

FAMILY TIMES

A Home-school Newsletter for New Testament Christians
Edited by Bev & Dave Hewitt and Karen & Dave Pratte

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**FLORIDA COLLEGE HOME - SCHOOL SEMINAR SCHEDULED FOR WED., FEB. 4,
AT 3:00 PM – SEE NOTE BELOW**

JOIN HSLDA DISCOUNT GROUP NOW OR NEVER!

That headline may be a slight exaggeration, but not much. I suspect that some folks have postponed joining the new Family Times discount group for HSLDA membership, but plan to do so someday. Actually, however, if there is ever to be a discount group, you can't wait much longer!

Perhaps I did not make this clear in our last *Family Times*. ***If you intend to join our HSLDA discount group, you should join NOW.*** Perhaps some are thinking they will just wait till the anniversary date when their HSLDA dues must be paid, then they will join our group. Some may even think they will have to pay their dues sooner, if they join our group. But it doesn't work that way.

Please understand. If you are already a member of HSLDA, you ***do not have to pay a dime now to join our discount group.*** You will be billed by HSLDA at exactly the same time you would otherwise have been billed, except you will be billed \$85, instead of \$100. The only people who send us any money for anything now are NEW HSLDA members.

But we must have 25 families in our support group in order to even BEGIN the group, and we are not near that number yet. If we receive enough applications soon, we can begin the discount group; otherwise, we will simply drop the idea. We make no money off your HSLDA dues, but by forming a discount group, we help YOU save money.

So, once again, if you ever intend to join our HSLDA discount group, please send in your form now. The forms for current members of HSLDA to join our support group were in the Sept. *Family Times* (if you need another form, contact us). NEW HSLDA applicants should write us for an application form for new members.

If you have already sent us your form, and your HSLDA membership fee has come due and been billed by HSLDA, you should go ahead and pay it. We simply cannot give the discount until we have enough applicants to begin the group. Sorry.

If you have any other question, please contact us.

FLORIDA COLLEGE SEMINAR ON HOME SCHOOLING

We mentioned in our last issue that we hope once again to conduct a home-school seminar at Florida College during their lecture week. Lecture week is scheduled for Feb. 2-5, 1995. The home-school seminar is now definitely scheduled for:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, FROM 3:00 TO 4:30 IN PUCKETT AUDITORIUM.

The theme for the seminar will be ***Teaching the Bible to Children at Home.*** The format will predominately be open discussion, with opportunities for all attendees to share their ideas about teaching the Bible to their children. Discussion leaders will be *Family Times* editors Dave Pratte and Dave Hewitt.

Dave Hewitt will lead a discussion of teaching pre-school and elementary age students. Dave Pratte will then lead a discussion of teaching junior high and high-school-age students.

Opening remarks will be made by FC representatives to acquaint home schoolers with the opportunities Florida College provides. The Bible teaching discussion will follow.

We hope all of you who can do so will make your plans to attend the seminar, and tell all your friends.

NEW PRICING POLICY FOR *FAMILY TIMES*

The editors have discussed our subscription fees and have determined it is time for a change. This is the result of two main considerations: (1) the growing popularity and convenience of email, and (2) the current inconvenience involved because subscribers must remember every year to renew their subscription.

We have decided to offer *Family Times* in email form at a reduced rate (since printing and postage costs would be much less). Email subscribers will receive everything that is included in the regular mail format (except pictures!). We will also begin offering 3-year subscriptions to *Family Times* by regular mail. To simplify our record keeping and to avoid sending annual renewal reminders, we have set the prices to encourage email subscriptions and multi-year subscriptions.

All subscriptions will continue to be on a school-year basis. This means that, whenever you subscribe during a school year, you receive all back issues for that year, and then your renewal will always come due at the end of a school year.

Here are our new rates, effective immediately for all new or renewal subscriptions:

Three-year email subscription — \$6 total for 3 years*
Three-year regular mail subscription (USA) — \$12
One-year regular mail subscription (USA) — \$5
Foreign subscriptions by regular mail are \$19 for 3 years or \$7 for one year.

