ray Ruby**



**Red Blush**



**Rio Red**



**Ruby Red**



**Marsh Seedless**



**Flame**



**Foster**



**Star Ruby**



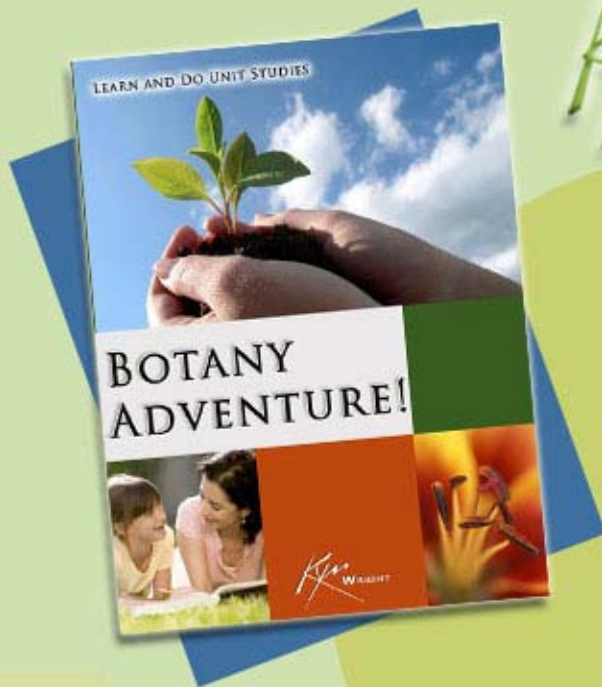
**Minneola**



**Pearl**

# Botany Adventure!

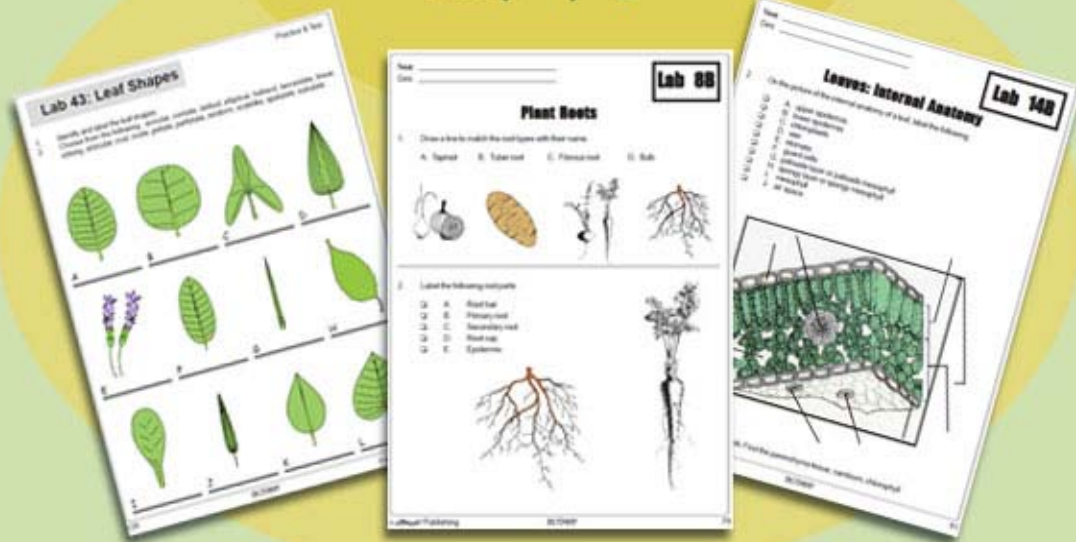
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*Kyr Wright*  
WRIGHT



- Learn**
- Life cycles
  - Grass, fruit & seeds
  - Leaf types & margins
  - Land & marine plants
  - Fungi, algae & lichen
  - Plant needs & usage
  - Plant parts & functions
  - Flowering & non-flowering
  - Herbaceous & woody stems
  - Gymnosperm & angiosperm
  - Photosynthesis & reproduction
  - Monocotyledons & dicotyledons
  - Scientific Method
- Do**
- Many lab experiments
  - Grow & observe bacteria & yeast
  - Plant internal & external anatomy
  - Identify plant & root types

Learn and Do

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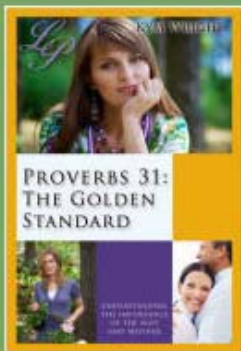
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# Cooking up some



LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE

Serving a special Valentine meal with the help of your preschoolers is a great way to show your family that you love them. It also can incorporate teaching a variety of skills to your preschoolers.

Levying Your Little Gifts from God



...Permit the children to come to Me, do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these...and He took them in his arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.

Mark 10: 14b,16 NASB



Wouldn't it be nice if Dad brought home some flowers for Mom for the centerpiece?



A few days before Valentine's Day, go to a party outlet store, where the prices are usually better, to choose some decorations for your dinner. You may choose to use disposable Valentine plates and napkins. You can select paper goods specifically for Valentine's Day, or purchase red or pink plates and napkins and decorate them with Valentine stickers. The leftover paper goods can be used for other holidays, such as pink for Easter or red for Christmas. Confetti and balloons add a nice touch if they are in your budget. Maybe your family would prefer some candlelight for your dinner.

You may choose to do the grocery shopping alone or with your preschooler, depending on the attention level and behavior of your child while shopping.



## Shopping List:

### Pizza

- 4½ t yeast
- 2 c warm water
- 5 c flour
- 4T olive oil
- 2 t sugar
- 2 t salt
- cornmeal
- 4 t Italian seasoning
- 1 jar pizza sauce
- 2 c shredded pizza cheese
- toppings: cooked Italian sausage, pepperonis, veggies – your choice
- canola spray
- 2 heart shaped pans



### Salad

I use a Caesar salad kit found in the produce section of the grocery. The purists among you may choose to make your salads from scratch!

### M&M Cookies

- 1 c shortening (I like the shortening that comes in sticks – less messy!)
- ¾ c brown sugar
- ¾ c sugar
- 2 ¼ c flour
- 2 eggs
- 1 t vanilla
- 1 ½ c M&Ms – use the pink, red and white for this occasion.
- 1 t salt
- 1 t baking soda
- wax paper



Once you have gathered your decorations and your food ingredients, it is time to prepare your special Valentine dinner!

## Cookies



1. Prepare the cookie dough the day before. This particular dough is good for up to one week in your refrigerator. Your preschoolers can help with the mixing.
2. Cream shortening and both sugars in a mixing bowl.
3. Add the eggs and vanilla.
4. Combine the flour, salt, and baking soda; add to the creamed mixture and mix well.
5. Put a long sheet of wax paper on the table or counter and scrape the mixture onto this wax paper, forming the dough into a 2" diameter roll. You may choose to use two pieces of wax paper and make two shorter rolls to fit more easily into your refrigerator. Wrap the dough tightly in the wax paper and refrigerate.

The day of the dinner, choose a convenient time early in the day to make your cookies together. Remove the dough from the refrigerator and unwrap the wax paper. Slice the dough into ½" slices. This is a job for Mom. Put the slices 3" apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Let your preschooler decorate the cookies with M&Ms. You can use about 10 M&Ms on each cookie. These cookies get very large, so you may only get six or eight on each cookie sheet. I own four cookie sheets so we can keep the process going.

Bake the cookies at 350° for 10 minutes and then cool 5 minutes on the sheet. Remove the cookies with a large spatula to a sheet of waxed paper to dry. Allow the cookies to cool completely before arranging on a platter. These cookies can be made far in advance since they freeze well in containers with a sheet of wax paper between each layer of cookies. The colors of the M&Ms can change for each holiday.

About one and a half hours before dinner mix the pizza dough. Preschoolers can help with this part of the preparation.

## Pizza



1. In a large bowl, dissolve the yeast in the warm water. Be careful that the water is not too hot, because it will kill the yeast.
2. Stir in flour, oil, sugar, salt, and Italian seasoning. Beat 25 strokes; Mom may be the only one who has the arm strength for this.
3. Cover the bowl and let it sit for five minutes.
4. Spray the two heart shaped pans with canola oil and sprinkle with cornmeal. If you cannot find heart shaped pans, you can use a large cookie sheet for the pizza.
5. After five minutes, divide the dough into two pieces and spread into the pizza pans. It helps to spray your hands with canola oil to spread the dough more easily.
6. Top the dough with more canola spray, pizza

sauce, pizza cheese and the toppings of your choice. Cover the pizzas with clean dishcloths and place them on top of a heated oven (425 degrees) for 30 minutes to rise.

7. After the dough has risen, put the pizzas in the oven for 15 minutes at 425°. Remove the pizzas from the oven and set them on heating pads to cool for 10 minutes before slicing and serving.

While waiting for the pizzas to bake, use your time to assemble your salad, set the table, decorate, and prepare for your special dinner. Wouldn't it be nice if Dad brought home some flowers for Mom for the centerpiece?

The following scriptures may be read and discussed as a part of your meal.



### Bible Verses

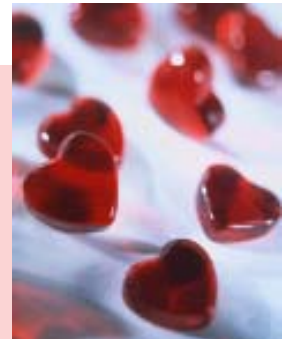
- ♥ Three things will last forever – faith, hope, and love – and the greatest of these is love 1 Corinthians 13:13 NLT
- ♥ And He has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters. 1 John 4:21 NLT
- ♥ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 1 John 4:7 – 8 NLT

You may have other scriptures you would like to incorporate into this evening together.

There are many skills taught during the preparation of this Valentine meal. The following is just a partial list; I am sure that you can think of others as you work together with your preschooler in this cooking experience.

### Skills

- ♥ working together
- ♥ thinking of others
- ♥ patience
- ♥ creativity
- ♥ shopping on a budget
- ♥ setting a pleasing table and creating an atmosphere for fun
- ♥ measuring ingredients
- ♥ telling time in the timing of the baking or waiting for dough to chill or rise
- ♥ counting M&Ms and distinguishing the colors of the candy
- ♥ counting pepperonis or slices of veggies used on the pizza
- ♥ learning shapes in round cookies, M&Ms, pepperonis
- ♥ seeing fractions in measurements and in the cutting of the pizza
- ♥ learning any new vocabulary related to this cooking experience
- ♥ scripture training and scripture memory



Enjoy your special dinner together and give thanks for a family time to share good food and God's blessings. Happy Valentine's Day!



*Jan Veal, BA, MEd, taught in public and private Christian schools before home educating her three daughters for 17 years. Jan enjoys writing and speaking to groups about home education.*



**At the parent portion of college orientation, we were told of the mom who stopped by her son's dorm every week to do his laundry. "He doesn't know how to do it!" she insisted when his resident advisor suggested that she let him wash his own clothes. Eventually, she relented. To no one's surprise, he figured it out and did his own laundry.**

Juliana is a pastor's wife and a Moms in Prayer area coordinator in Southern California. You can find her at [www.julianagordon.com](http://www.julianagordon.com) or on Instagram at @julianagordonwriter.

