

# WELCOME HOME



*Establishing a Home Of Love & Belonging*

GAYLE BUCKNAM  
CORNERSTONES OF PARENTING

# A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS

---

To My Mother Reba who is now with the Lord, but forever in my heart.

The gift of a godly mother has no price. My mother loved Jesus and lived a life of putting others before herself. She was gracious without being pretentious, beautiful without being vain, and kind beyond what words can express. Each day was a new day in my childhood home, and my mother gave us the blessing of love, forgiveness, hope, and unconditional love. I am so thankful for her example of how to keep a warm and comfortable home regardless of how much effort it took, or what she could afford. Her example remains a memory that is as real to me today as it was growing up.

My Mother-in-Law Lou who is also with the Lord, but forever in my heart.

She supported my efforts in motherhood and homemaking. It is from her lessons that I learned so much about cooking, working with my hands, and trusting the Lord when life doesn't make sense. I am most thankful for the time and training she invested in raising her son, who has been a loving husband and father beyond what I could have ever hoped for. This took a mother's time and intention and I have been blessed by her efforts to raise a godly man. Her example will always be a blessing to me.

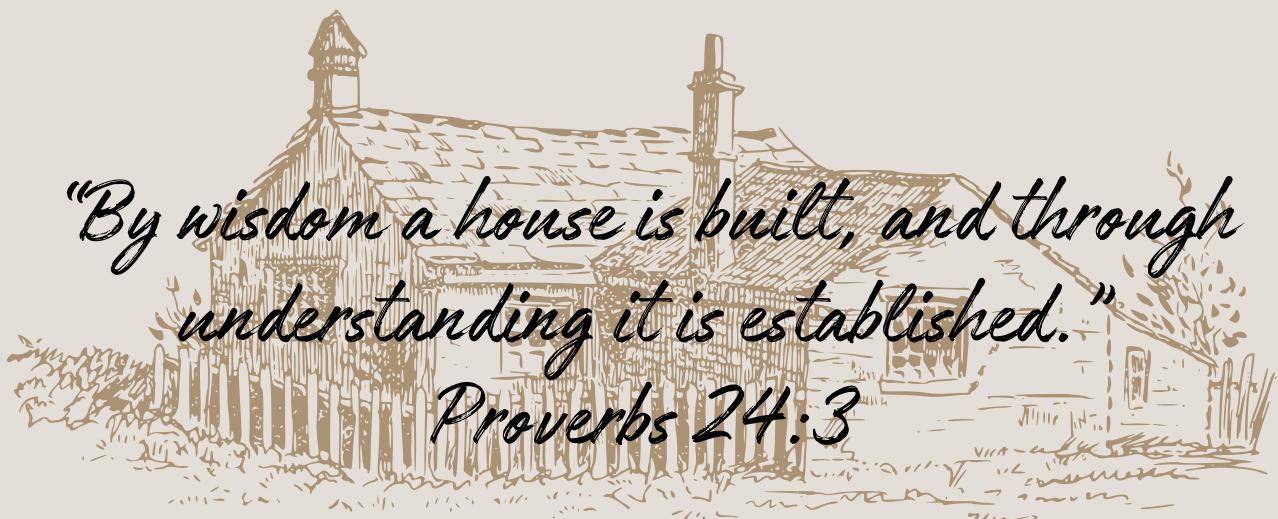
It is with both joy and tears, that I remember the times shared around the table and in the kitchen cooking a holiday meal, singing hymns, discussing life, domestic arts, raising boys, the unfailing love of Jesus. How I wish you both were still here and what a joyful reunion heaven will be!

To Faith Barnard and Hope Frazier,

Both of you have inspired these lessons. Thank you for the special times we have shared discussing keeping a home and the domestic goddess! The list of domestic pursuits you wanted to learn while still in college, will be a special memory for me. I was so honored you wanted to learn from me. It was one of my greatest tasks and blessings. Both of you will always hold a special place in my heart - forever.

To Lucy -

I am so grateful for my special friend who is willing to mentor along with me. She has been my friend, mentor, and spiritual guide for over 30 years. Her input and wisdom has been a steady guide and refuge for me too. She had the blessing of a wonderful mother who was selfless and loving, and it is reflected in who Lucy is.



