

Welcome to Empowering
Homeschool Conversations,
your authority in
navigating the world of
homeschooling diverse learners.
Featuring Peggy Ployer from
Sped Homeschool,
Annie Yorty from AnnieYorty.com,
Leilani Melendez from Living with Eve,
Stephanie Buckwalter from ELARP Learning,
and Dawn Jackson from Dawn
Jackson Educational
Consulting and Tutoring.
With over seventy five years
of combined homeschooling expertise,
experiences and perspectives,
this group is eager to
share their wealth of
wisdom to empower your
homeschooling journey.
So grab your favorite mug,
settle in and get ready for
insightful discussions,
valuable insights and practical tips.
Give your homeschool the
power boost it needs to
successfully educate the
unique learners in your home.

Hi, everyone,

and welcome to Empowering
Homeschool Conversations.

Today,

we are going to talk about the key
to maximizing your home education budget.

And with me today, I have Krissa Winn.

Krissa is an educator and

sought after public speaker

who has served

homeschooling families for

more than a decade as a

special needs consultant at

HSLDA,

the Homeschool Legal Defense Association,

she worked with thousands

of fellow homeschooling

parents offering personalized guidance,

resource,

practical help to families

homeschooling children with

special needs.

During her twenty one years

as a classroom teacher,

she taught children of all ages,

abilities and circumstances.

And she's also worked as a

private tutor and early

education intervention

specialist and an academic
language therapist and
trained in training and
I'm proud to announce that Krista,
as of today,
has joined the Sped Homeschool family.
She is now our new director
of consulting and partnerships.
And I'm just super excited
to welcome you today, Krista,
and have you for this conversation.
Thank you so much for having me, Peggy.
And I'm excited to be a part
of what's going on with Sped Homeschool.
Absolutely, yes.
We have some exciting news
to share with you amongst
our conversation today.
But yes,
we have been given some amazing
grants and donations by some people.
wonderful companies that I
definitely want to
highlight as we kind of get
started because they have
made this possible and made
it possible for us to be able to
to really develop a program
that is going to be able to

help families in a much broader,
bigger sense than we ever have before.
And I know you've been screaming for it.
We definitely want to make
sure that we create a program that
meets your needs,
doesn't just go out and
like throw things at you.
Um, so, so for sure, um, we,
we want to do that,
but we really want to thank
Rainbow Resource, um, for their donation,
Building Faith Family, um,
which is Steve Demme, Knotgrass History,
BJU Press, Sonia Schaefer, MACHE,
the Minnesota Association
of Christian Home Educators,
and then Eternal Aerial,
which is actually my other business.
But I give a lot of those
proceeds to folks.
to fuel sped homeschool as well.
And then I know we do have
some other donors that
we're still working with that'll be on.
This is at the bottom of our
new home web page.
And we just want to

acknowledge them in
multiple places for all of
the support that they have
given us because.

we can't do this without their help.

This is a really hard
industry to be in and we
are so thankful for their partnership.

And when they heard that
Carissa was available and
that she was looking for a
new trajectory for her career,
I heard from so many people
and I got to say that,
and actually I should read
this email because this was so good.

I heard back from the people
at MachÃ© and they said,
Carissa Wynn is the perfect fit.

Um, they were so excited.

They had met you, um, at,
at a conference and, um,
I've been there a few times,
so I love it.

Yeah.

And,
and they know me and they know you and,
um,

I think we're perfect counterparts for

each other.

Um, so, so anyways, so yes, we,
we are super excited for the, um,
the vision that God is
directing us on for sped homeschool and

And so, yeah,

we'll have more announcements

in the coming months about

as this program kind of

comes together and we start

figuring out how that's going to launch.

I probably wouldn't say

we're going to do much,

but there'll be things

coming out until maybe the

first of the year.

But we really want to make

sure that we set up things

correctly and well so that

they can continue and be successful.

Absolutely.

so yeah but so I've given

you a little introduction

krista but I would love for

our audience to get to know

you a little better and for

you to be able to share

some of that too just um

anything about your
background consulting um or
anything else you feel is
pertinent to share um on
this topic or just in
general absolutely well um

You know,

doing things on a budget is very
much in my realm.

I'm all about that.

So, yeah, I can't.

I'll dive into that later.

But I am originally from
between Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio.

So I'm a Midwest.

I've lived in the south most
of my adult life.

Even when I lived in Virginia,
they say that's the South.

I don't really agree.

But anyway.

But I always knew I wanted
to be a teacher when I grew up.

And so I actually went to
Bible college directly out
of high school.

And that's where I met my husband.

We got married.

I was nineteen years old

when I got married.

Wow.

So we were really young.

And then I went to
university and got a degree

in early childhood and

elementary education and

started my teaching career.

And I had the opportunity to
teach in lots of different places.

We we moved quite a bit.

In fact,

every couple of years we would
move and sometimes it was a little move.

Sometimes it was a big move.

But later on,

I got to see how God was
going to use all of that to
kind of prepare me for what
I would do later.

We weren't something that's
a big part of my story is
that we weren't able to have children.

We tried to have children.

We couldn't have children.

And we ended up building our
family through embryo adoption.

And so we adopted our babies as embryos.