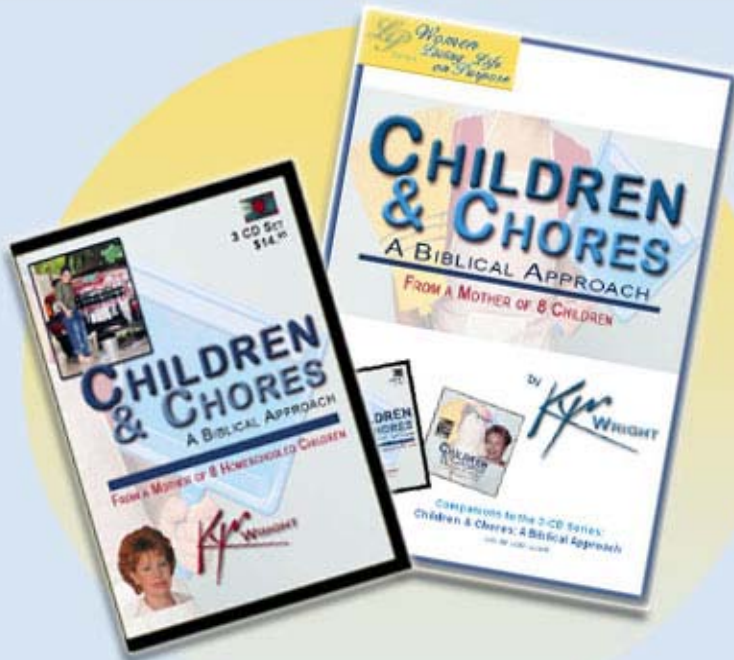
## Juliana Gordon



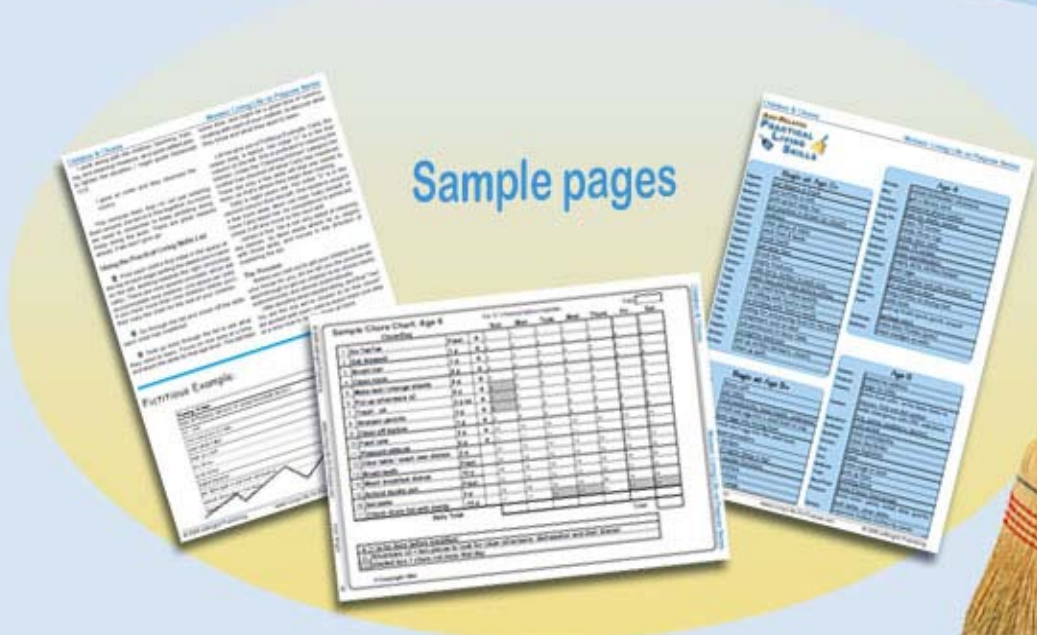
As Christians, we want to serve God by helping others. Philippians 2:4 NIV exhorts us to be “not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” But when does helping not help? Here are a few situations where helping can be harmful rather than helpful.

- Helping someone who should be doing it for themselves. Like the simple example above, teaching someone to do something for themselves, especially if it is a daily, weekly, or monthly task, is usually the best choice. It must be age-appropriate and should be done with patience. When faced with a relatively simple challenge, most people can rise to the occasion and learn what is needed. Some of this is in the parenting arena but other times it can be a friend, an extended family member, or a stranger you are helping. Consider coaching someone through the problem instead of fixing it for them.
- Helping a project by taking control of it so it “gets done right.” This is the one I struggle with the most. Sometimes I take on a project, or won't let go of it, because I think I am the best person for the job. Usually in those cases, I end up resentful because others aren't helping me. The people around me end up frustrated because they wanted to help and I didn't let them. Let go of arbitrary standards of what makes a project successful, and let other people give input and participate, to make for a better experience all around.
- Helping someone because you think that you're the only one who can help. This makes me think of the old cartoon character, Mighty Mouse, who would sing, “Here I come to save the day!” I have seen people who feel responsible for helping and saving everyone in the whole world. But we can't do that! Jesus is the Savior of the world. Pray about who He would have you help. We can deprive the blessing of serving others by insisting or assuming we are the only ones who can help. Additionally, you can think you are the right person to help, but you encounter a situation with an individual who needs a professional with far more expertise to help, whether it be a doctor, counselor, financial advisor, or lawyer. If your car needed a transmission, you probably would not go to your neighbor who fixes computers. There are situations which call for an expert. Don't be afraid to admit you are in over your head, or that they would be better helped by someone else.

# Children & Chores



- CD1: Casting a Vision**  
Why Work?  
Biblical views of work  
Training children  
What to teach
- CD2: Attitudes**  
Understand personal views  
What are we passing on?  
Biblical view of attitudes
- CD3: Chore Charts**  
Practical skills  
Age-related  
What I wish I had known  
Build personalized chore charts
- Book: Practical Skills & Charts**  
What to know at each age  
20+ pages of chores & skills  
Categories & age-related lists  
Pre-reader chore charts



Sample pages



Order online at: [www.KymWright.com](http://www.KymWright.com)

The consequences to helping too much can be numerous. For the person who is being helped too much, it can make them think that the person helping is the one who saves them, not God. It can also stunt their maturity to handle tasks. And it can prevent others from using their gifts to serve God to help them. For the person who is helping too much, it can often lead to burnout. It can make them feel used. It can bring up or exacerbate control issues.

When I have the opportunity to help others, I consider these guidelines, but I also take a few other steps. I pray about the situation. I get advice from others, especially if it might involve or affect them. And if time allows, I try not to answer on the spot or

even within a day. If I say yes to serving, I want to be able to follow through. For me, that means that the decision has been prayed for and carefully considered.

These guidelines may help you with most of the situations you encounter. There are other factors like people's mental health, safety, and other circumstances should be considered above this advice. But whatever the situation is, remember you are not on your own. The Lord is with you! Do it in His strength and with the benefit of His wisdom. This will often mean teaching instead of doing, letting someone make their own choices instead of trying to control them, and bringing in others to help. 🍏



The graphic features a light yellow background. At the top right, the text 'Learn & Do Units' is written in a brown, sans-serif font. Below it, the title 'Library Adventure' is displayed in a large, blue, serif font with a drop shadow. To the left of the title is a tilted image of a book cover titled 'LIBRARY ADVENTURE!' which shows a group of diverse people in a library setting. Below the title, there are two sections of bulleted text. The first section is headed 'Learn' in a bold, red, sans-serif font, followed by five blue bullet points: '\* How to use the library', '\* Getting a library card', '\* Library rules & etiquette', '\* Use modern technology', and '\* Location of resources'. The second section is headed 'Do' in a bold, red, sans-serif font, followed by four blue bullet points: '\* Create personal reading lists', '\* Organize a library notebook', '\* Memorize Dewey Decimals', and '\* Earn school credit'. At the bottom right, the text 'Order online' is in a brown font, followed by the website address 'www.Learn-and-Do.com' in a larger, bold, brown font. On the left side of the graphic, there is a circular inset image showing a woman with dark hair smiling as she reads a book to a young girl with brown hair.

Making Time ...

Power of a  
**DEADLINE**



***“Don’t say you don’t have enough time.  
You have exactly the same  
number of hours per day  
that were given to Helen Keller,  
Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa,  
Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson,  
and Albert Einstein.”***

~ H. Jackson Brown Jr., American author of *Life’s Little Instruction Book*, which was a New York Times bestseller



*Km and her husband, Mark, love to set goals and add target dates. It gives them somewhere to aim and a reasonable timeframe to finish.*

## Kym Wright



# A

nd that's where deadlines come in. Typically defined as the time by which something must be completed, deadlines tend to motivate us to work on the project at hand. There are all sorts of deadlines: to begin school or a project, to end a portion of it, or all of it, to start dinner, to plan a menu and grocery list, to go to bed, to get up (the alarm). Some are self-imposed, while others are levied by others: family, medical needs, work, neighbors, or voting in national politics.

“The human brain may like to procrastinate, but it likes to avoid unpleasant occurrences more, so it tends to adopt a more “playtime’s over!” approach when a deadline is imminent.”<sup>1</sup>

Douglas Adams famously said he loved deadlines because of “the wooshing noise they make as they go by.”<sup>2</sup>

All joking aside, I've learned I achieve so much more when I impose personal deadlines. When I'm planning a project – whether research, writing, sewing, rug hooking or other area – if I will take the time to add a “target date” for completion, I will work harder to get that project finished on, or well before, time.

I learned this last spring when I wanted to begin a rug hooking project. My daughter, LeShay, and I were discussing it, and I showed her a rug pattern I dearly loved. “But it would take soooo long,” I complained. She asked, “In 5 years, would you wish you had started it now?” So, I gathered the materials and supplies and began this 36"x48" rug! Daunted, though I was.

Unbeknownst to my daughter (but she probably assumed), I also divided the large project into smaller sections, little goals on the way to finishing. Each target date motivated me to beat it. My big goal was to be finished by Christmas that same year. My sister didn't help when she said I wouldn't get it done in my lifetime! But, I chose to let it spur me on.

I started hooking on February 15, at the beginning of our vacation. I worked on it, I put it aside and ignored it some days. Then I'd pick it back up again. Four months later, in June, I was finished with this huge project and beat my goal by 8 months! And I showed myself not to be scared of large projects. Those little deadlines – even though they were suggestions, self-imposed, and (I realized later) very generous time portions – they kept me working towards the goal line.

**Goal:** Complete rug by Dec 25, 2020

**5 hours per week**

		Start	Target	Done
✓				
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Change to brighter colors	4/25	4/25
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Order more orange wool		
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Order more of brighter wools		
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Tiger		4/20
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Leopard	4/24	5/31
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Flower #1	6/1	6/4
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Flower #2	6/5	6/8
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Flower #3	6/9	6/12
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Flower #4	6/13	6/16
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Flower #5	6/17	6/20
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Flower #6	6/21	6/24
<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Flower #7	6/25	6/30
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Leaf #1	7/1	7/5
<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Leaf #2	7/6	7/10
<input type="checkbox"/>	15	Leaf #3	7/11	7/15
<input type="checkbox"/>	16	Leaf #4	7/16	7/20
<input type="checkbox"/>	17	Leaf #5	7/21	7/25
<input type="checkbox"/>	18	Leaf #6	7/26	7/30
<input type="checkbox"/>	19	Leaf #7	7/31	8/4
<input type="checkbox"/>	20	Leaf #8	8/5	8/9
<input type="checkbox"/>	21	Leaf #9	8/10	8/14
<input type="checkbox"/>	22	Leaf #10	8/15	8/19
<input type="checkbox"/>	23	Leaf #11	8/20	8/24
<input type="checkbox"/>	24	Leaf #12	8/25	8/29
<input type="checkbox"/>	25	Leaf #13	8/30	9/3
<input type="checkbox"/>	26	Leaf #14	9/4	9/7
<input type="checkbox"/>	27	Leaf #15	9/8	9/12
<input type="checkbox"/>	28	Leaf #16	9/13	9/17
<input type="checkbox"/>	29	Leaf #17	9/18	9/22
<input type="checkbox"/>	30	Leaf #18	9/23	9/27
<input type="checkbox"/>	31	Leaf #19	9/28	10/2
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Background	10/3	10/7
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Block, steam	10/8	10/12
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Backing	10/13	10/17
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Edges	10/18	10/31

*My goals and deadlines for the Tumbling Cats hooked rug. Kym gave herself lots of margin and room to finish.*

And that's how deadlines work. We can avoid them in procrastination, or we can beat them.

There is a psychological factor to deadlines and setting goals – called “the planning fallacy,” when you are “bizarrely optimistic” when it comes to estimating how long things will take to be accomplished. Most people have this – they don't leave time for traffic jams or accidents, or other hindrances to getting to some place on time. They depend on “best-case scenarios” to get ‘er done.

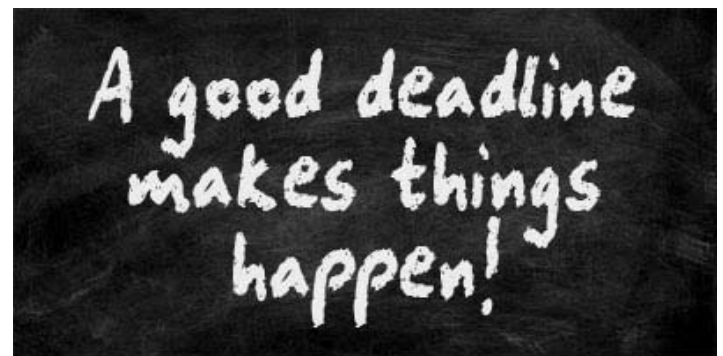
On the other end of the spectrum are people like me who gives myself lots of leeway, wiggle room, and time. I do fine under pressure, but don't like it. So, I allot plenty of margin to get things finished. In college, when a paper was assigned – even if it wasn't due until the end of the semester – I began working on it immediately. I knew the end of the semester was going to have its own crunch time for projects, papers, and studying due – so I chose to allieve as much of that crunch as possible.

