

SHOW NOTES

Becky from FamiliesAlive! shares about what it means to be called to “school”

About Barb | Becky Shultz serves as a deacon at CCPC. She loves Jesus and she loves others, and is passionate in her pursuit of both. Becky serves as Executive Director for FamiliesAlive®, a nonprofit ministry dedicated to helping parents raise children who know, love, and serve the Lord. She’s been married to Brian for 27 years, just finished up 21 years of homeschooling, has six children + two sons-in-love, and is passionate about equipping parents to have fun and meaningful family time together as they pass on the faith to the next generation. She has been a Children’s Ministry Director, a VBS leader, a Sunday School curriculum developer, and most recently the co-author of the Words of Grace and Jesus, Who Are You? family devotion series. She leads a Facebook group of 400 moms and grandmas praying daily Scripture for the next generation. Her creativity, energy, and passion inspire parents and help encourage and strengthen families. To email Becky contact the Kids Team.

Resources for you:

- [Scripture – DOWNLOAD](#)
- [Making the Most of Your Time – DOWNLOAD](#)
- [FamiliesAlive! Website](#)

Before sharing the ideas surrounding time together, I'd like to note two important things I missed an opportunity to say:

1. Although my answer to Amy's question about joy was a "big" thing in my life, I find that little things often bring the greatest joy. Sitting around a table of food, sharing and laughing with friends and family. Gathered in the backyard, watching my kids play spike ball. Spending early morning time with coffee in the Word and in prayer. Joy comes in big packages. But, mostly it comes in little packages.
2. When Amy asked me about the social aspect, in my head, I was thinking shelter-in-place scenarios, so I offered advice that included social distancing. I am a believer in friendships. Plan a few park times with friends, or just some play times with other kids/families – to the degree that you're comfortable with it. Whatever you choose to do in this season, your children will be okay. Often with homeschooling, our children have the opportunity to grow in areas of relating to people of all ages, not just kids their own age. That's so good for our kids.

Making the most of our time with our children:

Ideas

1. Board Game Day – Take a break from books and just play games.
2. Baking Day – Take a break from books and bake together.
3. Service Projects (this will also help build compassion in your children) – Take time as a family to serve...
Yard work for neighbors, or an elderly couple you know.
Shovel snow for neighbors together.
Cook a meal together for someone who needs it.
Bake some goodies, and deliver them to neighbors.
Collect canned goods together and deliver to a food bank (they often run low).
Invite as many neighbors as you can, including older ones, to join you outside, social distancing in camping chairs, just to provide company for those who might be lonely.
4. Lunch or Dinner Theater – Enjoy food on a picnic blanket (or ratty sheet) together while you watch a movie.
5. Celebrate Birthday Week – Give something small (a pack of gum and favorite candy bar on the Bday child's breakfast plate) OR do something celebratory (get sonic slushes) on each day of the week for each child's birthday.
6. Fall Color's Drive – Get away from the city and take a drive in the high country when the leaves are changing. Stop for ice cream (this will help make it memorable and fun).
7. Hike – take some hikes together.
8. Go geocaching together – if you don't know what this is, do an internet search!
9. Pray together – take time every day to do this. Ask your children how you can pray for them. Share specific needs in your family, in your church, in your neighborhoods.

10. Campfire – get one going in your back yard (if you have a place for it). Pull out smores ingredients. Sing songs. Tell stories. Have fun!

11. Family Devotions – Parents, this is important, and will make an impact. There is no wrong way to do it. Read Scripture together. Learn and grow together.

For families with youngers, the Jesus Storybook Bible is a great place to start!

<https://www.christianbook.com/jesus-storybook-bible-every-story-whispers/sally-lloyd-jones/9780310708254/pd/708257>

For Pre-K-elementary, our family ministry, FamiliesAlive, has produced fun and meaningful materials for families. Try a sample lesson here:

<https://familiesalive.org/courses/words-of-grace/lessons/chapter-1-the-god-who-is-lord/>

Focus on the Family has some great material. They give some good tips here:

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/a-simple-way-to-start-family-devotions/>

Do an internet search to find some fun, free ideas to talk about the Lord together. Just teach your children about Jesus!

Scriptures:

Our God is Sovereign. He was not surprised by any of this.

Psalm 135:5,6 –

*I know that the LORD is great,
that our Lord is greater than all gods.
The LORD does whatever pleases him,
in the heavens and on the earth,
in the seas and all their depths.*

Colossians 1:15-17 –

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Moms and Dads, we have been raised up “for such a time as this”. We have been placed here, in the midst of a pandemic, with the ages our children are at right now, in the midst of so much uncertainty and confusion. We can all step *boldly* and *confidently* into whatever this school year holds.

Esther 4:14 –

“...For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

Our God is good and faithful.

Deuteronomy 7:9 –

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Lamentations 3:21-23 –

*Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:
Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

Unsure what to do? Pray. Always start there. He *will* give wisdom and clarity around next steps.

James 1:5 –

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

If you're feeling inadequate, you're not alone. I *am* inadequate, but the Lord isn't. So, He is where we turn for help.

Psalms 121 –

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?*

² *My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

³ *He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;*

⁴ *indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.*

⁵ *The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;*

⁶ *the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.*

⁷ *The LORD will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;*

⁸ *the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.*