And so it was,
twenty years into our marriage,
before I got pregnant and we
had our first child when I
was forty two years old.
And so that was just an
amazing experience to just
kind of be in the waiting.
But I was still teaching during that time.
a complete denial that I
would have to go back to work.
I never thought that after
waiting all that time that
I would have to be a working mom.
I never thought I would be a working mom.
But I was.
And so it was really hard.
I made it through by God's grace.
Our daughter's name is Grace.
And so by God's grace, I was able to work.
And I was working in the
public school at the time,
teaching kindergarten.
which was kind of,
it was a joy to work with.
I loved working with young children.
And so that was a lot of fun
just because even though it
was a very stressful time in my life,

a happy time,
but a very kind of sad time
because I wasn't at home with my child.
They always kept me in stitches.
I never knew what they were
gonna say from time to time.
So I come home with lots of stories,
so it was fun.
um but then three years
later um we were able to
have another child through
embryo adoption so now I've
got two and I was going to
continue to teach because
we needed the money I told
you money is like you know
I'm always trying to uh
conquer the money thing and
so uh I was just I don't
know peggy if I had
postpartum depression I don't know but
when I was at work, I wanted to be home.
And when I was at home, I kind of,
I didn't want to be at work,
but I wanted to be somewhere else.
I just felt overwhelmed.
Like I was drowning.
I felt very much like I was drowning.

And, um, when,
I'd kind of gotten into that
school year and it was just so hard.
I literally felt like I was
in an ocean drowning, like I said.
And one night I was driving
to Bible study and I didn't
hear an audible voice,
but I drove past my school
and I just sensed God kind
of speaking to me and saying,
if you keep holding onto that job,
you'll never accomplish
what I've got planned for you to do.
Like in my mind,
I thought I've got to keep working.
I've got to keep this job
because we'll never make it if I don't.
And I just felt him saying
something shifting that night and saying,
you need to let go of that
because I have a different plan.
And so it was like a week or
so later that everything
fell apart for me.
My childcare fell apart,
my transportation for my
daughter to get from preschool.
I had this elaborate scheme,

which I will not go into,
but I had a pretty
elaborate way that I got
everybody where they needed to be.
So I could be where I needed to be.
Yeah, it was awful.
It was just awful.
I dropped my babies off
every day with a sense of dread of like,
what's going to happen?
If one thing doesn't work out,
how am I going to get
everybody where they need to be?
And my husband at the time
had a two hour commute.
So I mean, it was just we were stretched.
Oh, yeah.
Anyway,
I knew that that day when
everything just started
falling apart that I was like, OK, Lord,
I get it.
I understand now.
And he had actually tried to
kind of direct me right the
very first day I had to go
back to work when my
youngest was just ten weeks old.

I had child care fall apart
that very first day,
but I came up with Plan B.
But now Plan B has fallen apart.
And I went in the next
morning and I gave a leave of absence.
And it was like middle of October.
So not a good time to be
like leaving my school position.
But when I did, I just,
I tell people that I felt
like I was stepping off of
a skyscraper and invisible
steps came underneath me.
And I just, we were taken care of.
And we were.
And it was during that time
through a lot of different
things where God had his
hand on it that I was
connected with HSLDA, which is,
if you don't know, it's a,
I know you know,
but if your audience doesn't know,
it's a national homeschool
advocacy organization.
And
For some reason,
they hired a public school

teacher to come work for them.

And I ended up working with
them for about twelve years
as a special needs
educational consultant.

And through that time,
I could look back and not
only see my education
background as being
something that prepared me
to work with homeschoolers,
but I could also look back
at all these different
places that my husband
Byron and I had lived through the years.

And every spot,
every location and this start,
we got married in eighty five.
So this is like going way back.

Yeah.

From our very first married
housing on the campus of
Arkansas State University in the eighties,
we met homeschoolers.

I met homeschoolers at all
different stages in all
different places around
where we had lived.

And so I was familiar with homeschooling.

I'm not terribly familiar

but I was familiar with

homeschooling and that kind

of all married together

then with all my different

backgrounds and teaching

experiences that I'd had

over twenty years and then

um just knowing people

personally that had

homeschooled it all came

together and um so that was

kind of my my professional

and a little bit about my

family um when um

I left my teaching job.

My husband, who is from South Arkansas,

he said to me,

you've been teaching

everybody else's kids.

It's time for you to start

teaching our own kids.

And so Gracie was three at the time.

So we kind of did what I

called my pre-run homeschool.

I mean, obviously,

I believe that we're all

teachers from the very

moment our babies are born, right?

We were their first teacher.

But I kind of did my little...

run through I guess and and

we started homeschooling

then and then um continued

to homeschool them for the

next um well until gracie

was in sixth grade um so

I'm not homeschooling right

now but um they're at a

small private school um

that is a ministry of our church

And that's been a good fit for them.

But yeah, that's kind of my my background,

what kind of led me to

where I'm at today.

But it's been my joy,

like for the past ten years

just to to be there,

to be a support and to consult with.

moms and dads, grandparents,

helping them along the way

to sometimes get over a

hump or just to give them information,

knowledge.

I've just loved serving this community.

It's been an amazing, an amazing ride.

And I'm looking forward to now, you know,
the next leg of the journey.

Yeah, yeah, absolutely.

And it was interesting, you said, you know,
when

You felt like, you know,
because we're talking about budget today,
and you said that you felt
like you had to hold it all together.

And I think we forget that
trust part where God just says,
you know what?

I've got this.

Will you just let go so I
can give you what I want to
give you instead of what
you're trying to hold on to
that isn't enough?