Neither way is right, it's just finding what works for you and your family. I don't like the pressure procrastinating towards my goals had on me or my family. So, I learned to live with – and plan for – plenty of margin in my life. Extra time to get things done. I leave in time to get somewhere on time or – better still – early.

Before dismissing a deadline, try analyzing the steps of the project and addressing the **planning issue** instead of the deadline itself. Divide the goal into smaller pieces. For a book, figure out the number of pages it has, how many days you have to finish it, and divide the former by the latter and you'll know how many pages you need to read each day to reach your goal.

My success with that huge rug gave me so much courage to try new projects and plan other large or time-consuming ventures. And to set target date deadlines, so I can beat them!

1. Dean Burnett is a doctor of neuroscience and the author of *The Happy Brain*.
2. Douglas Adams is an English author, screenwriter, essayist, humorist, satirist and dramatist.





*Tumbling Cats hooked rug. Made mostly of wool strips with some sheep wool locks as the fuzziness on the tail, tummy and feet. Size is 36"x48" and it took Kym 4 months to complete it - all by setting deadlines.*



## *Special Treasures* **BOOK !**

- ♥ Encouragement
- ♥ Information from Moms of Special Ones
- ♥ Advice from Professionals & Therapists
- ♥ Help in Homeschooling & Teaching
- ♥ Creative Ideas for Living & Loving

# Family Valentine Traditions



**Valentine's Day is traditionally a time for couples to express their love for one another, but it is also a great chance to show your children how much you love them too.**

**While children typically exchange cards & small gifts on Valentine's Day, this year try starting some fun new traditions for your family.**

*Sarah Lyons, mom of six, has learned first-hand what it is like to adjust to a new baby in the house. She is so grateful for the family and friends who helped her as each baby came home and loves to return the favor to others.*



## **Sarah Lyons**

*Sarah & her family.*



### **Dessert first**

Just once a year it can't hurt to have your sweets before your meal. Offer cake or ice cream first and let the kids enjoy their dessert without having to eat their veggies first.

### **Make it heart-shaped**

After your dessert first dinner, serve up some fun Valentine's Day themed meals. Heart-shaped pancakes or heart-shaped pizza are both fun and easy. Get the kids involved in the kitchen and you will have more time to make special memories of your Valentine's Day dinner.

### **Go on a "date"**

Many people go on a date with their significant other to celebrate Valentine's Day but consider taking your child on a "date" to a place of their choice. If you have more than one child, each parent can pair off or take turns so all kids get to participate. Spending quality time together is a great way to show your kids you care and get the conversation flowing.

### **Cuddle up**

If going out isn't for your family, set aside time to cuddle up on the couch with those you love. Make popcorn, put on some comfortable pajamas, rent some movies, and spend some time together relaxing and cuddling in the comfort of your living room. To make it extra special for Valentine's Day, add red

sprinkles to the popcorn and choose movies that have a love theme.

### **Bake and share**

Bake some Valentine's Day themed cookies to share with someone you love. While you are at it, double the batch and share them with someone who may be spending Valentine's Day alone this year. Cookies are a great way to show others you care and bring some cheer.

### **Hide the hearts**

Hide paper hearts around the house and have the kids go on a search for them. Whoever finds the most wins a prize such as a small toy or a book. You might want to have a few prizes on hand so everyone gets a turn being the winner. You can enlist the winners to be their siblings' assistant as a way of demonstrating their love for each other too.

### **Declare your love**

The simplest way to show others you care is to tell them. Have each family member state one reason why they love the others. You can also write these on scraps of paper and read them as a group. Tuck them away in a special envelope and pull them out year after year to reread them.



# Learn and Do

presents

# Goat Adventure!

by *Kyr* WRIGHT



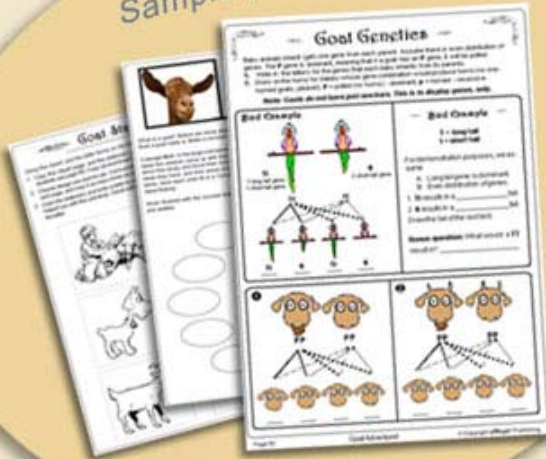
## Learn

- Needs & housing
- History & myths
- Anatomy & care
- Business & Disease

## Do

- Milk a goat
- Goat Genetics
- Science Experiments
- Field trips & more

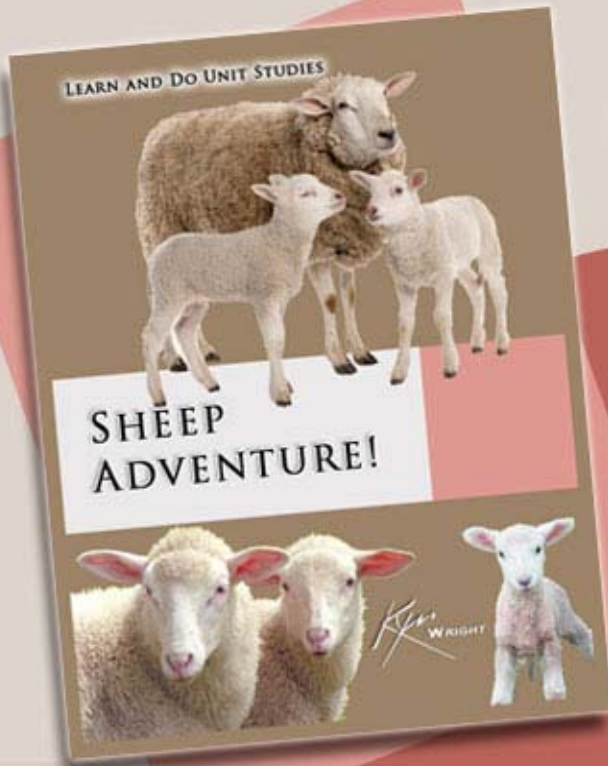
Sample pages



[www.Learn-and-Do.com](http://www.Learn-and-Do.com)

# Sheep Adventure!

by  
**Kyr Wright**



## Learn

- Anatomy & breeds
- Room & board
- Raising healthy stock
- Buying a sheep

## Do

- Locate good pen site
- Clean fleece
- Talk to a vet
- Best breed for you

## Sample pages



Learn and Do

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Part 1

**Welcome back to a new year at the Fuzzy Side!  
This year, we'll look at adoptions.  
We'll start with adopting a dog in three installments,  
then adopting a cat,  
followed by small fuzzy exotics and  
ending the year with livestock/horse adoptions.**

***Disclaimer:** Adopting a shelter is a noble, loving, kind gesture, and indeed, there are many Happily-Ever-After stories that come from families finding their fur-ever friend at a shelter. I don't want to dishearten or discourage you in any way with anything that I write in the coming articles. As with fostering or adopting a child, your new pet may come with needs and challenges - I want you to be prepared for such. Time, patience, and consistency are vitally important in this endeavor, as is finding a good tribe of professionals to surround yourself with. At the end of our adoption series in this column, you'll get to read about our journey through adopting a shelter pup. Titan is an amazing dog with a heart of gold, an intelligent mind and a sensitive spirit. In the piece about him, you'll get to read about how God brought him into our family, the challenges we encountered early on and some of the things we have worked through or are working on.*



# The Fuzzy Side



LeShay Wright Miller

Those who know me, know my love of God, family and animals.

I've had pets almost as long as I can remember.

## Adopting a Shelter Dog, Part I

**Adopting an adolescent or adult animal is different from bringing home a baby, so we'll look at what needs to be done to prepare, choose and integrate the new animal into your family and home.**



Before embarking on the adoption adventure to add a new dog to your family, I recommend doing a good amount of research. Start by researching shelter dog adoption, dog training and dog psychology. Because most shelter dogs are slightly older than puppies, they've had time to grow up, get big, and have some experiences under their belts that shape who they are. Adolescent adoptees (roughly 6 months to 3 years old) can have a range of histories and needs when they come to your family. They may not have had any training, housebreaking, leadership or positive reinforcement in their lives. Rescuing a dog is a very noble, loving and kind gesture. However, you need to make sure you and your family are in this

as a team and have an idea of what you're signing up for. I've listed some great resources for this in the sidebar to start off your research journey. Of all the information, I'd recommend PetFinder's Adopted Dog's Bible as the starting point to your quest for knowledge. This book has valuable insights, stories, preparation for adoption and the process itself. It gives great overviews and can send you in a myriad of directions for further study.

I also recommend having a good, ongoing relationship with your veterinarian and finding a positive reinforcement trainer. As with any working relationship, you'll need to find a trainer you click with and who can help you when your new canine comes along. Depending on your particular pup's needs, you may also need to consult a canine behaviorist to help with some of the trouble spots.

There are plenty of pets in need of a fur-ever home, so finding them is the easy part. The tough part comes in finding "your dog." Search engines such as [PetFinder.com](http://PetFinder.com), local shelters, local rescues, even your vet can point you in the direction of dogs needing homes. The key here is to be open and honest about what you are looking for in a dog as a family. You'll need to weigh several components:

What size dog do you want? If you have a small house, bringing a mastiff or Great Dane into the family may be a bigger challenge than you'd like. Conversely, if you have a large yard or lots of places to jog or run, you may want a substantial dog to romp around with. Identifying your size range will help you in your choosing. You may also need to consider weight restrictions if you are renting and your landlord has pet language in your contract.

What energy level is your family currently and what are you looking for in your dog? Some dogs are couch potatoes and some love nothing more than to adventure all day or have a physically demanding job. Finding the right balance of energy for your family requires you to be up front with yourselves about how much exercise you currently have and what your lifestyle looks like.

Who will be the primary care giver of the dog - providing a majority of food, exercise, training, disci-

pline and care? Ideally, this should be an adult - children can be highly involved, too. However, making a child the main caretaker of a dog is asking a lot and can be a situation set up for failure. Dogs are more demanding creatures to care for than say cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, birds, reptiles or amphibians.

There are complex and intelligent creatures who thrive in a pack/family, but need boundaries, guidelines and positive outlets for energy and mental stimulation. Dogs also need to know the hierarchy in your family with one of the adults being the obvious alpha.

What breed do you want as a family? This can help you not only research the breed tendencies and prepare for adoption, but also point you in a good direction for breed-specific rescues.

What age would you prefer? Puppies are cute and a lot of work - they are clean slates for integrating into your family and are similar to babies with their need for continual care, training, socialization, food and clean up. Adolescents can be good because they're past some of the puppy stage things like chewing constantly, having lots of accidents and needing constant care. However, they have had time to have experiences and little to no training or inputs. They may also come with some baggage that they need help with. Adults and Seniors have their perks - some are trained, are a little calmer or have family experience. They, too, can be wonderful pets with the right integration and help from your family. The key here is identifying what you want to take on in this season of life.

What personality are you looking for? There are extremes and everything in between with canines - you have your leaders and your followers. Some dogs are natural born leaders, very confident and thinking they are in charge. These personalities need stronger leadership, consistency and constant work to help them maintain their place in your pack. Some dogs



are timid and shy by nature - these pups need your confidence, reassurance and consistent leadership to help them blossom in your family unit. Then there are dogs all up and down the spectrum - the key is finding the right personality fit for you and your household.

Once you identify the answers to these questions and others you and your family may ask, you can start the quest to finding your new dog. There are countless resources for finding your ideal fur-friend. PetFinder is one of the top search engines right now to finding a dog through rescue or shelter. There are also Facebook and Instagram pages for some individual shelters, rescue organizations or foster parents affiliated with rescues. I recommend asking your veterinarian for suggestions of reputable resources in finding your new dog.

Once you've found your potential pup, there's likely a screening process and adoption paperwork to submit. For starters, you'll need to describe yourself, your family, your living situation, your schedule and experience with pets. Likely, you'll be asked about any other pets in the home (spouse and kids listed separately). You'll also need to provide your vet's information and possibly when your pets last visited their doc. At first, it may seem a huge invasion of privacy, but believe me, this step is crucial to matching best dog to your family. The agency that currently has your dog wants to ensure, to the best of everyone's ability, that he or she stays with you for the duration of it's life, is offered the best care and home, and isn't returned to them or ends up in another institution. By screening potential owners, this allows the staff to best match pups with their fur-ever family and reconsider the ones that may not be able to provide what that pup needs. For instance, say your family has 2 cats already. The rescue or shelter wouldn't want to place a pup with you that is known to hurt, chase, or kill kitties. Same with children - a high needs pup who would do best with quiet and no kiddos in the home is best not placed in a situation



*At the shelter, the Miller family checking out a dog to adopt.*

with high-energy children. Everyone needs to be set up for success.