*"By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established."*

*Proverbs 24:3*

HOMEMAKING IS THE ART OF CREATING A PLACE THAT SHAPES, RESTORES AND GIVES REFUGE TO THOSE WHO LIVE OR GATHER IN OUR HOME. WITH SOME INTENTIONAL THOUGHT AND PLANNING WE CAN CREATE A HOME THAT IS WELCOMING AND DESIRABLE TO BE IN. LISTED BELOW IS THE SCHEDULE FOR THE LESSONS WE WILL COVER OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT YEAR. I HAVE PUT IN BOLD TYPE THE 9 LESSONS THAT WILL BUILD OFF OF THE PRINCIPLES WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY COVERED IN OUR PARENTING CLASS. THE REMAINING 3 LESSONS ARE JUST FOR INTEREST, BUT WILL ADD TO THE GOAL OF CREATING A SANCTUARY OF LOVE AND BELONGING FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS JOURNEY WITH ALL OF YOU!

# Welcome Home Sessions

- 01
- 02     **The Family Table**
  - Sourdough Bread
- 03     **Daily Disciples, Routine, Structure**
  - Organizing your child's day
  - Room time & stations for development
  - Training life skills & respecting property
  - Baking with yeast
- 04
- 05     **Hospitality & Friendship**
  - The Hospitality of Tea-a ministry of the home
  - Developing Friendship & Like Minded Community
  - Teaching Children How to Host Friends/Manners
  - Making Scones, Biscuits, Tea Sandwiches
- 06     **Hospitality Pt. 2**
  - Hosting families & larger groups
  - Benefits of hospitality for your children/character
  - Teaching children to be good hosts
  - Manners for children
  - Respect for property

# Welcome Home Sessions

- 07 **Building Family Relationships**
  - The impact of our words
  - Repentance, forgiveness, & restoration
  - Resolving conflict & sibling relationships
  - Pies, cobblers, & crisps
- 08 **Building Family Relationships Pt. 2**
  - Significance of Motherhood
  - Supporting Fathers in the home
  - Creating a loving home environment
  - Identity & belonging
  - Menu planning
- 09 **The Importance of Family Traditions**
  - Family relationships over holidays/in laws
  - Why traditions are important for our children
  - How to set up a buffet
  - Mastering gravy, potatoes, & traditional holiday food
- 10 **The Holiday Home**
  - Encouraging grandparents relationships
  - Creating lasting memories
  - preparing holiday meals & table memories
- 11 **Honor and Submission**
- Bonus Topics**
- Resources**

# FORWARD

## The Essence of the Home

### Essence:

[es-səns] noun

The intrinsic or indispensable quality or qualities that serve to characterize or identify something. Or the constitution of something

The idea of Welcome Home brings forth the essence of how we as wives and mothers uniquely create a strong foundation to train, nurture, and raise our family. Welcome means to greet with pleasure - to give a friendly greeting. There are no better words to a child when returning to a secure and loving home.

Homemaker. It is now 2023 and I hardly ever hear the word homemaking anymore. It is difficult for a woman in today's culture to confidently claim this as an occupation. Aren't you suppose to do that along with a professional career? Can't you do both? I would argue a lot depends on what responsibilities you define in the profession of homemaking. It seems there always needs to be an explanation given when a woman defines herself or her occupation as a homemaker or a stay at home mom.

Being a mother is certainty a full time job. You are running the daily engine of the home and all it entails; training and raising kids to learn the daily life skills necessary to succeed in this world, daily home chores, hospitality, and cooking are just a few of the essentials. When kids are older, many women will homeschool, have a side job or profession, and enjoy a variety of homegrown arts. It is personal for sure, but some essentials are important for a establishing a welcoming and secure home. You want a home your family will want to be in. One that is not a show home, but a place to learn life skills and relationship bonds needed to build character. It is about intentional priorities to achieve the quality of the home.



Although we focus in the parenting class on the moral character and disciplines that create a strong family, there are things within the home that we as women bring to teach the life skills necessary to our children's character. We also have the role of creating a welcoming place of love and refuge for our family and others.. Each of us are different, with different strengths and interests, but all of us share the desire to guide and train our children in preparing for a successful life when they leave our home. This means spiritual care and guidance, intellectual pursuits, establishing strong relationships, learning the daily disciplines and life skills that teach one to be responsible, industrious, independent and a blessing to others.