Yeah.

And a lot of times we do that.

We're like, well,

if I can do this and we've
got this mentality that if

I can just do enough,
then I can I can maximize this enough.

I can budget enough.

I can save enough.

And God's economics don't work that way.

They've never worked that way for me.

You know, it's like when you finally say,
OK, I'm letting go.

I know you've got something better.

You've you've set me on this track.

I'm pretty confident that

this is what you called me to do.

you've got to take it over.

And sometimes it takes us to

the point where we hit rock

bottom before we let go.

But sometimes we just need

to realize that those steps forward,

even though we don't know

where they're going to land us,

they'll be perfect and they

will be supplied for.

Yes.

And I think that's a really

good way to kind of dive

into that whole conversation too.

And, you know, we have great plans.

We have great plans for our homeschool.

We have great plans for our children.

We have great plans for ourselves.

But those plans can never

measure up to the plans that God has.

And we can't go back and say,

look what he did when we're

the one who got in the way

and did it all either.

Yes.

I'm guilty of that so many times,

I think just mentality.

I mean,

usually there's not anything I can

do anyway, but just mentally, mentally,

I'm taking that on when I

don't need to take it on because he's,

he's got that, he's got it.

Um, and we do need to trust in him.

I think we say that we trust

in God sometimes,

but really we're putting a

lot of reliance on

ourselves and a lot of

undue pressure that we don't,

we don't need to take on by ourselves.

absolutely yeah yeah I see

we have some people

watching live just know

that if you are watching

live you can put comments

and questions maybe there

are some things that you're

having trouble with um in

your homeschool budget or

with being you know trying

to figure out how to make
something more affordable
um or even possible um
within your home school or
maybe there's a service or
something for your student
and you're going I have no
idea how this is going to happen
Throw it out.

You know,

just let us talk it over with you.

That's why we're here and why we're live.

So we definitely want you to
feel like you're part of
this conversation as well.

And speaking of that,
just know that our...

We used to send out weekly
emails about our broadcasts
that were coming up.

That has moved a little bit.

Not particularly on my choice.

There was some major
platform issues with where
we were hosting that.

I won't go into that.

But let's just say we've
circumvented the problem.

And now we have at
spethomeschool.com slash
calendar is where you can
see the upcoming broadcast now.
And also, under each of those links,
there is a button to join a group.
And that group is where you
can post questions for
upcoming conversations.
You can converse with me or
any of the other podcast hosts.
with some of our guests that
pop on there as well and
it'll be an ongoing
conversation throughout the
week not just once a week
for the podcast that you
listen to or the broadcast
so we want to be there as a
form of support for you
that there is an additional
fee it's five dollars a
month not a whole lot um to
get that kind of support
but um but look into that
as a possible way to just
stay connected, have people that you know,
know what you're going through.
So again,

that's spethomeschool.com forward

slash calendar.

You can check that out.

So, so yeah, lots of,

lots of new things and

changes going on at Sped Homeschool.

We're super excited about,

about all those things and there's,

there'll be more to come.

So yeah,

So we're going to talk about budget,

but specifically we're

going to talk about how in the past you,

Carissa,

and other people that are

homeschool consultants have

helped people to maximize their budgets.

Because a lot of times we go

in and I know this was my experience.

I was like, okay,

I can spend this much money

and I'm going to teach this.

So I'm going to spend it all on books.

you know,

and and yet not all of it really worked.

You know,

the way it kind of like

formulated in my mind

versus the way it actually turned out,
there was always more expenses.

There was always things that
I missed or I didn't even use at all.

And so so, yes,
Definitely thinking about, you know,
it would have been wise to
maybe talk to somebody about this.

Yes, absolutely.

Well,
I know just in talking with all of
the thousands of people I
have over the years, probably most,
A very common theme is, well,
I started with this math program,
and then I had to buy this math program.

Yes.

I know, people have libraries.

Yes, yes.

And it's expensive.

I mean,
curriculum materials are not cheap.

It is an investment.

And I think sometimes,
and they're important.

I'm not saying that
curriculum materials aren't important.
but um sometimes there are
other things that can be

tweaked so you don't have
to throw the whole
curriculum out and do away
you know keep investing
over and over again and I
think that's one of the
biggest helps of working
with a consultant is that
um a consultant is someone
who has experience they
have background um this is
what they do day in and day
out they just they're
researching constantly they have um
Sometimes they have, you know,
education background in a
specific area that you
might be working with with your child.

So just that one fact that
you're not maybe going to
run through three
curriculums in one year.

I mean,

it's going to make everybody a lot
happier.

Yeah.

And I know that I've talked, like I said,
to so many people,

their initial call to me might have been,

well,

we've really been struggling with

multiplication facts.

So now I'm looking at this program,

this program and this program.

I'm, you know, which one should I buy?

Because this will be my third for the year,

you know, and I might be able,

not every time,

but I might be able to say to them,

Hey,

I don't know that you necessarily have

to get rid of that curriculum.

How about if we have more breaks?

Or have you thought about

giving him a different

place to do his work?

Or can you stay a little bit closer?

In other words,

I'm giving some suggestions

and support that don't have

to do with that book or the workbook.

That are going to be more

sometimes behavioral.

Sometimes they're just

setting them up for success.

They're helping them to get

more organized with their time,

helping them with time management.

I mean, they're just all kinds of things.

