



Course 3: The Practice of Scholé with Kathy Weitz

Lesson 1: Morning Time

Outline:

Morning Time

- Morning Time is the number one best practice for bringing scholé into a homeschool.
- With a range of ages, Morning Time is when all the subjects that can be done together are done.
- This practice kept the homeschool flourishing.
- Even with only high schoolers, reading time together is still prioritized.
- Small things in small increments added up to huge amounts.

Make Time for Morning Time

- You have to make time to be home at least a couple days a week.
- You will set yourself up for endless frustration if you try to add morning time to what you think you should be doing.
- Morning Time is not always early in the morning.
- Three other rocks went into the schedule:
 - Math
 - Language Arts
 - Latin
- Morning Time included pieces of math, language arts, and Latin.

Morning Time is a Composite Rock

- Combine and simplify subjects of history, science, and geography into Morning Time.
- Review of phonics, math facts, and Latin chants are also incorporated into Morning Time.

“Yes” to Morning Time Means “No” to Other Things

- Don’t assume that I am doing all that you are doing plus this wonderful thing that I am telling you about.
- Think about how you can empty your jar to have scholé in your home.
- Some things to say no to:
 - Sports
 - Outside classes
 - Formal science
 - Formal history curriculum



Morning Time Reflection (Tennyson's *The Brook*)

- Moved briskly along – Lower school and early upper school ages
- Meandering – Summer season
- Trees and rocks have sharp bends and detours – Morning sickness, nursing babies, and active toddlers
- Smooth and deep brook – Morning times tailored to more mature pursuits
- Trust in our Sovereign God's perfect providence in the ordering and timing of our children that His plan is worked out for our children.

Structuring Morning Time with Different Ages and Stages

- Preschoolers through early elementary school is a good time to begin morning time.
 - Charlotte Mason's precepts concerning the habit of attention should be guiding principles.
 - Morning time may begin as 5-10 minutes
 - First session: Short prayer, stanza of a hymn, catechism question
 - Later: nursery rhyme, poetry recitation
 - Tie morning time to the daily routine.
 - Naps
 - Bedtime
 - Gradually increase the time and number of activities. Keep expectations realistic.
 - Morning Time is great training to sit still and listen in Sunday worship.
 - This is easier if you limit screen time.
 - Established routine will help younger children come into the routine.
 - The 3 year old may play quietly with Legos or color after a few minutes of Morning Time.
- Elementary and Junior High Years
 - Group students for as many subjects as possible.
 - Aimed read alouds for the older crowd.
 - "Spread an abundant and delicate feast in the programs, and each small guest assimilates what he can." Charlotte Mason, *Towards a Philosophy Education*
 - Short lessons continue but move toward longer attention spans and much longer reading times.
 - Rich feast (sometimes lasting 2 hours):
 - Memory work, composer study, picture study, history literature, poetry, geography
 - **Example:**
 - Prayer, hymn, Bible reading, short catechism recitation (15 minutes, sitting)
 - Chant Latin grammar (5 minutes, standing)
 - Poetry reading, recitation (15 minutes)
 - Read aloud history with narration (30-45 minutes)



- Each child had a map book, a timeline, and a sketchbook (to draw what they were talking about)
 - Break
 - Older student may do a phonogram review
 - Read aloud literature with or without narration (30-45 minutes)
 - Timeline recitation (3 minutes, hand motions)
 - Picture study or composer study added some days
- Around this age, each child should have a binder with memory work, hymns, timelines, and maps.
- Begin to buy extra copies of the literature, so that they can follow along as you read (certainly in high school).

High School

- They can do the beginning of Morning Time together and then do their own work, which may take more time.
- There is a great benefit to reading with older children.
- Older students can do some of the reading.
- Just high school students:
 - Catechism memory work
 - Theology reading
 - Deep reading (poetry)
 - Read Elements of Style.
 - Read the *Divine Comedy*, *Chronicles of Narnia*, Shakespeare plays, and Plutarch.