

## **“The Nuts and Bolts of Homeschool Scheduling, Planning, and Setting Boundaries” (Zoom A)**

**Katie, Gaylene, and Christie**

Ever wondered what it takes to plan a school year, set up a daily/weekly/yearly schedule, or how to incorporate your schedule with every other “thing” going on in the life of your family? How do you set boundaries for yourself and your kids to protect that schedule? Katie, Gaylene, and Christie will cover how they handle homeschool, medical appointments, extra curriculars, church events, etc. while maintaining healthy boundaries for their families.

### **Gaylene’s Takeaways:**

- What works for one kid/family may not work for another
- Juggling multiple children and busy schedules
- Abeka takes the guess work out of lesson plans
- Knowing when and how to say no

### **Christie’s Takeaways:**

- Schedule/Time:
  - I take my whole schedule (meals, events, cleaning, appointments, etc.) into account when lesson planning (every 2-3 weeks) so I know which days should be lighter.
  - Some like to schedule their homeschool day by time (9am-Bible, 9:30-Math, etc.) or flow (A - Bible, B - Math).
  - I use digital tools like excel (or Google Sheets) to stay organized
  - Be familiar with your schedule so you can 1) Prioritize when it looks like you won’t get to all your life’s To Do’s and 2) Realize when you don’t have room for extra things.
  - Have a routine but be flexible to minor adjustments.
  - Be ready to “school” during unconventional times - do what works for your family!
  - Consider a planner binder (calendar, school planner, meals, To Dos)
- Boundaries
  - Say “No” to things you and your family have not decided are priority
  - Limit yourself, if needed. Be mindful of how we use our minutes.
  - Set expectations for your family and children
- Preparation
  - Set aside time for occasional planning/prep days. This works great for meals, gathering materials needed for lessons for the week, having activities for younger children at the ready, lesson planning. You may even need to schedule your prep time.

### **Katie’s Takeaways:**

- Learning with your kids and knowing what they are learning is a great thing. Have fun with your kids! Enjoy them and learning with them!
- Lesson planning can be fun! How to create lesson plans:
  - Include household chores
  - What’s important to your family? Bible time? What subject matters are important to you? Social skills/character?
  - Curriculum--this will dictate your lessons for main subject matters

- Because I have young children, I chose to do themed units. For example, The Human Body/My 5 senses, Native Americans, Seasons and Weather, Presidents and America, Colonial Towns and People, Community Helpers, etc.
- How I did my lesson plans this year:
  - I began with goals for my kids: Character, academic, and bible goals
  - Then I began laying out a year grid with all themes (approx last 2 weeks)--then I added what social skill I wanted to address for each month: Greetings and routines; following directions; sharing; personal space; participation; staying calm during an emergency, etc.
  - When I chose the curriculum (Charlotte Mason--Easy Peasy Curriculum)-- I took the morning basket and made sure not only was bible study time added to this but also character/social skills books
  - When creating the lesson plans, I took chores and morning basket and put those in a blocked time (so between 8-9 a.m. these things should be done)

### Resources from Christie

"Flourish: Balance for Homeschool Moms" by Mary Jo Tate

"Learn how to evaluate your time, set and follow appropriate goals, stop operating in "crisis mode," deal with interruptions, stop neglecting your spiritual and physical health, and flourish with focus and intention."

Katie has some great lesson planners linked below. Search for "homeschool lesson planners for multiple children" to find some helpful tools.

### Lesson Plan Resources from Katie:

- Digital Planner \$\$:
  - [https://pambarnhill.com/homeschool-planner-2/?utm\\_source=Pinterest&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_campaign=Homeschool+Planning+Mini+Kit&utm\\_content=12\\_Printables\\_COLD&pp=1](https://pambarnhill.com/homeschool-planner-2/?utm_source=Pinterest&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=Homeschool+Planning+Mini+Kit&utm_content=12_Printables_COLD&pp=1)
  - [https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/DIGITAL-Lesson-Plan-EDITABLE-ANY-CLASS-ANY-GRADE-4822503#description\\_block](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/DIGITAL-Lesson-Plan-EDITABLE-ANY-CLASS-ANY-GRADE-4822503#description_block)
- Digital Lesson plans (free-editable can't save):  
<https://www.mrsjonescreationstation.com/free-lesson-plan-template/>
- Digital Lesson Plan Template (saveable \$3.75):  
<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Lesson-Plan-Templates-EDITABLE-compatible-with-Google-Drive-2609823>
  - Assessment Bundle with Planning (\$12):  
<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Planning-And-Assessment-Tools-Compatible-With-Google-Drive-BUNDLE-3865433>
- Free Lesson Plan Template (savable) \*\*Personal favorite\*\*
  - <http://thecoreinspiration.com/2018/11/a-simple-lesson-plan-book-that-is-guaranteed-to-save-you-time.html>
- My Lesson Plan book:  
[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1935495933/ref=ppx\\_yo\\_dt\\_b\\_search\\_asin\\_title?ie=UTF8&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1935495933/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_search_asin_title?ie=UTF8&psc=1)
  - Video: [Walking Through my Lesson Plan Book](#)