So, I mean,

that's the first thing when you

talk about.

budget um where working with

a consultant is really

going to come in and help

definitely yeah absolutely

but there's got to be other

things other than

curriculum too oh yeah I

mean I'm just thinking

about um because you know

when you have a child with

special needs um

it's just, it's just hard.

And I'm not even saying

maybe if a child that has, um,

significant learning needs,

I'm talking about maybe there,

there's a lot of, or maybe there's, um, I,

I know, um,

Personally, one of my children, I mean,

we just she could go from

zero to a hundred and nothing flat.

And just the emotional toll

that that takes on you.

Right.

It's a hard job.

Homeschooling is not for the faint of heart, you know, and so it's good to have support.

But when I would have a day like that where we were all just drained,

I mean,

there had been shut down as far as academics were concerned.

That tended to turn into a shutdown for me as a mom, too.

So that night, instead of...

fixing you know vegetable

soup which I could do

pretty cheaply I'm like can

we please just go to

chick-fil-a like you know

I'm gonna spend more money

on eating out or doing

things because I'm done I'm

just I'm done um and some

of that um I know in my own experience um

I, I didn't work with consultants per se,

but when I was in the big

thick of homeschooling, I was, um,

an educational consultant

and I was on a team of consultants.

And so I would,

I would be like after hours, Hey,
can we please talk about, you know,
about meeting for Gracie or
what do I need to do about this?

And, um, so I had that,
that was a blessing for me
to kind of have coworkers,
that were there for me to help me.

So I think there's just,
that can be a money saver.

It might seem like that's kind of silly,
but just in my own experience,
when I'm spending emotionally,
I'm gonna look for,
more convenient ways to do things.

And that usually involves
more money than what I was
going to spend.

And it can impact your budget over time.

It can impact it hugely.

Like, you know,

having to have somebody clean your house,
you know, those convenience meals.

um and it can even you know

this isn't like money

budget but this is like

family budget um or

relational budgets um you

it can put a lot of tax on
your actual relationships
as well and um and just
cause you to check out
which over time can lead to
a lot of problems.

And so being set up properly
for that by having someone
who can speak wisdom into
your life and you're
willing to take that wisdom in,
that's another caveat.

You can pay somebody, you can ask a friend,
but if you're not willing
to take the advice,
don't worry about spending
the time because you're
wasting your time.

You have to be willing to
make the changes that
somebody suggests as well.

And I think, though,
but if we do invest and we
see a person as an expert,
we're more likely...

To say, oh, yes,

I need to make those
changes versus somebody
just like that says it, you know,

on Facebook,
you you post something in a
group and they're like, oh,
you need to really do this.

And maybe it's good advice.

Maybe it's not.

But you're like, yeah,

I'm going on to the next
person till I hear
something I want to hear.

That's true.

Well, yeah.

And I don't know how many
moms I've talked to that just absolutely,
again,

are sensing that overwhelm because
if they are kind of going.

um to the internet for help

it's like okay well this

person says this and this

person says this and this

person says this and that

person said that and my

mother-in-law is saying

this and I mean they're

just like what am I

supposed to do and so um

you know and I I'm speaking

as a consultant um you know
sometimes I would have to say
I don't know that I know the answer,
but I know someone who I can ask.

But again,

I loved it when someone who had
been everywhere and had had
so many voices in their
heads telling them what to do,
and then we could connect
or someone on my team could
connect with them.

it kind of just helped them
to breathe again because
they didn't feel so overwhelmed.

They didn't have that
emotional toll that was,
that was being taken from them.

They could say, okay,
I've heard all of that,
but now I'm going to talk to an expert,
someone who is dedicated
their adult career to doing
this and working in this sphere.

I'm hearing what they're going to say.

And now I can make,
a knowledgeable decision.

You know,

I don't think consultants should

tell you do that.

I mean, you should do this or, you know, I,
a lot of times I would just
lay out one or two things
and help them to weigh out
all these different pieces
of advice that they had gotten.

Okay.

And say, all right,
let's look at it from this way.

So it's just always great to
have a third person

Someone who's kind of
neutral to be able to step
back and help you to see
everything from a different
perspective so that you can
make an informed decision
on what you need to do next.

Yeah, so true.

And to just take the weight off of you.

you know,

and to sort that weight based on the many,
many experiences they've had.

And they're not in the same
panic mode that you're in,
because oftentimes we are
in that panic mode and

we're seeking social media,
we're reading blogs,
we're doing all these
things because that's
supposedly where the information is.

It's not.

There's so much so much out there now.

And we'll we'll talk.

Let's talk a little bit next on
on just the varying
information and why it's so
confusing and how it can
become more of a burden than helpful too.

But I think that when you do
talk to somebody who isn't
in the middle of it and
could see it from the outside,
they can give you so much
clarity so quickly.

One of the biggest things I
speak on at homeschool
conferences is fear.

And I know so much of our
community is driven from fear,
fear that our children will not succeed,
fear that we are going to
let our children down,
fear that I'm going to
really mess my kids up.

You know, fear.

There's so much fear.

And it's not just in our own realm.

It's everywhere.

You know, when I was diagnosed with cancer,

I felt like that.

You know, it was just if you don't do this,

this is what's going to happen.

And we just get that message

over and over and over again.

And to have somebody come in and say, whoa,

wait,

I've been through this with many people.

And here's what you need to

take away from that.

