



Teaching with a Golden Thread: Modeling an Integrated Christian and Classical Homeschool with Danielle Bennette Dukes

Unit 1: Core Purpose and Vision, Lessons 1-5

Outline:

Lesson 1: Vision for a Freeing and Ennobling Homeschool

We have to become true learners.

- Tailor our education to meet the needs of our situation.
- Connect the children to a common recorded human history.
- We cannot read every book, or cover every moment in history.
- How do I best focus on the Christian aspect of Christian classical education.
 - Ultimately I want to teach them how to find the golden thread and follow it.
 - Ultimately the golden thread we are following is the story of the salvation history of the world.
 - Now that we are anchored, we can read any book. I can step back and have leisure in our homeschool.
 - We can slow down and ponder and contemplate in order to welcome the stranger.

Four Guiding Questions

- **Who do you say I am?**
- **Who is my neighbor?**
- **Can anything good come from Nazareth?**
- **What must I do to gain eternal life?**
- This is a turning to a kingdom-based education from a culture-based education.
- We are trying to cultivate children of God. That education is a whole life endeavor. God has given you the children before you for a reason, you bring your whole self into the education that you are giving to the children in front of you in order to help them to know, to see, and to be all that God has created them to be.



Lesson 2: Homeschooling with Focus to Fit a Flourishing Life

Free

- I want my children to be who they are so they can be what they want to be in society, generally.
- I want them to know that they can choose how they live.

School at Home

- At the start, I heavily relied on the books. Sometimes real life happened.
- Sometimes you feel enslaved to the curriculum, which does not feel like education.

The Classical Model

- Trying to do everything all at once is impossible, you will feel like you are drowning.
- Knowledge can be known and be seen.
- We are educating a particular people, in a particular place, in a particular time.
- I can't read every book.
- Education is prescriptive. What is the prescription for our family?
- The teacher is also the student.
- Who are we? Who did God create us to be? What is my culture and what are my gifts and talents that God has given me?
 - As the teacher, guide, I have to ponder what is it that God would have me to share with my children?
- God is love
 - I want them to know that they are loved by God.
 - I want my children to be resourceful.
 - I want them to be able to know and see ideas and reality in such a way that it points them higher.
 - Why do the parents choose your school? What are our foundational virtues that we need as a family, school, or staff? There is an attraction and a grace that are holding to together.
- I want you to be able to:
 - Read well.
 - Think well.
 - Write well.
 - Calculate well.
 - Communicate well.
 - Listen well.
 - Speak well.

Lesson 3: How to Avoid Drowning as a Teacher

Subjects versus training in using the liberal arts.



The book is a tool to work on these skills.

Lesson 4: Danielle's First Encounter with a Homeschool Student

First encounter with a homeschool child.

- The homeschooled child was guiding a tour at a natural history museum. He was comfortable in his environment.

Lesson 5: Teaching Prescriptively: Knowing Your Student and Helping Them Learn to Listen and See

Will the book point us further than ourselves? Will it help us to be transported into a different time?

Nature study:

- Children can be taught to hear.
- Silence is important for seeking the face of God in prayer.
- You need to be silent to hear the person in front of you.
- Your mind, that you can control, is noisy, and you need to learn to hear in order to receive.