

PDF

*the Organized
Homeschool Life*



**A WEEK-BY-WEEK GUIDE
TO HOMESCHOOL SANITY**

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Introduction

If you're anything like me, you find dozens of great ideas you could use to get and stay organized in your homeschooling and life. The problem is overwhelm. Where do you start? **It often feels like you aren't organized enough to get organized.**

I've been there. In fact, when I gave homeschooling a try by teaching preschool 16 years ago, I was convinced I had to quit because I was so disorganized.

- I was constantly forgetting appointments
- I couldn't find anything
- The laundry piled up
- I didn't follow through with my curriculum
- The stress made me short-tempered with the kids

Little did I know that homeschooling was the perfect remedy for a disorganized mom like me. I saw how incapable I was of doing what God had called me to do. It didn't happen overnight, but today people consider me an organized person.

I've come a long way, but I still seek ways to make our homeschooling, home life, and work function as efficiently as possible. I've noticed that there aren't a lot of organizing missions tailored to families who homeschool, and that's too bad. We have specific organizing needs.

If you desire more organization in your homeschool and life, I invite you to join me for a year's worth of challenges. Unlike many organizing books, this book's challenges don't all center around rooms in our homes. Instead, we'll organize aspects of our life and homeschool. Week-by-week, we can be organized enough to do all God has called us to do.

How To Use This Book

You have options. You can either go right to the section covering the area you need most or you can work on the current month's challenges. On Mondays, you can read the challenge, then spend 15 minutes doing one mission each remaining weekday. Or do an hour session over the weekend. Alternatively, you could spend a whole month or even a whole year on one challenge. It's your choice. This book is your partner, not your master. At the end of each month's challenges, you'll find a checklist of all the missions to help you track your progress.

One thing I forbid you to do is beat yourself up for not doing every mission. I hope this will help: **I haven't completed every mission in these challenges.** Did you catch that? If you're going to fret about not being as organized as I am because you're not doing every mission as scheduled, just stop. I wrote this book as much for myself as for anyone else. I am not a naturally organized person. Yet the challenges I *have* completed have given me the confidence I need to keep homeschooling. When I am ready to take on the rest of the missions, this book will be there for me, pointing the way. It will be there for you, too.

If you are determined to complete as many challenges as possible, but you aren't sure where to start, begin in January. I scheduled what I consider to be the most important challenges first. If you run out of steam in February, you will be well on your way to an organized homeschool. Progress, not perfection will be our motto, okay?

I originally shared these missions on my blog, Psychowith6, with links to great ideas, resources, and printables you can use in the process of organizing your homeschool.

Register at psychowith6.com/organize-your-homeschool to get all of the printables created specifically for the challenges. The rest of the links are accessible through the URL listed at the bottom of each challenge.

Pick up a copy of *The Organized Homeschool Life Planner* at Psychowith6.com/TOHLPlanner to make getting organized with these challenges even easier.

For extra motivation, you may enjoy listening to the audio version of the challenges on *The Homeschool Sanity Show* podcast (HomeschoolSanity.com).

For extra accountability and creative ideas for implementing each challenge, I invite you to join our Facebook group at Facebook.com/groups/organizedhs.

Now if you are ready to experience more homeschool sanity, choose a challenge and let's go!

January

*“So teach us to number our days,
that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”*

Psalm 90:12

Daily Devotions Challenge

There is no more powerful habit for an organized homeschool than devotional time. We won't find the peace we want in a pretty bin, but in a relationship with the Prince of Peace.

PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

I did not devote time to prayer and Bible reading until I was very pregnant with my second son. At that time, I attended a Becky Tirabassi seminar as part of a Women of Faith conference. Becky told story after story of answered prayer and beseeched us to make an "appointment with the King" every day.

At the time, sad to say, I was on staff at my church, but had never read the entire Bible. When Becky asked anyone who was fully committed to keeping that important appointment to stand up, I did. I bought Becky's *Change Your Life Daily Bible* and her *My Partner Prayer Notebook* and I was on a personal mission. (Becky shares her philosophy in *Let Prayer Change Your Life*.)

I was so motivated to read the Bible through in a year that I even did my reading and prayer time in the hospital after giving birth. I don't remember anything I read, but I kept my appointment!

COUPLE DEVOTIONS

I made time for personal devotions that did change my life, but I made a big mistake. I didn't include my husband in the process. He felt left out of my new habit of Scripture reading and devoted time to prayer. He felt better when I bought him his own daily Bible. We have changed Bibles since then, but we continue to have a shared habit of reading Scripture in the morning.

We have prayed together at various times of day as we felt led, but having a regular time of praying together is a habit we don't yet have. Apparently, we're not alone. Only 4% of couples pray together daily, despite its association with the highest levels of marital satisfaction. Planning time for shared prayer is our goal for this week. I hope you'll join us!

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Christian homeschoolers usually do a great job of teaching the Bible as a part of their curriculum. In our busy lives, it can be harder to find time to pray and read Scripture as a family. We've been inconsistent over the years in using formal programs that require supplies for fun activities and more successful reading missionary biographies in the evenings or doing a short devotion in the mornings. My husband will occasionally read Scripture and then lead discussion of it, use a regular devotional book, or will join us for our school Bible time. He is not one who likes to be locked into doing the same thing at the same time. We have used *Character Building for Families* the most consistently because it's short, meaty, and requires no preparation.

The most powerful family prayer time approach we have used is to each pray about something we are thankful for, something we are sorry for, and something we need help with. We have really been able to feel in touch with our kids' hearts. Many times I have been upset about something the kids have done earlier in the day, only to be moved by their confession of it in prayer and their request for help from the Holy Spirit to avoid a similar error.

Organized Summer Challenge

If you're like most homeschoolers I know, you love summer. You have the freedom to be more relaxed about school, many extra-curricular activities are on break, and you can enjoy the outdoors with your family. The problem is, we imagine we'll be able to do so many things with our extra time and then the summer seems to fly by. We can end up disappointed. This week we'll get organized to make the most of this season.

YOUR MISSIONS FOR THIS WEEK

#1 Discuss last summer's likes and dislikes

Have a family discussion about what worked and what didn't last year. What was super fun that you want to repeat and what did you miss out on that you need to plan for?

#2 Complete a summer bucket list

Use your discussion to come up with a summer bucket list for your family. You can find summer bucket lists on Pinterest, including lists from 3Dinosaurs.com that can engage our kids in drawing or hand-writing their bucket lists.

Summer Bucket List

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