The application may also ask if you have adopted and returned any pets previously, when and why. The staff wants to gauge how much tolerance you have for pet issues, what you may do to resolve the issue and get a feel for how much risk you may want to take in adopting a new dog. Again, this helps set everyone up for success - mild mannered dogs with fewer challenges might be a better fit for your family than a long-term shelter resident who may have anxiety and/or known behavioral issues.

Once you've submitted your application and you are deemed a good match with your chosen pup, your contact at the shelter or rescue will probably schedule a meet and greet for you and your family. You'll make an appointment for you and all your in-home family members to meet the new dog. If you have another dog in the home, you may be asked to bring your current canine to meet the potential adoptee. We found it helpful to ask questions, meet the dog, then go for a little family walk to see how everyone interacted and the pup was able to move around outside with us. According to Cesar Milan, this is an

important bonding point between your “pack” and this new dog. You can gauge energy, a glimpse of personality and the dynamic with your family. When first meeting the dog, it’s best to just be - let the dog come to you, smell you and check you out. Then you can begin interacting and reading the dog’s body language. Remember, the shelter or shuffling between foster homes can leave dogs feeling stressed and unsettled, so give the pup time and space. The caregiver of this dog can clue you in best as to the energy level, temperament, quirks, needs and likes - ask, ask, ask! The more you know, the better decisions that can be made.

It is important to note for this meeting that you reserve every right to meet the dog, change your mind or request an extra day to ponder on the adoption once you meet the pup. It’s far kinder to the rescue/ shelter and the dog if you want to prepare more or choose another dog than it is to take the pup home and return it in short order. Dogs need time to adjust and feel safe in their new environment, and if you have any thoughts that this adoption won’t work out, then don’t give the dog a big upheaval and rejection. Dogs are emotional beings and can be scarred when rejected, just as people can. They are highly adaptable, but still feel hurt. Also, when dogs are returned, notes are added to their record and each mark is a higher risk he or she may not get adopted.

Once you decide to bring your adoptee home, it’s also crucial to begin the intro to your life and home well. Everything is intentional with dogs, so you’ll need to align your mindset with being intentional with your pup. It’s advisable to take your dog for a walk around your neighborhood and yard when you first bring them home. This way, they get to know the surroundings,

bonds with the “pack” family, is exercised and comes back to your house calm and slightly tired. Remember, this change in location and people will rock your dog’s world for a bit - be patient. When you get back to your home, you enter the house first and invite the dog to come in. Still on leash, show

your new dog the rooms he or she will be welcome in. Then bring your dog to the new space set up for it, whether it’s a spare room, crate, playpen or gated off area in your home. It’s best, at first, to only bring your new dog out on a leash to be with you in the house or to go outside.

This helps the dog learn the rules of the house, helps you oversee all interactions with the family, and ensures there are fewer or no accidents in the house. Many dogs coming straight from the shelter are semi-housebroken or not house-trained at all. Expect some accidents and messes, but try to set your dog up to succeed by monitoring him or her when she’s out of her area and getting your dog on a schedule.

This was a huge and important shift for us when we brought our new dog home. The kiddos and I had a “flow” to our day, but the times were somewhat moveable - we just knew what came next and did it when we got there. When Titan joined our family, he needed consistency, and on-time scheduled events. So I wrote out a detailed daily schedule for us all and when Titan needed to go potty, be walked and fed. We wove it into our routine, but he tightened down the timing nicely for us. As he settled and got comfortable, we were able to change his longer walk times to the late morning or afternoon (depending on the weather). I will also make a note here, it’s extremely helpful to find out from the previous caregiver what the dog’s daily routine looked like previous to being in your home. This way, you can tailor your times to something close to what the dog was used to. This helps in the decompression and adaptation phase for your new canine.

It’s also helpful to lay the groundwork for expectations from day one. If the new dog won’t be allowed



*Titan hiking with the family.*

*Bee & Titan*



on the furniture or in a certain room, set that expectation from the beginning and don't waver. If you want the dog to walk calmly beside you on walks, then start each walk with that demeanor and expectation. I had to learn a LOT about being a calm, assertive leader and communicating that through energy, body language and attitude. With Titan, he came with some basic training, so he was happy to walk alongside us. He still will try to bolt out in front and run if he's wound up, but I'll calmly have him sit until he's quieted, submissive and listening to continue our walk. Believe me, it's been a lot of long walk sessions and is a work in progress, but it's been worth it for both of us. Titan is much better on leash and I thoroughly enjoy walking, jogging and hiking with him!

During this time, it's also great to remember positive reinforcement. Reward what you want repeated and ignore/divert what you don't want to have continue. Most dogs are food motivated, so finding their favorite treat and using it to reward them works wonders. Some dogs prefer attention and affection as their reward, so use this introductory time together to learn your dog as he or she learns you and your family. There is a 3-3-3 rule (see the article in the sidebar) when bringing your pup home. 3 days to decompress, 3 weeks to start to feel comfortable and 3 months to fully integrate into your family pack. This has been immensely helpful in understanding our dog's behaviors, responses and setting the pace for when we start training classes, make changes to the routine or start allowing more freedoms. Decompression is absolutely essential for shelter dogs - I made the mistake of figuring this out with our shelter boy 2 days in. Just letting your dog be and not planning outings or excessively exercising your new adoptee is the best thing you can do to transition him at first. Then, building in steady, consistent routines will help your integration immensely.

In the next edition, we'll take a look at introducing other pets in the home and how to find your groove with your new canine companion. I've put some recommended research starting points in the sidebars for you, as well as some links to pet rescue search engines. I commend you for considering a shelter dog and its fit for your family life!

## Research Resources

[3-3-3 rule when adopting a shelter dog](#)

[5 Things to Focus on with Your Newly Adopted Dog](#)

[Cesar Milan's training site](#)

["Lucky Dog" Brandon McMillan's training YouTube videos](#)

[Guide to bringing home a shelter dog](#)

[10 Tips for a successful shelter adoption](#)

[Shelter Dog Socialization and Dog Introductions](#)

[For all things dog related](#)

## Books

[Kim Saunders](#). *The Adopted Dog Bible: Your One-Stop Resource for Choosing, Training, and Caring for Your Sheltered or Rescued Dog*. William Morrow Paperbacks, January 20, 2009.

Cesar Milan. *A Member of the Family: The Ultimate Guide to Living with a Happy, Healthy Dog*. Crown (Illustrated edition) September 15, 2009.

## Resources for searching for a new rescue dog

[Resource 1](#)

[Resource 2](#)

[Resource 3](#)

*LeShay has had a love of all animals from a young age. She loved her parents' dogs and cats when they had them growing up, then saved her money from her 7th birthday to adopt a calico kitten from the shelter. She's had dogs and cats in her life since then - choosing and training her own dog at 15, then adopting and fostering all along the way. She loves working with dogs and horses the most and doesn't mind troubleshooting as challenges come along. She, her hubby, 3 kiddos, rescue pit bull, 2 cats and guinea pig reside in Mid-Michigan. They also enjoy visits to her folks' NC farm as much as possible.*

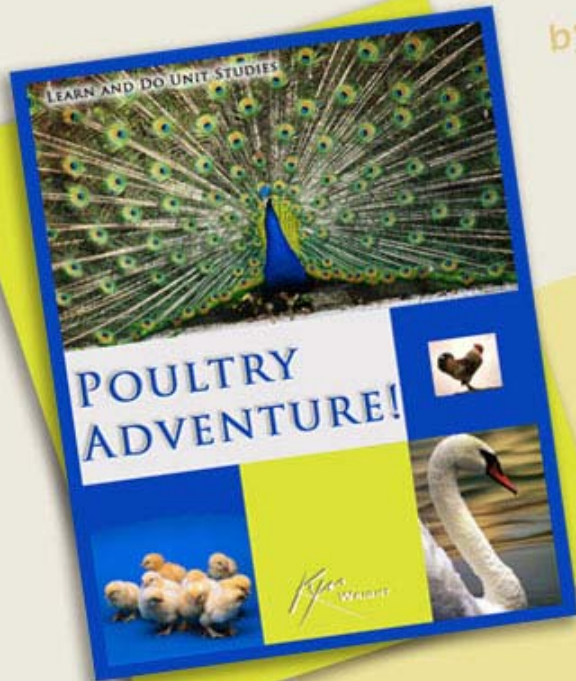


# Learn and Do

presents

# Poultry Adventure!

by  WRIGHT



## Learn

Needs & housing  
History & clichés  
Anatomy & care  
Business & Disease

## Do

Eggsperiments  
Study breeds  
Rubberize a bone  
Field trips & more

Sample pages



[www.Learn-and-Do.com](http://www.Learn-and-Do.com)

# Turtle Adventure!

by  
**Kym WRIGHT**



**Learn**  
Anatomy & types  
Taxonomy  
History & life cycle  
Reptile vs amphibian

**Do**  
Measure shell  
Estimate age  
Observe in the wild  
Map turtle activity

Learn and Do

## Sample pages



Order online at: [www.Learn-and-Do.com](http://www.Learn-and-Do.com)



*A picture Kym's mother painted of Morgan.*



**Morgan is a big guy.  
At 6'5",  
he stands well above others  
in a crowd.**

He swims well. He can lift weights well. He can pick up heavy things. He rides his bike sporadically. He's been involved in Special Olympics since he was young and Miracle League baseball. Yet, we searched for some type of physical exercise he would really enjoy. Something he could do when he aged out of the special sports.

Rewind to last year when a friend moved in with us. A mature adult, due to a head injury, he needs help with some things: finances, emergencies, cooking, goal-setting. When he moved in with us, he was not inclined to set goals. Which is sooo opposite my life and ways. After a medical and mental health exam, the doctors highly recommended he set goals in life – and *write them down!* My mantra. He asked me, "What if I don't feel like doing what I set on my goal list?" We talked through goals, deadlines, and not always just doing what we feel like, but having self-discipline. Also, a 6'5" man, he and Morgan do well working together.



*The 3 runners: Elizabeth (Kym's niece), Rusty (our friend), and Morgan.  
Tired, but so happy! Morgan's first 5K!*

So, he set the goal of running. Then we found 5K races to work towards. Morgan joined him and they were off! My niece, Elizabeth, joined them and would drive over at 6 am to meet them for training. This changed to 7 am for the winter months. The workout evolved from daily runs to running Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and lifting weights on the alternate days, using Sunday as a day of rest.

After a month or so of this schedule, Elizabeth added in yoga for herself. Our friend and Morgan went along (skeptically) for the ride. They enjoyed the yoga stretching so we invested in yoga mats for comfort. Then jumping rope was added.

For Morgan's first 5K, we instructed him to stay with his teammates. Since he has a real liking for the girls, and enjoys hugging them, he needs to stay where someone can oversee his actions. We found out that Morgan really loves to run! He hasn't complained once about this new routine. He wakes up excited to go at it again. He likes to run ahead of the others when training, but we slowed him down to keep track of how many laps he runs.

First off, they ran around the lake on the driveway. The hills were killers, so they began running around the house. From their measurements, twenty-five laps equals a 5K. They began with 5 laps; quickly upped it to 8, then 10. Fifteen was where they landed for weeks, running a lap, walking a partial – mixing it up and lengthening their running time. By the date of the 5K, they were ready to run most of the way, with timed intermittent walks in between.

Our friend had never been to a running supply store and was overwhelmed with the choices of running accessories. He bought new running shoes with helpful inserts.

“Like running on a cloud,” was the response.

Our friend gained a new vision for setting goals – and accomplishing them. He became the leader of “his team.” And he found he really likes running 5Ks and looking forward to perhaps even a marathon or triathlon.

What did Morgan gain from this? Daily discipline. Something to get out of bed for (with a good attitude). Exercise. Working with others. A lifetime form of exercise. Closer relationships with his teammates. And he lost 35 pounds! Not bad at all.

*The end of the race. Morgan is well ahead of Elizabeth on the track, with Rusty, our friend, bringing up the rear. Morgan saw the finish line and took off for the lead!*



Learn and Do Units



# Unit Yak

with Kym Wright



**Making**

**Units**

**Yours**

The basic concept of unit studies is using one topic or literary selection to incorporate the majority of school subjects, especially: science, history, social studies and geography, writing, art and reading. Most times, math and grammar concepts are studied separately from the unit, but can be practiced within its context. There are primarily three ways to obtain unit studies: use what is available on the market, heavily customize one that you find, or write your own.