Here's what you need to leave.

And it just alleviates you

to be able to say, oh, wow.

Now that I've kind of seen

it from a different level

and I hear this perspective,

now I can really make a

wise decision instead of just a reaction.

Yes, absolutely.

I love that, Peggy.

And, you know, fear freezes us.

It really does.

Yeah.

Yeah.

So it's,

it's just really good to be able to, um,

I don't think I've ever

really thought of it that way,

but when you are talking

with an educational consultant,

you are talking to someone

who's not in the midst of it.

Now there's, I mean,

I think there's value

talking to someone who's

been where you are.

Absolutely.

But, um,

it's nice to talk to someone who

has been where you are,

but they're not there now.

Right.

Absolutely.

You know, they have, um,

work with people who are where you're at.

It just, it gives people hope.

And I think that's another great thing,

a benefit.

I know we're talking about

budget, um, money and, you know, the,

the toll and how to, um, to, uh,

to do our best to live

within a budget and to, um,
access help without it
breaking the bank and how,
even though that is, um,
an investment that it could,
it's a worthwhile investment.

It's an investment for sure.

Yeah.

Um, but, um,

I hadn't really thought of
that before about, um,

Now I've completely lost my
train of thought.

What you were saying.

I forget exactly what I was
where I was going with that.

But anyway, good stuff.

Good stuff.

Yeah.

But but so let's go back to like
all the information and just
the various information
that can be thrown at us
from the homeschool sphere,
especially social media.

And I think I'm hoping more
people are realizing how
invaluable it is to get

lots of answers to your question because,

you know, I,

I love when I go on vacation.

I've got like three, four outfits.

They're already put together.

I don't have to make a decision.

I can actually enjoy myself.

When I walk into my closet, I go...

What do I wear today?

You know, I wish I only had three,

four outfits sometimes.

And I think that's the

problem in the homeschool

realm now is there isn't

like when we first started

homeschooling where I only had two,

three options.

That was it for curriculum.

I just had to make it work.

But now there's this overwhelm.

And it's debilitating and

overwhelm of everybody who

thinks they know everything.

And they're ready to tell it to you, too.

And they have the vehicle to

give that information to you.

And so it's but it is counterproductive,

isn't it?

Well, it is.

And I think it's.

one thing that I love that
sped homeschool is doing is
that the help that you're offering, um,
is really directing people
to the right resources.

We're not selling anything right now.

We're not selling a curriculum.

We're not selling a way to homeschool.

Um, we, and, and so, you know,

it's just like when I'm
going to make any kind of purchase, um,

I want to read,
a review that didn't come
from that company.

You know,

I know that they're going to say
great things about what
they have to offer because

They need, they're,
they're wanting to make money, you know?

And so, um, I think that's,

that's hard to navigate
these days because everyone's trying to,
especially when it comes to social media,
um, there are just so many people that,
um, they're trying to, that's a means of,
of income for them.

And I don't begrudge that at all.

I'm just saying that

sometimes we have to be, um, be aware.

that the information that

you're gonna get is gonna

be filtered through that.

So they may be pushing a

certain curriculum because

that's the curriculum that

they've written and that they're selling,

or they might be pushing a certain way

or ideology of homeschooling

and the advice that they're

giving is all gonna be

filtered through that.

And so that makes it especially tricky.

And then sometimes it's just

advice that people are

gleaning from blogs or from

posts on social media.

I mean, that it doesn't necessarily be,

it's not tied to some type

of financial needs or

wanting to be an influencer

or something like that.

But it's just a lot.

I used to tell people, you know,

let me be your Google for you.

Right.

Absolutely.

Let me narrow things down for you.

So that you're not, you know,
you can just get lost and
go down all these rabbit holes, you know,
by going to Pinterest and
going to all these
different avenues for information.

I think I heard this many
back in the spring.

Unfortunately,
I don't recall the name of
the gal that was speaking,
but it was a podcast that I
was listening to.

And she was talking about
how we really need to steward
the information that we're
taking in because we
weren't really designed to
know everything.

I mean, that kind of relates to,
to news and stories and
what's happening in the world.

I mean, we're,
we're not designed to burden
all of that and to handle all of that.

And when people are looking for answers,

they are so concerned.

I mean,

I love homeschool moms so much

because they,

they are often making

sacrifices financially left jobs,

sometimes like really great incomes.

They've left that because

they are concerned about

their child's education.

And when their child is struggling,

They feel that deeply.

I mean,

I was a class teacher for twenty years,

and when I had a kid that was struggling,

I felt the burden of that

and the responsibility of that.

But it wasn't anything like

the burden and the

responsibility I felt when

I noticed that my own child

was struggling with reading.

That's a whole new level.

And so when you got a mama

that's in that state of mind,

and hurting and struggling

and she sees her child

struggling and then they go

to the internet and they're

like and then finally they
find you know someone um
like myself to talk to they're like

Thank you.

Thank you.

Yes, they finally breathe.

Yes.

I mean,

I don't know how many times I've
heard them say, I am just,

I can't even think,

I can't even make a decision anymore.

I have gotten so much information.

I don't know which way to go.

And so there's great value in that.

Huge.

Huge.

Yeah.

Yes, absolutely.

And and then you can make
those decisions informed
much more quickly and and
you can just move on.

And so you're not like losing time.

You're not trying curriculums that you,
you know,
even if you downloaded a free sample.
you know,

your child's going to get confused.