.  
The goal of our sessions together will be to uphold the value of the home, supporting your efforts in the role of wife & homemaker, teaching us how to train our children in important life skills that only home can teach them young successfully and establishing a welcoming home through relational skills and organization of the daily life. It is truly a special time of life, a season, but one that will shape and impact all those in your home.

Homemaking is more than just a term for keeping up the house and cleaning chores, it encompasses a way of life,, the values that we as women bring into our homes that requires intentional planning to create a personal, one of a kind, home that the members who live there identify as HOME. Their home. It is a woman who defines her home through the relationships built, responsibilities learned, meals shared and creative domestic arts that speak to who you are. Your family contributes, but it is your special application of the domestic arts, that brings beauty, grace and invokes that feeling of a welcoming home. A man will never be a homemaker. They can put on a meal, but they are not given the domestic art gene – they just aren't.

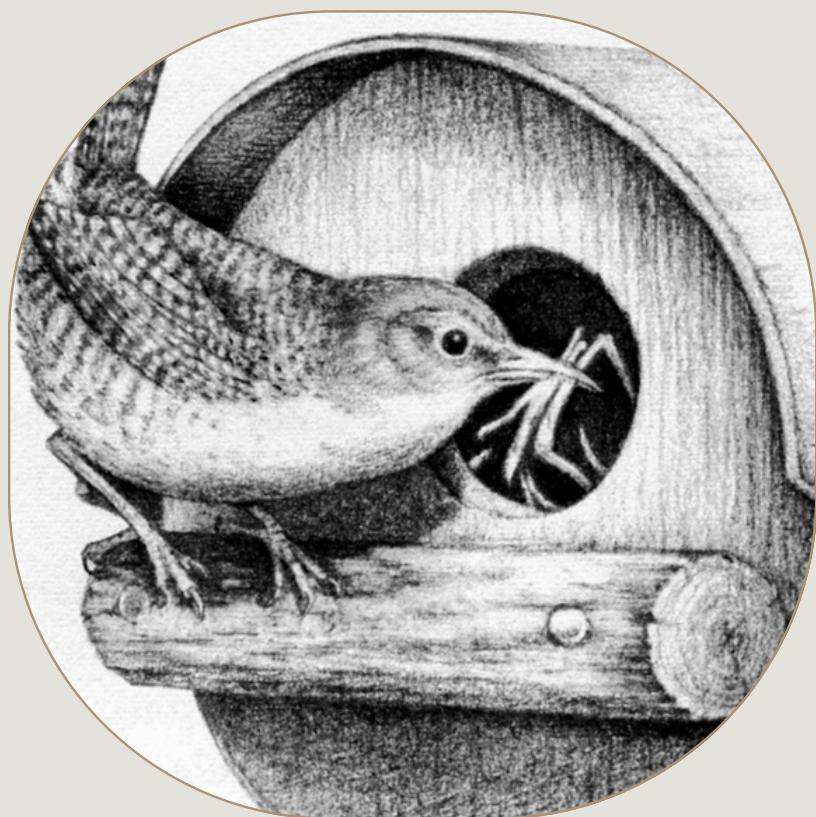
The truth is, most of us if we really think about it, are naturally drawn to homemaking. It is in our DNA. Many of us had stay at home mothers when we were young and thank her for it. I have heard from many young women that they are staying home because of the example of their mother and how much value those years of being with her meant.

It is sobering to see the attack on the home, particularly on the role of mothers and how schools, civic organizations and the internet are conditioning our children to not look to their parents, but to government, schools and others for identity, security and moral thinking. How is one to counter such strong attacks – HOME. The character and intentional influence of the home you create will go far in establishing a strong foundation.

I look forward to spending time with each of you as we learn together what the potential is for our homes and those we live with in it. May you be blessed and be a blessing to others through it.

Home is a place or dwelling for a family. A place of protection of our hearts and minds, and in today's world our children desperately need a place where things make sense and where hearts are protected from ideologies that are targeting young and vulnerable children. Home is also that special location we identify as holding our memories, beliefs, shared experienced with the ones we love. By intent or neglect we will create a home and with some thought and skill we can build this home to reflect our beliefs, a shared place of memories and experiences with the ones we love.