---

is there  
a difference  
between  
Reptiles  
& Amphibians



Order Kym's new book

## Booster Shot!

Energize  
your Homeschool  
with Unit Studies

Bring back the FUN!

Do you know the difference between

# a reptile and an amphibian



## LEARN

- ❑ **Define:** amphibian, reptile, ectothermic, cold-blooded, molt, habitat, hibernate, oviparous, permeable, gill, tadpole.
- ❑ **Read:** About reptiles.
- ❑ **Read:** About amphibians.

What is the difference between a **reptile** and an **amphibian**? The skin of reptiles is dry and scaly, and most molt (shed their skin) in order to grow. They are **ectothermic** or **cold-blooded**, meaning they cannot regulate their own body temperature, and they breathe with lungs. Some reptiles have teeth. You'll find them living in many different habitats including woodlands, oceans, streams and deserts – but usually not in arctic areas. During cold weather, they often hibernate. They have claws on their feet. Their diet consists mostly of meat, but some do eat plant matter, however they don't eat as often as warm-blooded animals. Most are **oviparous**, or egg-layers. The young look like small adults.

Amphibians are the only animals that can live water for part of their life and on land for another part. They have unique breathing systems, that allow them to breathe through **gills**, lungs and through their **moist water-permeable skin** (the skin allows the water flow through it, similar to a sponge). Some amphibians have smooth skin, like frogs, while others have bumpy skin, as toads do. They do not tolerate cold climates, but need water nearby. Adults eat meat, consisting of insects and other small animals, however they don't need to eat as often as warm-blooded animals. The young amphibians will often have a pale

diet. They lay eggs in the water in a gelatinous (jelly-like) base, sometimes appearing like strands of eggs in a jelly-like straw. When young, they don't look like the adult they will become. **Tadpoles** is the name often given to young amphibians.

## DO

- ❑ **Project:** fill in the "Reptile vs Amphibian" **FunSheet™** showing the characteristic differences between reptiles and amphibians.
- ❑ **Project:** Give examples of reptiles.
- ❑ **Project:** Give examples of amphibians.
- ❑ **Field Trip Project:** Go on a field trip to a pond, lake, stream, or other fresh body of water (not a swimming pool). Make a log listing all of the different amphibians and reptiles you see.
- ❑ **Field Trip Research:** Were there any newts there? Are newts reptiles or amphibians? In taxonomical scientific classification, to which family does a newt belong?
- ❑ **Research (Older):** Are humans ectothermic?





Research and give reasons for your response.

- ❑ **Research:** Do tadpoles look like young versions of their adult parents? Explain why you do or do not think so. Give examples.
- ❑ **Research:** Make a list of other oviparous animals. Find examples for the following categories: mammals, birds, fish, and marine animals.
- ❑ **Research:** Define and explain *estivation*. What is it? How does it involve animals? Does it occur with both reptiles and amphibians? Where does it take place? In which season?
- ❑ **Research:** Find out the differences between alligators and crocodiles. Using the sheet on the following pages, fill in the Venn Diagram for these two animals. (A *Venn Diagram* is

used for comparison and contrast. Under each animal, list characteristics specific only to them. In the central, overlapping section, list the characteristics both animals have in common.)

- ❑ **Mapwork:** On the world map, label where different types of reptiles and amphibians live. Include common animals such as frogs, toads, and snakes. Also include crocodiles and alligators. Are there really no snakes in Ireland?

*This mini-unit is excerpted from the Turtle Adventure!, a Learn-and-Do unit study by aWright! Publishing.*

[www.Learn-and-Do.com/turtles.htm](http://www.Learn-and-Do.com/turtles.htm)

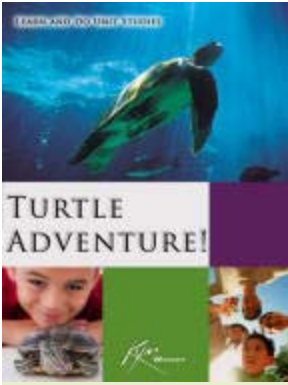


# Reptile vs Amphibian

Directions: Fill in the chart showing the characteristic differences between reptiles and amphibians.

Reptile	Characteristic	Amphibian
	skin	
	breathing	
	blooded	
	legs	
	feet	
	teeth	
	habitat	
	hibernate	
	molt	
	diet	
	reproduction	
	eggs	
	incubation	
	larval stage	
	young	





# Turtle Adventure! Review

All children love turtles – watching them, feeding them, and looking for them in the wild. So ... Kym wrote the **Turtles! Unit to teach about turtle taxonomy, the difference between reptiles and amphibians and turtle history.** Is there a way to tell the age of a turtle by its shell? And how long do they live? What do they eat and how are they born? I've heard of hibernation, but what is estivation? Is a softshell turtle an mistake of nature? And can all

turtles swim in the ocean? With a passion for turtles, what type of career could I have? What do I need to know before I buy a turtle for a pet? And what about turtle anatomy? Just how are they put together?

These questions and more are answered, with Kym's typical detailed lesson plans, vocabulary list, websites, field trip ideas, resources and books, and fun for all ages. The neatest part is the **virtual dissection website** included, covering opening a turtle specimen's shell and dissection. Use it to guide you through your own dissection, or give credit for virtual dissection! Fascinating, fun and informative!

The **Turtles Unit Study** covers:

- Is there a way to tell the age of a turtle by its shell?
- And how long do they live?
- What do they eat and how are they born?
- I've heard of hibernation, but what is estivation?
- Is a softshell turtle an mistake of nature?
- And can all turtles swim in the ocean?
- With a passion for turtles, what type of career could I have?
- What do I need to know before I buy a turtle for a pet?
- And what about turtle anatomy?
- Just how are they put together?

**Turtles Unit Learn & Do Units**

**Learn**

- Diet & habitat
- Anatomy
- Reptile or amphibian?
- Life cycle & species

**Do**

- Measure turtles
- Classification
- Turtle or tortoise?
- Dissection
- Mapwork

**Turtle Dissection CD Online**

Lesson Plans  
Literature  
History  
Hands-On

Order online at: [www.learn-and-do.com](http://www.learn-and-do.com)

**Arachnids Unit Learn & Do**

**Learn**

- Scorpions & more
- Habits & habitats
- Arthropods & anatomy
- Molting & eating

**Do**

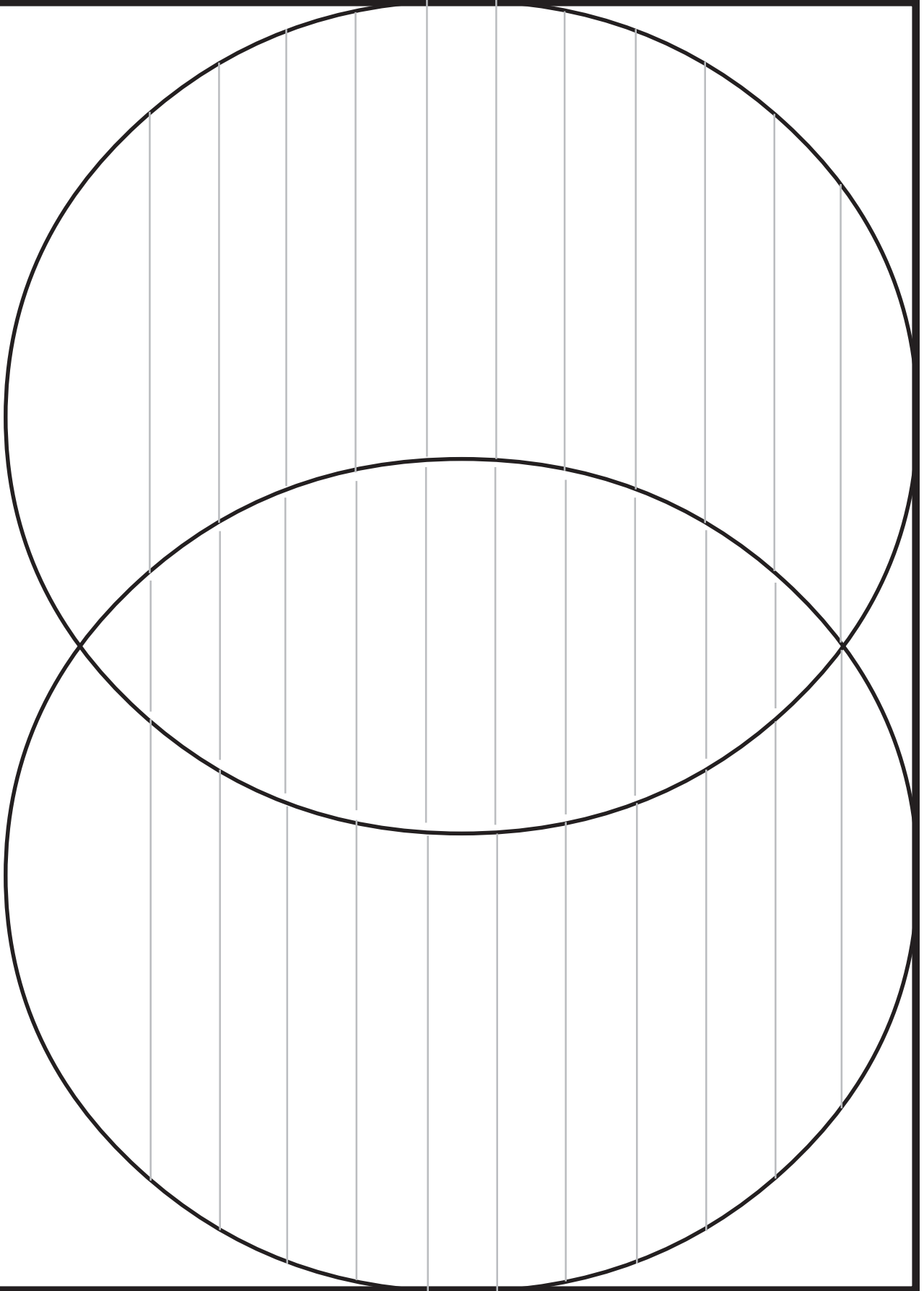
- Fun lab sheets
- Dissection
- Flashcards included
- Harvestman or spider?
- Centipede or millipede?

Lesson Plans  
Literature  
History  
Hands-On

To order: [www.learn-and-do.com](http://www.learn-and-do.com)

Amphibian

Reptile





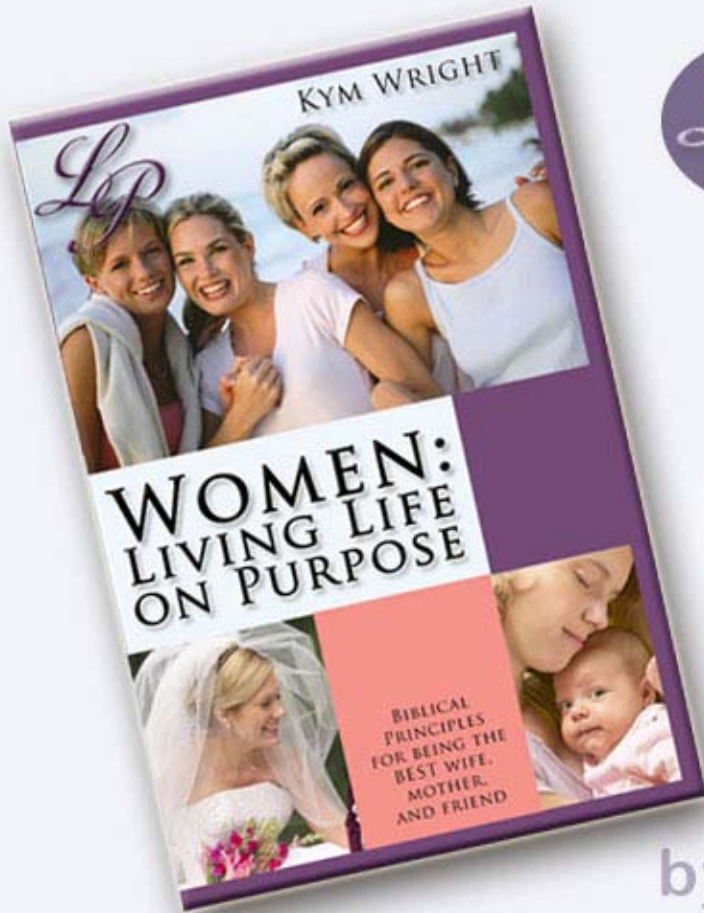
**Directions:** On the world map, label where different types of reptiles and amphibians live. Include common animals such as frogs, toads, and snakes. Also include crocodiles and alligators.