* Please note carefully the following points about email subscriptions: (1) Email mailings will be sent in small groups, which means a few other folks would have your name and email address (along with their own) in the heading when they receive their *Family Times*. This involves a slight loss of anonymity. (2) If subscribers fail to notify us of changes in email address, we have no way to forward *Family Times*. We must simply drop the subscription, without a refund, until we hear from them. Nevertheless, we are hoping our new email subscription will interest many.

No renewals will come due till after our June issue, but we welcome renewals or new subscriptions at any time. Please keep these options in mind as you renew or as you tell others about *Family Times*.

HSLIST DISCUSSION ON OCCUPYING SMALL CHILDREN

The follow excerpts are from a discussion on hslist, the email list for Christians interested in home schooling. Comments have been edited and all names removed (we hope) to preserve anonymity. Readers interested in joining hslist should contact us for further information.

Question: A young mother with small children asks how to avoid burnout when you home school older children while also having young children.

Comments:

I am using KONOS and they have some great tapes (doing it all, scheduling, etc.). These helped me a great deal ... Here are the things that work best for me ...

#1 MAKE A DAILY AND WEEKLY SCHEDULE (I also did a monthly and yearly one for our KONOS things) ... Do not brow beat yourself if you sway now and then, but do your best to keep on it. Lean on it, but do not let it slave you.

#2 KEEP TODDLERS IN YOUR SIGHT OR WHERE YOU CAN HEAR THEM. My girls stay in the room with us and do several different activities. Building blocks, puzzles, books, play with their dolls, play with our baby, counting bears, felt shapes, stencil drawings. We only get ONE thing out at a time ... then ... clean up each thing before moving to a new thing. Or if they are in their room, I make sure they are only playing with one type of toy at a time and not unloading every toy in the house. This will save on any stress due to messes.

#3 HAVE A DAILY QUIET TIME FOR EVERYONE. Try to get them to all nap at the same time ... We spend at least an hour reading and then they all go down. If the oldest is not tired, he can quietly look at books while they nap ...

#4 KEEP UP WITH HOUSEWORK AT THE BASIC LEVEL SO IT NEVER GETS OVERWHELMING ... I've tried to cook in bulk, or at least use easy to prepare recipes. Getting organized is the hardest part ... once you are there it is such a breath of fresh air.

#5 TRAINING CHILDREN. The recommended book I love is by Michael and Debbi Pearl TO TRAIN UP A CHILD. Yes, consistency is important ...

#6 KNOW YOUR LIMITS. Do not take on more than you can handle as far as outside activities. I used to make all my own dresses and the girls' too. I just cannot keep this up! None of us can do it all. Sometimes we have to lower our expectations. You have a new baby and I know firsthand that every month gets easier for me.

#7 PUT THE KIDS TO BED AT A REGULAR TIME. This is a perfect time to enjoy your husband (not that you cannot enjoy him at other times <G>) ...

#8 EAT WHOLESOME FOODS AND EXERCISE. Walking is great ...

If you have done all this and are still feeling burdened maybe Dad can help out a bit more. I know a mother with only 1 child, who does not home school and she feels like she is overwhelmed! Everyone feels that way at times!

I have found, for me, that trying to stick to a schedule works best. We get up at the same time every school day, eat breakfast and then try to start at the same time every day. This gives us some form of organization. I also try to make sure the kitchen (our school room) is also clean the night before. This gives us a little head start the next day. I usually try to bring out some toys that the little ones don't get to play with very often so that keeps their attention a little longer. ... We take many breaks, sometimes after each subject. This lets me take care of the little ones or prepare for the next subject. Even with the interruptions of the little ones, we usually finish "school" in 2-3 hours.

... please be assured that your children WILL grow older (and you will fondly remember "when"). During times of trial is when we can grow closer to the Lord, although when you're in the MIDDLE of the trial, it is VERY difficult to remember that! Don't forget I Cor. 10:13 — the Lord will not allow you to be tempted above that you are able to bear!