They're going to get off track.

And we know the kids in our community,
they need consistency.

And so there just isn't a
lot of as much time as if
you had a typical learner
that was a little more flexible.

Oh, yeah,

let's just take a couple of weeks
to just kind of have fun.

And I know if I did that with my kids,
they when they were younger,
it would be like, oh, yay,
free for all the rest of the year.

This is our new schedule.

so yeah that wasn't good and

I will say this too because

um because I have always

been so budget conscious

and trying to um homeschool

on a you know shoestring

budget sometimes I would

use those uh free um

downloads for curriculum

from sometimes not not

every year but but

sometimes I did and

inevitably I would be

saying okay so today we're going to
I forgot to print off the little mini book,
you know, and then I've got to leave.
And then I lose my kids, you know,
because they're like,
mommy wasn't ready because
I completely just didn't
have my ducks in a row
because I had printed off
all three hundred pages of
what I needed to print off.
I was doing it a little bit at a time.
That was another thing that
I would often say to moms
and dads that I was talking
to is go ahead and spend
the money and buy the real thing.
You know,
sometimes it actually it is
cheaper up front, but in the long run,
it can be less expensive than buying.
literally and and uh the
consultant dawn that we
talked with last week on
the show she too said you
know one of her the things
that she does as a
consultant just know

there's there's different
kinds of homeschool
consultants there's
diagnosticians you can work
with who are diagnosed
diagnosis that diagnose
specific and or those that
work on curriculum
adaptation there are those
that can help you with more
executive functioning and
planning they all have
everybody has different specialties

But Dawn said that she will
even take all of the
curriculums you have and
set up a schedule.

And so all you do is open and go,
just like a prepackaged homeschool,
like out of a box,
but it would be custom made.

So there are people like
that that can do that.

And over time...
that it may even be cheaper
for you and much more
effective than trying to
buy a all in one curriculum
for a student that maybe is

at all these different
levels and has different interests.
So there's just so many it's customizable.
And and so and we always I
don't I'm sure you found this, too.
But the more that you a
parent gets comfortable in homeschooling,
the more eclectic you become,
especially in our realm,
because our kids are just so unique.
You have to be pulling things from,
you know,
this end to that end and
everywhere in between.
Definitely, definitely.
hey um peggy I've I thought
about something that I just
you know wanted to bring up
too I guess this has maybe
a little bit more to do
with consulting but it
could well not as much with
consulting as maybe with
curriculum but it could be
both but um I always
encourage people excuse me
to um kind of what we were
talking about at the very

beginning to be open to how
god can make a way where
you don't think that there is a way
And even in my own situation,
when I saw some signs of
dyslexia pretty early on
with my kids and got it
already prepared away
because I was working
literally every single day
with a reading specialist, my good friend,
Faith Behrens was a huge help to me.

And one thing that teachers
do is we share information.

I mean,

I taught in a lot of different
schools over twenty years.

But one thing we always had
in common is that we didn't
really want to recreate the
wheel and we didn't want
our co-teachers to reinvent
the wheel either.

We would share.

And so I think that's
another role of a consultant is to
to share information.

And it's so helpful when
you're in the trenches of

homeschooling to try to not go it alone.

There's no reason to go it alone.

There's help for you.

But just be open and make the need known,

I think is what I would

really like to say.

So in my situation,

when I was really needing

some professional help, God had already

laid that out and I had that

in my in my friend that was

perfectly prepared to help

me with my child's learning needs.

But also like even with curriculum,

I had my heart set on a

certain curriculum one year

and I couldn't afford to

just buy it outright.

And I ran into a friend and I had said,

are you homeschooling?

Aren't you homeschooling?

She's like, yeah, we are.

And we kind of made a connection there.

And then the following year

we were talking about, you know,

what our plans were.

And I was like, Oh,

I really wanted to use this curriculum,

but I don't think I'm going

to be able to swing it.

And she's like, what level do you need?

And I told her, and she's like,

I've got that.

And I'm not going to need it

for the next two years.

You can borrow it.

Like she had it all right there.

But if I hadn't like made my need known,

if I tried to hold that in or act like,

you know, Oh yeah,

I've got it all together

and I can get that, you know,

we have to make ourselves vulnerable,

I think is what I'm trying to say.

And just like what you were saying earlier,

that when you,

not only do you have to

make yourself vulnerable,

but then you also need to be teachable.

Yes.

That's just so very,

very important when you're

working with someone else

to be open to other ideas

and to let go of, you know,

having your hands on it and, um,

trying to see things through your own way.

Sometimes there's a
different way and being open to that.

Absolutely.

Yeah.

And I do know a lot of
curriculum companies do offer, um,
scholarships too.

Um, that if they know that you're in need,
it'll be through a certain organization.

And I know I've talked with a
they would like to set that
up through sped homeschool
so we can identify people
in need that could use
their curriculum and but
they have a financial need
and can't afford the full price.

So so that is something that
hopefully we will have
built into our new program
coming up that.

Yes.

And so so there are ways
that other people can get
you connected with the
resources that you need.

And it's not going to cost
you what you think it's going to cost you,

especially if it is
something you can't swing.
But yes, the homeschool community is so,
so very supportive.

But I know there's a lot of
new people that have come
into our community, though,
especially since twenty twenty.