CHAPTERS

- Count Your Blessings: Parenting a Child with Autism
- Special Moms
- Hope for Parents of Special Needs Kids
- Train Them Up: Practical and Godly Discipline
- Down Syndrome: A Christian Neurodevelopmental Approach
- Hope and Help for Autism
- Autism: A Neurodevelopmental Approach
- Homeschooling Special Needs Children
- IEP - Easy as P-I-E
- Teaching Our Special Ones
- Obtaining Special Services
- Various Options
- A Good Government Program?
- Using Flashcards for more than math!
- Teaching Geography
- Special Treasures and Chores
- Teaching our Treasures
  - How to Clean Their Rooms
  - Decorate their Room!
- Dressing a Special One
- Cooking for our Special Treasures
- Teaching our Special Ones to Cook
- Special Workout
- Finding Their Passion
- Bedwetting
- Special Helpers
- Routine
- Candida Yeast
- ADD: A Neurodevelopmental Approach
- Hyperbaric Chamber
- Special Church

- ♥ Encouragement
- ♥ Information from Moms of Special Ones
- ♥ Advice from Professionals & Therapists
- ♥ Help in Homeschooling & Teaching
- ♥ Creative Ideas for Living & Loving



# **Women: Living Life on Purpose**

*A Practical Guide for  
Godly Womanhood in the Modern World*

by

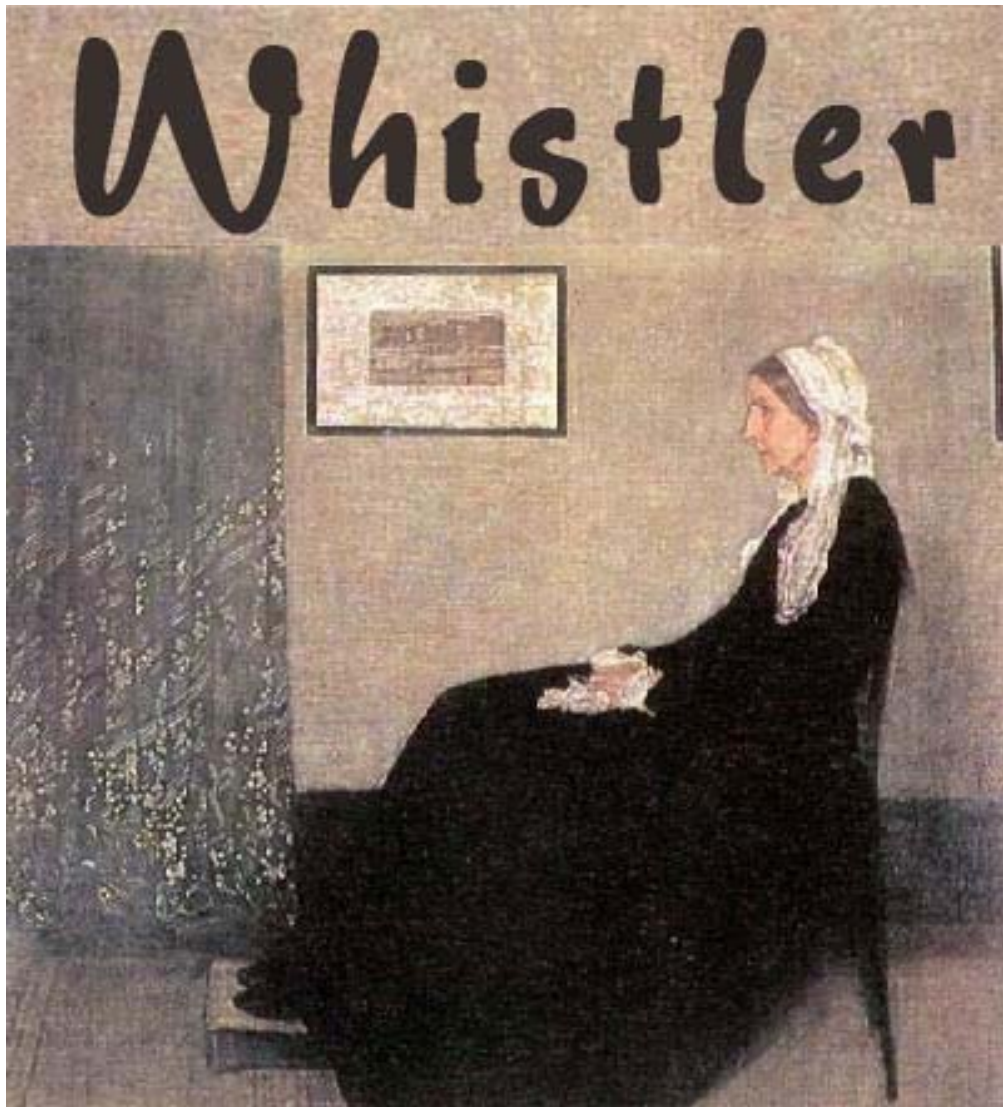
**Kym**  
Wright

**Biblical Principles for**

**being the best**

**Wife, Mother & Friend**

**Order the book**



*"To me it is interesting as a picture of my mother; but what can or ought the public to care about the identity of the portrait?"*

~ James McNeill Whistler



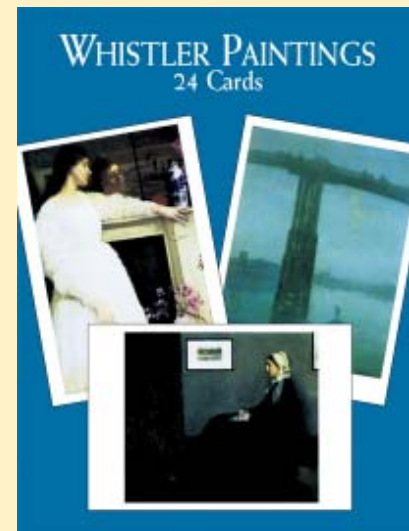
## Start Exploring Masterpieces

Color your world with crayons and imagination — recreate works of art or discover the worlds of nature, science, and legend with these fact-filled coloring books for children and adults.

*Editor's note: we copy these onto cardstock or watercolor paper and paint them with watercolors or craft paint. We practice our painting techniques and study the masters simultaneously. We also painted "Whistler's Mother" using only two colors, like he did, but chose our own colors. I used lime green and turquoise. I used like and dark shades of each color. It turned out beautiful! At least it appealed more to me than the dark colors of the original!*

### Product Description

An artistic adventure awaits you! *Masterpieces* leads you on a guided tour of sixty paintings by some of the world's best artists. Each painting has been carefully redrawn and is ready to color—with crayons, colored pencils, markers, and your imagination. Accompanying each painting is a story that describes it and introduces you to the artist. See the world through the eyes of the great painters as you read these tales and color these pictures of kings, gypsies, flowers, parties, dancers, heroes, and more. Here are just some of the things you can do inside *Masterpieces*: Visit exotic Tahiti with Gauguin Choose a new suite for Gainsborough's *Blue Boy* Take a dance lesson with Degas See Venus, the goddess of love, rising from the ocean Watch the stars with van Gogh Join Renoir for a boating party Fight for liberty with Delacroix Meet Whistler's mother Spend a Sunday afternoon in the park with Seurat Go bird-watching with Audubon These priceless art treasures represent more than five hundred years of painting. Now you can color them yourself to create new masterpieces of your own.



### Whistler Paintings: 24 Cards

James McNeill Whistler

**Page Count:** 6

**Dimensions:** 9" x 12"

*Arrangement in Grey and Black: Portrait of the Painter's Mother* ("Whistler's Mother") appears in this vibrant collection, along with *At the Piano*, *Symphony in White No. 2: The Little White Girl*, *Nocturne: Blue and Gold — St. Mark's, Venice*, and 20 others.





## Websites about Whistler

### Lesson Plans:

[https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/whis/hd\\_whis.htm](https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/whis/hd_whis.htm)

<https://www.artistsnetwork.com/art-subjects/portrait-figure/whistler-painting-lessons/>

<https://exchange.umma.umich.edu/resources/23391/view>

<https://www.jamesabbotmcneillwhistler.org/biography.html>

**WebMuseum, Paris:** [webmuseum.meulie.net/wm/paint/auth/whistler/](http://webmuseum.meulie.net/wm/paint/auth/whistler/)

**All Posters:** [www.allposters.com/-st/James-Abbott-McNeill-Whistler-Posters\\_c63586\\_.htm](http://www.allposters.com/-st/James-Abbott-McNeill-Whistler-Posters_c63586_.htm)

[www.abcgallery.com/W/whistler/whistler.html](http://www.abcgallery.com/W/whistler/whistler.html)





## Timeline of Whistler's Life

- July 10, 1834, James Abbott McNeill Whistler was born in Lowell, Massachusetts
- 1843-48 Studied art at the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, Russia
- 1851 entered The United States Military Academy at West Point
- 1854 Left West Point to become a draughtsman with the US Coast Survey
- 1855 Moved to Paris to become a student of Swiss classicist painter Charles Gabriel Gleyre. He never returned to America
- attended classes at the Ecole Impériale et Spéciale de Dessin in Paris, and the studio of Charles Gleyre
- Befriended, and learned from, French realist painter Gustave Courbet
- 1857 Visited the Art Treasures Exhibition in Manchester forming a life-long passion for the Dutch masters and Velasquez
- 1858 Created his first series of etchings, *Twelve Etchings from Nature* or commonly called *The French Set* from his tour of northern France, Luxembourg and the Rhineland
- Moved to London and his artwork found acceptance
- 1859 *At the Piano* rejected at the Paris Salon
- 1860 Showed *At the Piano* at the Royal Academy
- 1861 *La Mère Gérard* was his first Royal Academy exhibit
- 1862 *The Coast of Brittany* was painted from nature, but with a lighter range of colour and thinner paint 1863
- Moved to Lindsey Row, on the Thames in Chelsea
- 1863 *The White Girl* won great acclaim in Paris
- 1864 *Wapping* was completed, a Thames-side conversation-piece, it was started in 1861
- 1865 *Symphony in White: The Little White Girl* was exhibited at the Royal Academy
- 1871 The shipowner, F. R. Leyland, suggested he call his nighttime moonlight paintings "Nocturnes"
- 1872 Painted three of his best-known portraits: *Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1: The Artist's Mother*, *Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 2: Thomas Carlyle*, and *Harmony in Grey and Gree: Miss Cicely Alexander*
- 1876 Begain painting *The Peacock Room*
- Whistler worked on this decorative scheme for Leyland's London house and transformed the dining room into an all-embracing *Harmony in Blue and Gold* based on peacock motifs. This far exceeded Leyland's wishes. He paid half the 2000 guineas asked, however Whistler lost a patron
- 1877 Exhibited his nocturne paintings, landscapes done in the Japanese manner
- 1877 Sued John Ruskin, an English art critic, for his caustically critique article about his art. He won the court case
- 1879 Moved to Venice, Italy
- 1879 Created *Old Battersea Bridge* and *The Toilet*
- 1879 Declared bankruptcy
- 1880 Returned to England
- 1880 Created the *First Venice* series, it took over twenty years to publish
- 1881 Etched the *Second Venice* series, which was printed within a year
- 1885 Delivered the "Ten O'Clock" lecture in Prince's Hall, an eloquent exposition of his views on art and artists. Translated into French, it opened Parisian society to Whistler
- 1886 Became the President for the Society of British Artists in London. Due to his avante-garde efforts to revamp the galleries, he later resigned
- 1884-46 Held three one-man exhibitions in France and New York. This opened the American audience for Whistler
- 1888 "ten O'Clock" lecture published
- 1888 Married Beatrix Gowin, an artist and designer
- 1890 Whistler's collection of letters and pamphlets on art, *The Gentle Art of Making Enemies*, was published
- 1895 Painted his las self-portrait, *Brown and Gold*. In 1900 it hung in the American section of the Paris Universal Exposition, but he continued to rework it until his death
- 1896 Beatrice died
- 1896 Whistler was elected first President of the International Society of Sculptors, Painters and Gravers. Independent artists from Europe and America were invited to send work to their exhibitions
- 1898 Helped change French law, giving artists control over their work
- Died in London, England, on July 17, 1903

# James McNeill Whistler

## Biography Questions about Whistler

### Biography for younger students

1. Person's name
2. Birthdate
3. His special job
4. What I liked about this person
5. Artwork titles and personal responses

### Biography for older students

1. Early life
  - A. Birth date
  - B. Birthplace
2. Family
  - A. Father
  - B. Mother
  - C. Siblings
3. Education
4. Special interests

5. Marriage
6. Children
7. When he became interested in art
8. Most Famous Artwork
  - A. Title
  - B. When painted
  - C. Description and personal response
  - D. Art medium (oil or watercolor)
  - E. Style of art
  - F. Where displayed
9. Other artwork
  - A. Title & date, my personal response
  - B. Title & date, my personal response  
(Add more as necessary)
10. Most important accomplishment(s)
11. Death: when, where, how
12. My overall impression of this artist
13. His artwork I like the most

## Whistler Resources

Our Library  
InterLibrary  
Loan

	Title	Author	Resource #
<input type="checkbox"/>	James McNeill Whistler	Venezia, Mike	J Bio Whistler
<input type="checkbox"/>	First Impressions: James McNeill Whistler	Berman, Avis	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Artists of America	Freedgood, Lillian	J 759.12 F
<input type="checkbox"/>	James McNeill Whistler	Peters, Lisa N.	