I interviewed a hsing mom once upon a time who was schooling a 5th grader, a 3rd grader, and had 5, 3, 2 year olds and an infant (all boys except the 3rd grader). I asked her how she managed to get anything done with the older two. She said that some weeks she didn't get much of anything done, but that one good day was the equivalent of two weeks in public school (she was a former public school elementary teacher).

If you can find a copy of Raymond & Dorothy Moore's HOME SCHOOL BURNOUT, it is WONDERFUL! I recommend it for any new home schoolers, not just old-timers, because believe me, we ALL have burnout times!

MATH-U-SEE

Written by Steve Demme, Published by Math-U-See, Inc., 1378 River Road, Drumore, Pa. 17518-9760

Reviewed by Bonnie Forsythe

This is a low-cost, manipulative-based K-10 math curriculum. The author is a home-school dad and former math teacher. He has developed a very effective, home-school friendly curriculum.

The manipulatives, which are a great help and enjoyable to use, are used from Kindergarten through High School. There is a lesson-by-lesson video for each textbook. Each textbook has 36 lessons, so it covers two or three grade levels. Each lesson has four pages of problems, which also review the concepts learned in previous lessons.

We have been very pleased with this program. I initially looked into it because of the low cost. I was able to use the first textbook for my younger two and just go at a different speed for each child. I did the same with a more advanced book for my older two. You can get one book and copy the lessons for each child or buy separate workbooks. I have done it both ways. The workbook is only \$15.00 and saves a lot of time and trouble. Remember, each one covers at least 1 or 2 years. After the first couple of years I had all the math texts we needed for a while.

Mr. Demme has a pleasant personality and is enjoyable to watch on the videos. The lessons are short and the concepts are made very simple using the blocks or fraction overlays. It is really nice to have the tapes, instead of my husband or myself doing all the teaching. The parent still needs to read the material

in the teacher's book and understand the concepts to be able to help the students with some of the more difficult problems.

The material is presented with emphasis on understanding the concepts and not just knowing how to get the answer. Having learned math in the latter way myself, I sometimes have a little difficulty knowing exactly how to work out the problems. Reviewing the material first, as the author suggests, however, helps avoid this problem. My husband has done fine teaching our older two using the Basic Algebra and Geometry curriculum.

Since this is a math curriculum, there is not much place for religious teaching. The skip-counting cassette tape and coloring book, however, are available either with Bible references or with science and literature. I chose the Bible, and the singing sounds like a muskrat without accompaniment. My youngest son loved it, which really made learning his multiplication tables much easier and more enjoyable.

For \$5.00 one can obtain a demonstration video. The money is returned when the tape is returned. If math has been a problem in your home, I suggest you check this curriculum out!

BETTY LUKENS THROUGH THE BIBLE IN FELT

Published by Betty Luken's Inc. Available through Guardian of Truth, Florida College, and other bookstores.

Reviewed by Susan Treat

The Betty Lukens felt figures are high quality colorful fully cloth figures. They come in two sizes: Small (6 ½" figures) \$69.95 and Large (12" figures) \$149.95. Both sizes are available in "Deluxe" boxes with filing system and all backgrounds for an additional charge. They are useful for ages preschool through 3rd grade.

There is no paper to punch out. These figures are actually printed on the felt. You must cut them out and put them into a filing box (extra charge). There are two backgrounds: Water and Sky Scene and Indoor Background. Overlays such as Desert, Hillside, Shoreline, and Throne Room transform the backgrounds into scenes for various stories. There are 512 figures and objects including Bible characters, animals, buildings, pyramids, ark, fiery furnace and many others. These will last for a lifetime. Any Bible story can be told using these figures.

The set comes with a Teacher's Manual which has 182 stories with detailed scene arrangements telling you exactly which figures to use for each story. The stories in the Teacher's Manual do contain some Baptist doctrine. I would suggest reading through it and making adjustments as necessary. There are also some stories left out, so if a complete coverage of the Bible is desired, some additional stories will be necessary.