And a lot of them have made
it a money making business,
which has caused.

those of us who have been
around for a while to to
really kind of you know
especially those that come
in and say I'm going to
charge you like this much
for this and I'm like going
and people are actually
paying you that um because
that just it was unthought
of to even ask that much um when
you know, years ago,
maybe I don't think
inflation's gone up that much.

Um, but,
but they're used to the public school,
you know, costs.

And so they're charging those prices.

And unfortunately people
that have come out of the
public school realms or
private school realms are like, yeah,
I guess that would, that's what it costs.

And so they pay it.

Um, and so anyways, um, I,
I see that as a great
advantage for working with
somebody who's been around
the block a couple of times.

Um, and,
because they know who the
people are and the
companies are that are
established that have
really legitimate homeschool curriculum,
not curriculum that was
developed for a classroom,
and then they stamp
homeschool on it because
that is a whole different place to be.

If you are just starting homeschooling,
just know that using a
curriculum that was created
for a classroom
may not be the best fit,
especially if a classroom

environment did not work
originally for your child.
But yes, because they tend to add,
what is it, more hands-on things,
more things for auditory learners,
visual learners,
than those supplemental
things that you'd have in a classroom.
Is there other things that I'm missing?
I'm thinking about, you know,
as a class a former
classroom teacher I
typically had twenty one
twenty two students um and
I know there are other
teachers that have had
classroom sizes much larger
than that but um my last
ten years I was a I taught
kindergartners so um
those curriculum programs
that were designed for the
classroom are going to have,
for lack of a better term,
like filler activities
because you you need
something busy work for them,
for students to do while
you're working with smaller groups.

And so that's really not
necessary in a homeschool setting.

You don't have to
to have busy work because
you can be very much more
productive and do things
that are really meaningful
to the child instead of it
being something that, you know,
was really designed for
classroom management.

And classroom management is
a lot different when you
have one or two kids
instead of or four or even
five is completely
different than a class of twenty two.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Well,

I'd like to kind of just as we are
wrapping up this conversation,
talk about what the vision
of our new consulting
program that we haven't even started to,
I mean,

Chris and I met this morning and
just started brainstorming
about some ideas.

So nothing's really established.

If you're watching and go, you know,
I'd really like this as
part of your consulting program,
pop it in the notes.

And if you're listening on
the podcast or you watch this video later,
send us an email at office
at spethomeschool.com.

We really do want as much
feedback as possible to
create a program that
really helps you and gives
you the resources that you
need to be successful.

And we won't know that until you tell us.

Absolutely.

Yeah.

Well, Peggy, as you know,
My heart is for a lot of
these newer homeschool
families that are coming
into our community.

They may really feel like
they're homeschooling out of desperation.

I know so many,

every single week I was
talking to families like
this that honestly,
they didn't want to be homeschooling,
but they had,
they felt they had no choice
and their backs were against the wall.

And so they are like, okay,
I'm withdrawing him on
Friday and we're going to
start on Monday and I need help.

And I work full time and my
husband's a truck driver
and we don't know anything
about homeschooling.

Can you help us out?

And what I love about the
potential of what we could
do at Sved Homeschool is
that we can be there.

Well,

we can already be there for families
like that right now because
you've got a platform set
up where people can connect
with other families.

um yes homeschool moms and
um and dads but also with

people that are in the
field and that have been in
the homeschool realm for
many many years and that
are experts in their field
they can already do that
with a certain level of subscription
But I think the vision is very mild.

It's five dollars and you
get into three groups that
are run by consultants.

Ask your questions because, yeah,
you're not just going to
get the overwhelm.

You're going to get an
answer to your question.

Right.

Right.

And so I love that that's already set up.

But I think like what the
potential could be is even
for families that need some support.
some really specific nitty-gritty help,
or they want one-on-one consultation,
that that would be
accessible to them without
having to pay fifty to
seventy-five dollars an hour, you know,
to be able to get that.

It's available right now.

And that's a pretty low cost
compared to what some consultants charge.

But still,

we understand that that can
still be a burden for some of you.

Right.

Absolutely.

And that's my heart is to be able,

I know for myself,

that would have been very

difficult to pay fifty

dollars an hour or seventy

five dollars an hour if I

had to do it to get the

help that my child needed

and that I needed to be

able to help my child, I would do it.

But

But I love that the

potential is there for just

a monthly rate that they

could talk to a consultant

and get some one-on-one help.

So that's kind of the vision.

And I think it's very needed

because there are so many

families like the ones that

I just described that
really have zero background
in homeschooling.

I know even when I came into homeschooling,
fifteen years ago,

Or so I get a little less
than fifteen years ago,
but the world has changed since then.

And I chose to homeschool, you know,
like my husband said,
you've been teaching
everybody else's kids.

You know, now it's time to teach our own.

You know,
that was a choice we made because
we felt that that was the best.
avenue to educate our children.

That's what we wanted.

People said,
you're a public school teacher.

Don't you think your kids
need socialization?

And I said,
I'm homeschooling because of
socialization.

I knew even as a
kindergarten teacher with
babies that I was teaching.

That I would have been hard

pressed for my baby to be
in some of my own classes
because of some of the
shenanigans that went on, you know,
and the socialization that
I didn't want my child to be socialized.

Anyway,

I kind of got off on a tangent there,
but but.

Yeah, but a lot of people don't choose.

And in our community,
we found that we were the
most prepared for COVID
because the majority of us
didn't start homeschooling
because we wanted to.