### Adult Section

<input type="checkbox"/>	Whistler		759.13 W
<input type="checkbox"/>	James McNeill Whistler	Dorment, Richard	759.13 CHA
<input type="checkbox"/>	After Whistler: The Artist and His Influence on American Painting	Merrill, Linda	759.13 A (Oversize)

E or JE = Easy (boardbook)  
J Bio = Juvenile Biography  
J Video = Juvenile Video

## James Abbot McNeill Whistler Quotations

- I can't tell you if genius is hereditary, because heaven has granted me no offspring.
- The vast majority of English folk cannot and will not consider a picture as a picture, apart from any story which it may be supposed to tell
- To say to the painter that Nature is to be taken as she is, is to say to the player that he may sit on the piano
- I maintain that two and two would continue to make four, in spite of the whine of the amateur for three, or the cry of the critic for five.
- It takes a long time for a man to look like his portrait.
- An artist is not paid for his labor but for his vision.
- An artist's career always begins tomorrow.
- I remember that at one time I always made a drawing before going to bed!! – Of myself I mean – though I finally destroyed most of them.
- If other people are going to talk, conversation becomes impossible.
- I am not arguing with you - I am telling you.
- Art happens — no hovel is safe from it, no Prince may depend upon it, the vastest intelligence cannot bring it about.”
- If the man who paints only the tree, or flower, or other surface he sees before him were an artist, the king of artists would be the photographer. It is for the artist to do something beyond this.
- To say of a picture, as is often said in its praise, that it shows great and earnest labour, is to say that it is incomplete and unfit for view.
- Paint should not be applied thick. It should be like a breath on the surface of a pane of glass.
- Listen! There was never an artistic period. There was never an art-loving nation.
- Truly color is vice! Of course, it can be, and has the right to be one of the finest virtues. Controlled by the strong hand and careful guidance of her Master drawing, color is a splendid Mistress, with a mate worthy of herself, her lover, but her Master likewise, the most magnificent Mistress possible, and the result is evident in all the glorious things that spring from their union.
- Mauve? Mauve is just pink trying to be purple.
- Over and over again did the Attorney-General cry out aloud, in the agony of his cause, “What is to become of painting if the critics withhold their lash?
- As far as painting is concerned there is only Degas and myself.
- Art should be independent of all clap-trap – should stand alone, and appeal to the artistic sense of eye or ear, without confounding this with emotions entirely foreign to it, as devotion, pity, love, patriotism and the like.
- The work of a master reeks not of the sweat of the brow – suggests no effort – and is finished from its beginning.
- A picture is finished when all trace of the means used to bring about the end has disappeared.
- Nature contains the elements, in colour and form, of all pictures, as the keyboard contains the notes of all music. But the artist is born to pick and choose... that the result may be beautiful – as the musician gathers his notes, and forms his chords, until he brings forth from chaos glorious harmony...
- The imitator is a poor kind of creature. If the man who paints only the tree, or flower, or other surface he sees before him were an artist, the king of artists would be the photographer. It is for the artist to do something beyond this.
- To his students on colour... Someday we shall control the full orchestra.
- On pricing his work... I ask it for the knowledge of a lifetime.
- To a sitter's complaint that his portrait was not a great work of art...
- Perhaps not, but then you can't call yourself a great work of nature.
- For art and joy go together, with bold openness, and high head, and ready hand – fearing naught

and dreading no exposure.

- As light fades and the shadows deepen, all petty and exacting details vanish, everything trivial disappears, and I see things as they are in great strong masses: the buttons are lost, but the sitter remains; the sitter is lost, but the shadow remains; the shadow is lost, but the picture remains. And that, night cannot efface from the painter's imagination.
- As music is the poetry of sound, so is painting the poetry of sight and the subject-matter has nothing to do with harmony of sound or of colour. The great musicians knew this. Beethoven and the rest wrote music – simply music; symphony in this key, concerto or sonata in that...
- You shouldn't say it is not good. You should say, you do not like it; and then, you know, you're perfectly safe.



Self-portrait  
of Whistler

### James Abbot McNeill Whistler Famous Works of Art

<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>At the Piano</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Arrangement in Flesh Color and Grey: the Chinese Screen</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Arrangement in Flesh Colour and Black: Portrait of Theodore Duret</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Arrangement in Grey and Black, No. 2: Portrait of Thomas Carlyle</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Arrangement in Grey and Black: Portrait of the Painter's Mother - better known as Whistler's Mother</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Arrangement in Pink and Purple</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Arrangement in Yellow and Grey: Effie Deans</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Brown and Gold</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cremorne Gardens, No. 2</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Harmony in Grey and Green: Miss Cicely Alexander</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Nocturne in Black and Gold: The Falling Rocket</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Nocturne in Blue and Gold: Old Battersea Bridge</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Nocturne: Blue and Silver - Chelsea</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Nocturne: Blue and Silver - Cremorne Lights</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Peacock Room</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Purple and Rose: The Lange Leizen of the Six Marks</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Red and Black: The Fan</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Symphony in White, No. 1: The White Girl</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Symphony in White, No. 2: The Little White Girl</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The Lime-burner</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Variations in Violet and Green</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Wapping</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Women and Children at a Shop Door</i>

#### A Conversation with Whistler:

Holker: "What is the subject of *Nocturne in Black and Gold: The Falling Rocket*?"

Whistler: "It is a night piece and represents the fireworks at Cremorne Gardens."

Holker: "Not a view of Cremorne?"

Whistler: "If it were *A View of Cremorne* it would certainly bring about nothing but disappointment on the part of the beholders. It is an artistic arrangement. That is why I call it a *nocturne*..."

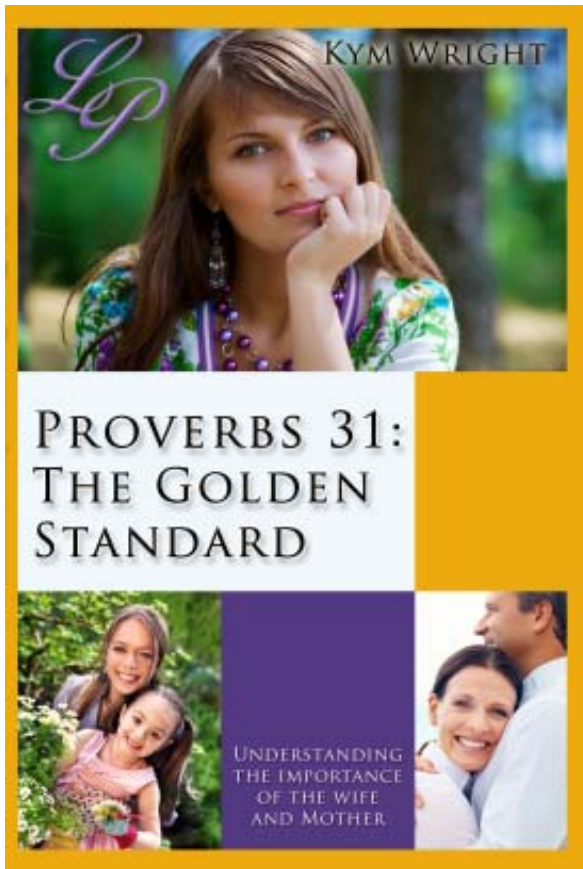
Holker: "Did it take you much time to paint the *Nocturne in Black and Gold*? How soon did you knock it off?"

Whistler: "Oh, I 'knock one off' possibly in a couple of days - one day to do the work and another to finish it..." [the painting measures 24 3/4 x 18 3/8 inches]

Holker: "The labour of two days is that for which you ask two hundred guineas?"

Whistler: "No, I ask it for the knowledge I have gained in the work of a lifetime." \*

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Your word I have  
treasured in my heart,  
that I may not  
sin against You.

Psalm 119:11

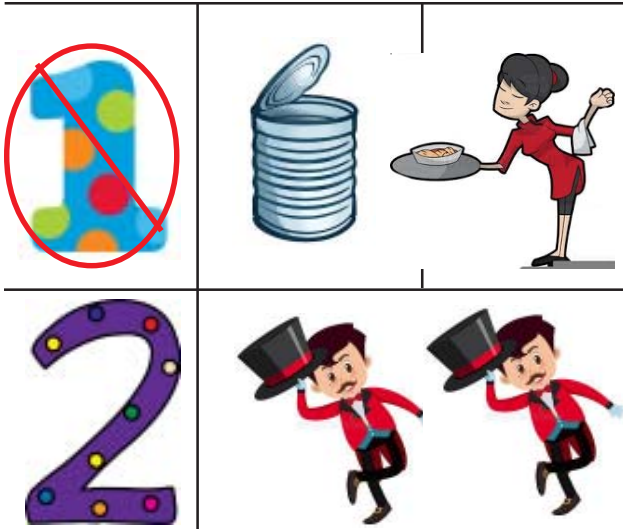
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Let's continue teaching our children to memorize verses, passages, chapters, names of the books of the Old and New Testaments. Diligently, in ways they can comprehend and remember.

This issue, we memorize simple verses – hopefully, so they don't become fools or disgraceful or turn from the Lord. Some of these verses are easy enough for the youngest of learners.

*You can copy these pages and print them on cardstock, to use with your children in memorizing scripture.*

# Matthew 6:24

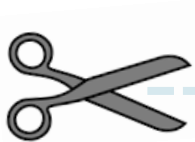


No one can serve two masters.

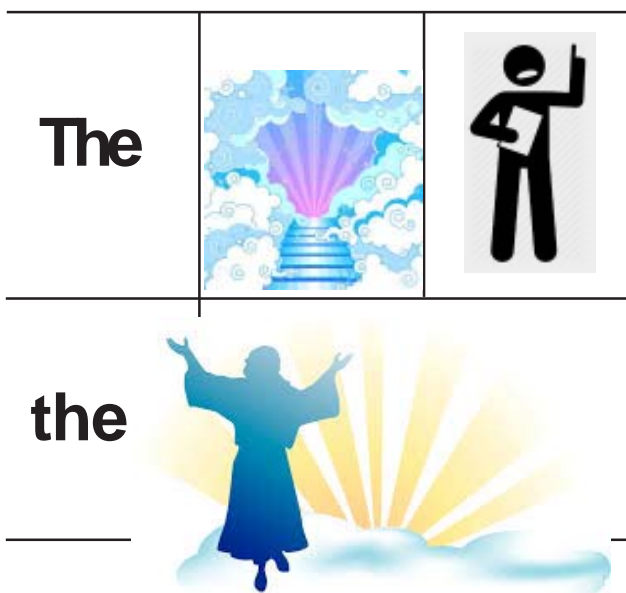
# Matthew 22:39



You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

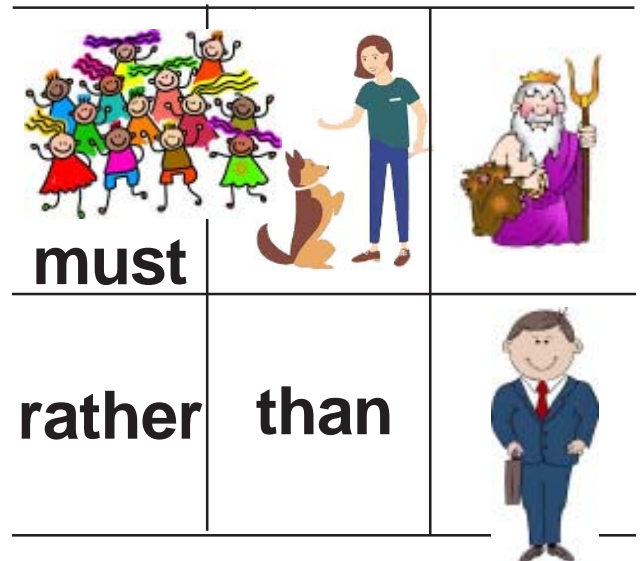


# Psalms 19:1



The heavens declare the glory of God.

# Acts 5:29



We must obey God rather than men.



Teach our children  
to and how to  
set & accomplish their  
goals

Research indicates those who write  
their goals out, 95 % of them will reach their  
goals.