This is a very easy way to tell a lot of stories with one set of materials. The hardest part is getting out the characters and returning them to their proper places in the filing system. Some diligence on the part of the teacher is required to keep all the figures in their proper place and easily accessible.

Seven Keys to Raising Godly Children — Key #3: Love (continued...)

III. RULES AND PUNISHMENTS MUST BE FOR THE CHILD'S GOOD.

A. RULES SHOULD BE MADE FOR THE GOOD OF THE WHOLE GROUP.

Some think that being a parent means you just get to do things your own way. Kids sometimes say they can't wait to grow up so they can do whatever they want. This is a misunderstanding, but did they get this idea from the way they see parents act?

1 Corinthians 13:3 — Love does not seek its own; it is not selfish. Love motivates us to do, not what we want, but what is best for the whole group.

Listen to the child's view and consider it as you make decisions that affect the child. This is also a matter of love — doing to others as we would want them to do to us (Matt. 7:12).

One of the surest ways to discourage a child (Col. 3:21) is to act selfishly, unfairly, and unjustly toward him, using our authority unreasonably for our personal pleasure. This does not mean the child should just have his way either. That is not good for him or for anyone in the group. There must be rules, and rules must be enforced. But they must be made for the good of all.

B. EXERCISE PUNISHMENT FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHILD.

Some "authorities" claim that all punishment is inherently unloving. *The Complete Book of Mothercraft* is quoted as saying that, whenever punishment occurs, parents have forsaken "the positive feelings

of love and understanding” (via *Plain Truth about Child Rearing*, p. 58). This conclusion is false, but it may result from watching parents who misuse punishment.

Hebrews 12:5-11 — God’s chastisement of His people is here compared to a father’s discipline of his children. God chastens those He loves. This is for our profit and yields good fruit. Properly done, chastening is an act of love that benefits those who receive it.

Proverbs 13:24 — He who spares the rod hates his son. One who loves will chasten (use the rod) when needed. (Cf. Prov. 23:13,14.)

The child needs to learn to do good, respect authority, etc. If he learns these qualities, he will have a much better life in his marriage, on the job, in the nation, etc. We will discuss spanking and punishment more later, but the point here is to remember to punish in love for the child’s good.

C. CONSIDER SOME SPECIFIC GUIDELINES REGARDING MAKING RULES AND PUNISHING IN LOVE

Never use your authority to get personal vengeance on a child.

Sometimes parents punish simply because they have been inconvenienced or embarrassed by the child, as when the child interrupts the parent from a pleasant activity or when the child uses a bad word in front of the parent’s friends. The child may need to be punished, but are we motivated by concern for the child, or are we acting from selfish reasons?

Never punish the child in a fit of uncontrolled anger.

Not all anger is sinful, but it must be controlled (Eph. 4:26). Sometimes parents beat a child (or worse) in a fit of rage. Others yell, scream, clench their teeth, and appear to be out of control. Such parents are not likely to act for the child’s good; and even if the parent does have good motives, what will the child think if the parent acts this way?

Usually the solution is to punish the child **before** the parent loses his temper, while he is still in control. Otherwise the parent should wait till later when he has calmed down.

Never use authority just to satisfy a desire for power.

Some parents seem to punish children just to prove that they are boss, to satisfy their ego, or to impress their friends with how they can get obedience from their children. Like tyrants or dictators they get a thrill from controlling others.

Parents who use authority in unloving ways are wrong, first because they have disobeyed God’s law of love, second because they unnecessarily discourage their children, and third because they are not likely to gain the child’s respect and obedience.

When you make rules or punish your child, are you acting in love for your child’s good? You must do so if you seek to raise godly children.

IV. WILLINGLY SACRIFICE FOR THE CHILDREN’S GOOD.

A. CHILDREN NEED OUR TIME AND ATTENTION.

Too many children are unattended (“latch-key children”), roam the neighborhood, or go to day-care or baby-sitters day after day, simply because the parents are busy doing other things. Many children are starved for attention, so they misbehave just to get parents to notice them. Other children may seem well behaved, but they never serve God faithfully, simply because their parents never took the time to teach them why and how to live for God.