# THE INTENTIONAL HOMEMAKER



*"And just as a little gold, running through a fabric, brightens the whole garment, so women's work at home, while only the doing of little things, is like the golden gleam of sunlight that runs through and brightens all the fabric of civilization."*

*-Laura Ingalls Wilder*



---

omemaker. In 2023 who uses the term homemaker anymore? Maybe you can relate to how hard it is to define yourself as a Homemaker. It is a title that can be hard to even say. There was a time when women were proud of homemaking and the role was valued and understood for the work required to do it well. I believe it is because the value of the mother in the home has been diminished and the goal of homemaking lost.

It feels old-fashioned and quaint. I even had to actually look up the definition. According to Webster a homemaker is, “one who manages a household, especially as one’s main daily activity.” Having been a stay at home mom for over 20 years my first thought after reading this definition the role of an intentional Homemaker is so much more involved then what was described in the Webster’s definition.

Homemaking is more about caring for those in our homes. It is about exercising the unique gifts God has given each of us to plan and prepare a warm and welcoming place to raise our family. It is more than just a term for keeping up with schedules and cleaning, it encompasses a way of life, the values that we train in our children. After reading this definition I decided that homemaking is really more of an art form then a job and the Homemaker is the artist that creates the unique home experience.

## An Art Form

If homemaking is an art form, then the Homemaker is the artist. Every artist has a unique way of creating and shaping a picture or work of art. The very definition of art in Webster states it as “a conscious use of skill and creative imagination” and an “occupation that requires knowledge and skill. This is certainly true when a woman creates a home.

A successful home reflects the uniqueness of the home/artist and not a replica of someone else’s work. Authenticity is important to a piece of work being considered valuable and I encourage you to remember this principle when designing and creating your own home. It should be unique to you and represent your tastes and style and not a copy of someone else’s.

Another principle in creating beautiful works of art is that an artist must also have some vision or purpose for the picture... an idea of where the work is headed. It is also true that no artist is just instantly successful in the first attempt and must take pains to change and redirect the work as needed, to accomplish the goal of the piece being created. It takes practice to develop skill and this analogy is absolutely true for the domestic arts as well.

It is also true that any great work of art takes a skill that is trained over time. I love the definition of art being an occupation requiring knowledge and skill (Webster).

---

## Homemaking is Part of Your DNA

The truth is, all of us come from different perspectives in our thoughts on homemaking. Some of us embraced this role from childhood, looking forward to the day when our primary duties of the day revolved around the home and family. Some of us watched our own mothers who lovingly built a secure nest where we successfully flew from when it was time. For most of us, we viewed what our mothers did as a gift and we want to give our children that same gift. Still others of us may reject the idea of homemaking due to a difficult example, or just the idea this role is just a little too “old-fashioned.”

Regardless of the point of view you are coming from, I believe that the homemaking role is just innate in us as women - it is part of our DNA. We love to build secure and loving homes for our family. We are just naturally drawn to building a nest. We may come from uniquely different experiences and styles, but all of us know our homes shape the lives of our children and those who gather in the place we call home.

## Why an Intentional Home is so Important

It is sobering in our American culture today, to see the attack on the home, particularly on the role of mothers. Schools, civic organizations and the internet are conditioning our children to look to the government, schools and the internet to find their identity, security and moral thinking. I see this all the time in counseling teens and it has become apparent that the only way to counter such strong attacks is through the establishing of strong family relationships and the values trained in the home. I hope you will be encouraged that with some intentional planning and effort, you will have the greatest influence in shaping your children. I love the old adage, “the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world”. How true that was in the 1800’s and how true it still is today.

*Welcome Home brings forth the essence of how wives and mothers uniquely create a strong foundation to train, nurture, and raise their family. Welcome means to greet with pleasure- to give a friendly greeting. There are no better words to a child when returning to a secure and loving home. So come on in and stay a while as we learn the value and skills of homemaking.*

Building off the lessons learned in Cornerstones of Parenting, Welcome Home encourages women to be both wives and mothers who impress on their children the character, life skills, and daily disciplines that strengthen the family and foundation of the home. By walking through lessons in home making, daily routines, and relationship skills, women learn the importance of training their children in the disciplines needed to create a welcoming home. In doing so, women can learn to establish a home that is both a joy to be in and a blessing to the family.

- Gayle Bucknam, LPC