The Bible gives reason to plan our lives in several places: Proverbs 29:18  
“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” and Isaiah 32:8 “But the noble man  
devises noble plans; and by noble plans he stands.”

Planning keeps us from acting in haste - from being so spontaneous that it  
gets us in trouble. Or that we flit from this to that, and never settle in on any one  
thing.

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goals, rather than just responding and reacting to life?

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in, how to re-assess and how often, and how to help our children dream big dreams,  
and to break these big dreams into smaller, bite-size pieces - to accomplish their  
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**Moms Mentoring Moms - 1 CD:** Titus 2 gives women such direction and vision for our lives, showing us how we are to relate to our families and the way we are to behave. They also give great insight into our ministry.

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# In My Garden



As the sun begins its rise over the horizon, Mark and I make our way down and around the lake for our morning exercise. And special time – to talk, discuss, or just be together – along with our donkey, sheep, goat, turkey and duck friends. Our path takes us past their pastures, and they enjoy some pets, loves, and cookies!

During the early cooler months, the air is nippy, but it's not frosty yet – except down in the valleys. There are smaller portions of land that are covered with frozen water crystals. That's called a microclimate – a smaller area within a climate zone where the climate is slightly different from the zone's normal predictions. For us, the valleys are cooler and receive frost and freezing temperatures before its forecast for our area.

When we first moved here, there were no buildings in the pastures. The wind would whip over the forest, come into the mostly treeless area, and tear up anything in its way. Lift animal shelters up and out of their concrete foundations. Tear fabric coverings off metal carport frames. Drop large limbs on cars. Snap outdoor umbrella poles. Toss outdoor furniture about. It was ferocious. Now we have barns and higher-density animal sheds; so far, they are withstanding the fierce winds. That was a microclimate. Not normal for the entire area, the wind followed the same path up and over the trees and down into the pastures. Planting anything fragile in that pathway was a plan for disaster. So, we plant windbreaks near the lower garden beds.

Other factors influencing microclimates are shade versus sunshine or available water. In the backyard, consider fences, buildings, patios, large trees (bushes or plants). Anything that would keep plants from getting the same needs (sunshine, water, nutrients, shade, protection from wind) as a one planted where these needs are met.

So, where are the microclimates in your planting area – your backyard? To find out, walk around the area you'd like to plant your garden and make note of structures, trees, winds. Do this throughout the day, so you get a feel for where the sun shines and where there is shadow during the day. It's an interesting experiment, which will provide you with good infor-

mation going forward.

To outsmart the ills of some microclimates, you can plant tender plants near a south-facing wall or large boulder. This will extend the growing season and provide protection. You might plant fast-growing trees to help guide the wind around. See box, below.

Being aware of your own growing conditions and the smaller pockets of different climates will help your garden be more productive, and you'll have fewer problems with the land.

### Fast-Growing Trees

Remember to pick trees suited for your planting zone.

- o **Norway spruce (zones 3-7):** A strong, fast-growing evergreen that tolerates various soils
- o **Green giant arborvitae (zones 5-7):** A fast-growing evergreen with a classic pyramid shape
- o **Eastern white pine (zone 3-6):** A conifer that grows up to three feet per year
- o **Colorado blue spruce (zones 3-6):** A low-maintenance evergreen with unique color
- o **White cedar (zones 3-7):** A popular conifer with a long cone shape
- o **Douglas fir (zones 4-6):** A sturdy tree that's perfect for snowy and icy climates
- o **White fir (zones 4-7):** A short evergreen commonly used as a Christmas tree

When you pick your plants, remember to mix. If you plant rows of the same tree, you can risk losing your windbreak to a single pest or disease. Alternate between two or three tree types to keep your windbreak up and running.

[www.Davey.com](http://www.Davey.com)



**I've always had a "thang" for leather.  
Living in Turkey as a pre-teen,  
we saw leather made into so many items:  
clothing, hats, furniture, ashtrays,  
totes, bicycle baskets.  
And I fell in love with this substance.**

Which translates easily into learning to sew on it, since one of my passions is sewing. Couple that with leather – and it opens a whole new world!

*Zebra-printed cow hide.*



My collection of leather was scraps I could find at thrift stores: collars, jackets, skirts. I thrilled at finding any leather items for sale, and would take them apart to reuse the leather in new ways. I finally found a company that carries the leftover leathers from the furniture industry: pieces, big and small; half-, quarter-, and full hides. And the prices are very reasonable. I've even found hair-on hides: leather that still has the hair on it, rather than having it chemically removed or shaved. Colors range from the normal earthtones to fashion brights: reds, oranges, fuchsias, lime green, metallic, embossed (crocodile, elephant, ostrich), dyed with a design (zebra stripes). I love all types of leather!

The things I make do not require thin skins like wallets. I make totes, purses, weekender bags, kit bags, and other small pouches. I don't tend to make clothing because it is either too heavy when finished, or takes too long to skive the back off. I have a skiving machine which mechanically cuts the back of the leather off, to make it thinner and more manageable. But, it's mainly used for seam areas and where the leather intersects.

So, let me share some tips from my years of leather sewing by hand, but especially by machine.

## Needles

First, regular sewing machine needles aren't the best for leather. Use those marked for leather, because they are triangular (rather than round) and pierce the leather better. Stronger (larger) needles are best.

When sewing on leather, remember that any puncture mark stays forever. Fabric is forgiving; leather is not. It never heals. So, test everything on the leather before actually sewing.

I was sewing a weekender bag and the seams got misaligned and I sewed it totally wrong. I took the stitches out a few inches, and became creative: I sewed a piece of leather into the seam and extending about 2" below the seam. I sewed this down with straight-line stitching and it became a fashionable extra!



*Detail of another weekender bag I made. Old World Gold leather with embossed leather for straps and zipper surround.*

## Stitches

Lengthen your stitch length so the stitches are farther apart. When stitching in leather, the holes become perforations. If these are close, it's like perforated paper, and it can tear apart. That's another reason not to sew seams too closely.

## Presser Foot

A walking foot is the best for working on leather. If you don't have a dedicated walking foot machine, then using a walking foot on your domestic machine would work well. If that's not an option, then try a roller foot or a Teflon foot. This helps the foot not stick to the leather and not make marks on it. Sometimes the feed dog makes lines on the underside of the leather. Check before sewing.

## Stabilizing Seams

Pins shouldn't be used on leather, as they will puncture it and not heal. Hole forever. There are several alternatives. In a pinch, you can use paperclips. Just check to make sure they don't leave marks on the leather.

Special clips are my go-to favorite for holding leather seams together before stitching. I have clips in several sizes. Double-sided sewing tape is used to hold 1 piece of leather to another. It comes in several widths: 1/8", 1/4", 3/8", and 1/2". I use the 1/8" size for holding zippers in place before sewing. The 1/2" tape makes holding the intersections of leather seams easier, especially when an overlapped seam needs to meet up with another overlapped seam.

Other people use hair clips to hold leather seams together. If it works, use it!

## Cutting

Cut with a rotary cutter. When you first obtain your leather, check the front side for any imperfections and decide if you want to incorporate them into your design, or avoid them. I like brands and other markings; I don't like scabs, scars, or scrapes.

When you find a mark you want to avoid, mark that spot on the back side of the leather. You can use a pen, chalk or tape to mark imperfections.

Turn the leather over and place the pattern pieces on the back side of the leather. Trace around the pattern pieces, remove them, then cut out each piece

with a rotary cutter.

## Some tips from the Brooklyn Craft Company

"Can you really sew leather on a home sewing machine?" And the answer is YES!

Any good-quality home sewing machine should be able to handle leather; you just need to make a few simple modifications to get your machine leather-ready.

## Use the Right Thread

Never use cotton thread when sewing leather, as the tanins in the leather will erode the thread over time. Instead, use polyester or nylon. You may want to use heavy-duty top-stitching thread; it's not necessary, but leather does look nice when stitched with heavier thread.

## Always Test First

Sewing leather can be unforgiving; any stitches you sew will leave a permanent mark, so it's not always as easy to fix mistakes as sewing with fabric. For this reason, be sure to use scrap leather to test your thread, stitch length, tension, and general performance of your machine to make sure you're on the right track before beginning your actual project.

## Plan Well

Most home sewing machines can't handle sewing through a lot of layers of leather, so choose simple projects without a lot of detail or bulky areas. Our leather tote kit is designed with minimal seams so that it's doable on a home machine, but if you're planning your own leather sewing project, avoid any patterns or designs with very thick layering. We find that most home machines can sew through a maximum of about three layers of medium-weight leather. (Remember to account for any areas where you'll be sewing across seams, as those count in the total number of layers!)

## The Creative Fashion Blog adds more: Cut Just One Layer At A Time

While you are cutting your pattern pieces out from leather, be sure to cut only one layer at a time. It may be tempting to fold your fabric in half, but since leather

can have a mind of its own and does not fold easily, you will want to cut out each pattern piece individually.

## Transfer Markings On The Wrong Side Of Leather

While transferring pattern markings, be sure to only mark the wrong side of your leather. Since leather is surprisingly porous, it is better to be safe than sorry when applying pattern markings and keep them to the inside or “wrong side” of your fabric

## Atelier Louise from Australia shares: Secure thread ends with a knot

When sewing leather, it's best to secure the threads at the beginning and end of each row of stitching by tying them in a knot (as opposed to backstitching if you're used to doing that when you sew with fabric). Sewing back and forth over one piece of leather as you do in backstitching can cause perforation and potential tearing or splitting in the leather if the backstitches don't line up perfectly with the original stitching.

So, don't be afraid of sewing on leather. Just be smart and be prepared. Buy the specific tools you need, and jump in with a simple design.

## Leather-Working Tools



31 PCS HAND STITCHING SET - Package includes 2 x Pressure cloth tooth tool(distance of 4mm,2mm), 4 x Awl, 5 x Waxed thread, 1 x Adjustable groover, 7 x Needle, 1 x Thimble ring, 1 x scissor, 2 x Finger cots, 1 x Frosted strip, 3 x Wool daubers, 1 x Short V shaped groover, 1 x Leather edge wood slicker burnishes, 1 x Soft tape measure, 1 x 2 ways leather glue tool, can meet your basic needs for leather crafts.

A Teflon sewing machine foot is helpful when sewing on leather.



## Helpful Books on Leather



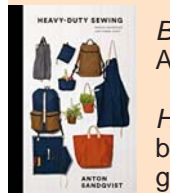
*The Leatherworking Handbook: A Practical Illustrated Sourcebook of Techniques and Projects* by Valerie Michael



*Get Started in Leather Crafting: Step-by-Step Techniques and Tips for Crafting Success* by Tony Laier and Kay Laier



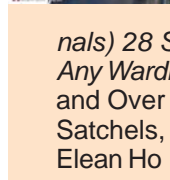
*Handbag Workshop: Design and Sew the Perfect Bag* by Anna M. Mazur



*Heavy Duty Sewing: Making Backpacks and Other Stuff* by Anton Sandqvist



*Tandy Leather Sewing Leather Accessories: How to Make Custom Belts, Gloves, and Clutches (Design Originals)* by Editors of Skills Institute Press and Choly Knight



*Handmade Leather Bags & Accessories (Design Originals) 28 Simple Strategies to Enhance Any Wardrobe; Step-by-Step Instructions and Over 300 Photos & Illustrations for Satchels, Totes, Handbags, & More* by Elean Ho



*The Better Bag Maker: An Illustrated Handbook of Handbag Design • Techniques, Tips, and Tricks* by Nicole Mallalieu



Yasue Tsuchihira

*Making Leather Bags, Wallets, and Cases: 20+ Projects with Contemporary Style* by Yasue Tsuchihira



*46 Leatherwork Projects Anyone Can Do* by Geert Schuiling



*How to Sew Leather, Suede, Fur* by Phyllis W. Schwebke and Margaret B. Krohn





*Mark's Old World Leather weekender bag. For Mark.*



*Kelsey's husband, Vu's weekender bag.  
Made from the same leather as hers - a perforated gray leather.*

## *Some of my leather projects.*

*A weekender bag I made for a friend. Along with his matching kit bag.*





*More of my leather projects.*

*Mark was very specific with the sizekit bags he wanted: one for his toiletries and the other for cables and cords.*



*An Old World brown leather with tan and brown hair-on zebra striped cow hide. It's min and it coordinates with Mark's.*

*An Old World Gold weekender bag with embossed leather touches. Made for a relative.*





*A metallic gold embossed suede journal.*



*Gray leather covered journal with ostrich embossed cow hide.*



## *More projects.*

*Two leather covered journals.  
Two more weekender bags. Turquoise leather for Kaitlyn, one of  
my redheads. And black hair-on and smooth leather.*