Some parents are too involved in recreation, entertainment, or social activities to take the time to care, love, and guide their children. Many families rarely play together, work together, or eat together, and may not even worship and pray together. We must spend time with children to answer their questions, listen to their problems, and give them guidance and instruction.

Fathers are often too wrapped up in jobs or personal interests. We must provide a livable income (1 Tim. 5:8). But again, the goal is to raise godly children. What does it profit to provide physical necessities and luxuries, if our children do not grow up to serve God faithfully (Matt. 16:26)? Many fathers realize too late that their priorities were wrong, but by then the children are gone and it is too late to establish a relationship with them.

What sacrifices are you making to give your children the time and attention they need and deserve?

B. SPECIFICALLY, THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT CHILDREN NEED A FULL-TIME MOTHER.

This is God's plan, and anything less is less than satisfactory. Granted there may be emergency situations where the father is unavoidably unable to provide family necessities, and the mother may need to leave the home temporarily to help out. But this is still "less than satisfactory" and should be changed as soon as possible.

Psalm 113:9 — God blesses a woman by giving her a home and making her a joyful mother of children. Motherhood is a cause for joy. Praise God for it! No profession is more valuable, more needed, or more fulfilling. Yes, it is frustrating and tedious at times, but so is man's work.

1 Timothy 5:14 — Young widows should marry, bear children, and guide the house. Woman's body was created to protect unborn children, give them birth, and then nourish them. She is uniquely suited both physically and emotionally for the care of children. When she marries and has children, her work is at home caring for her family.

Titus 2:4,5 — Young women should be taught to love their husbands and children and be "workers at home" (ASV), "homemakers" (NKJV), "keepers at home" (KJV). The mother's work is "at home," and her work is to keep or care for the home (family). Note that love for her family should motivate her to do this work. Her family needs her time and attention, and she thereby fulfills the purpose for her creation. [See also Prov. 31:27; 7:11.]

Many Bible examples show men laboring away from home to provide income for the family: carpenters, shepherds, farmers, physicians, fishermen, etc. But the mother's work is at home caring for the family. There is simply no one who can fully replace her.

Many mothers have accepted the false arguments of "Women's Liberation." They think children won't suffer if the mother leaves to take a job away from her family, even when the family could make it on the father's income. Yet often the result is that children spend many hours unattended or at day-care. And then when mother is home, she is too busy catching up on her housework to spend time with the kids.

Again, there may be circumstances that compel mothers to work outside the home, but isn't it true that many mothers simply **choose** to work away from home, while other people take care of their children? Isn't it true that, as a result, many children do not receive the training and instruction they need, many end up having serious moral problems in their lives, and many simply never do serve God faithfully?

Parents simply must realize that raising kids takes much time — quantity time and "quality" time. We must take the time to be with them, and teach them. They must know that we are available when they need us, and that we are willing to spend time with them. This will require sacrifice of time by the parents, and may require financial sacrifices too.

Conclusion

The essence of Biblical love is that love motivates us to sacrifice or give of ourselves for the good of those whom we love.

John 3:16 — God gave His Son for us because He loves us.

1 Corinthians 13:4ff — Love suffers long, does not seek its own, etc.

Ephesians 5:25-29 — Jesus' sacrifice is an example for husbands. We must willingly give our time and effort to care for our wives. The father must set the example of love as Jesus did for the church. Then both parents must sacrifice because of their love for the children.

Is your family characterized by love? Surely love is a key element in raising godly children.

by David Pratte

OUR APPRECIATION

Once again we want to thank all who contributed to this issue of *Family Times*. We thank Bonnie Forsythe, Susan Treat, and Terry Park for their reviews. Our thanks also to the anonymous contributors to hslit whose ideas we reproduced.

We continue to appreciate all of you who send us material and who support *Family Times* with your interest and efforts. We hope to see all of you who can attend the FC lectures in February!