I'm in that boat.

I was ready to send my kids
to private school, restart my career,
and I was happy.

until my son was diagnosed.

And then my world and my, my future,
as far as I was concerned, fell apart.

And, but you know what,

I look back on that and I'm so,
so thankful.

And I love giving that testimony because,
you know,

that was twenty one years ago

that I started on that journey.

And, you

I can see where both of

those trajectories would have taken me.

And this is so much better.

But, you know,

it required me dying to a

lot of dreams that I had for myself.

For God to replace them with

other ones that...

are so much better.

I just have to, you know,

say that and better for my family,

better for me, um,

and just better for others.

So, um, and you made that choice,

then that's making it

possible for other people

to make that choice too.

So, um, I, I, I love that.

And, and that God knew about that.

Twenty-one years ago, Peggy,

he knew about who you're

going to be able to serve and help, um,

you know,

a couple of decades down the road

because of that.

Not only your own family.

Yeah, Allie's watching us and she said,
I can't wait for the
consultant program for my autistic child.

It's my second year homeschooling.

So just know, Allie,
that we do have a couple things going.

Once a month, we do have,

and this will be on the
calendar fairly soon,

but there'll be a once a
month get together for

group consulting with

one of our consultants,

and it'll be a Zoom call

where you actually get on,

bring the curriculum that's not working,

and she'll help you kind of

figure out some ways that

you can change it up.

So that's one thing we do

have coming up fairly soon.

Like I said,

there'll be some things that

are rolling out, but again,

those groups that are on

the platform on spethomeschool.com too,

that those will help you in

the meantime too.

But but there is definitely more to come.

And the one on one help for
sure is a vision that we're
just kind of figuring out
how best to roll that out
and make it most effective for you.

And and yeah, so.

And plus we want the right
consultants on board too.

Chris and I have a lot of
connections and expertise
in areas from reading to
just across the board,
everything that you would
probably ever want an expert on.

And we want to be able to not just say, oh,
here's a general homeschool consultant.

No,

what is the thing you're struggling
with and how can we match
you up with someone who has
that specialization so that
you can get answers quicker
instead of spending hours
with somebody that we know
your time is so valuable.

And so we want to make sure
that you get the resources
and the help that you need

that you specifically need.

So, yeah, so excited.

It's going to be great.

It is.

It absolutely is.

So, yes.

And I think unique in the

homeschool world right now,

because I feel like we're

kind of holding the line a little bit,

you know,

like we want things to to be

accessible and not not

driven because we're trying, again,

to sell something necessary, you know.

Exactly.

That that helps us to be

able to do what we're doing, you know,

as an organization just to

serve to serve families and

to be a support to them.

Yeah, yeah, absolutely.

Well, thank you so much, Carissa.

I have appreciated this

conversation to be able to talk to Dream.

It's one of my favorite

things to do is to just

figure out how to solve

problems and see where God
is at work and how we can
join him in that work.

That's really what life is all about.

You talked about making
things more accessible,
and I know for years you
people have been asking me,
where do we get the
transcripts for your broadcast?

Well, guess what?

I got something to share with you.

We are now posting not only
the transcripts,
but if you look for all of...
on this page it's our
content library on our
website you'll see these
places where our um our
broadcasts are so right
here is the new podcast
that came out today um was
the conversation that was
two weeks ago with stephanie
and her guest, Jen, well, you can catch,
if you go into this thing
right on our website,
you'll find not only the
YouTube video link,

but this little button
right here will play the podcast for you.
And if you go down to the bottom, well,
it has all the show notes in here,
but if you go down to the
bottom right here,
you can download the transcript too.
So if you need, if you wanna take notes,
if you have a hard time hearing,
all of that's there for you
now and I I'm so thankful
we've been finally been
able to do that it has
taken technology a while to
catch up um because our
finances weren't there to
be able to pay for that
service but now um
technology does such a good
job on its own that um we
have been able to to do
that so so definitely head
over to our website at
spethomeschool.com
resources and our content
library has all of that as
well as lots of other stuff too so
So, yeah.

And you'll be seeing more of
Carissa around on our site.
I'm just going to be doing a
lot of background research.
But like I said, reach out,
office at
spedhomeschool.com if you have
any feedback for us on what
you would like to see added
to our website.
to this program we
definitely want to hear
from you so so reach out to
us um right there so um
next week my guest let me
see if I can pull this up
here um my guest is going
to talk about screen savvy
parenting navigating tech
with biblical boundaries so
um we're going to be
talking with both a pastor
and an i.t specialist who's
going to help us to to
navigate those waters
The internet is becoming a
scarier and scarier place.
And unfortunately,
the more I hear from

parents with kids with special needs,
and this is not kids with
special needs that have
like severe special needs.

These are the kids that kind
of get left in the middle.

Those that just struggle in
little areas that are
looking for a place to belong.

And unfortunately,
there are places on the
internet that can really
suck our kids in.

And it's becoming very scary
and it's leading to a lot
of mental health issues as well.

So I really just encourage
you to join us for that conversation,
whether you can join us
live or listen to the
podcast or watch the video later.

It's an important
conversation for us to be
having right now.

So I hope you can join us for that.

Thank you again, Carissa.

I'm looking forward to working with you.

And thank you.

Yeah.

And thank you all for joining us.

We'll see you next week here on same time,
same place.

And until then,

take care and God bless everybody.

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