

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 LivingWithEve.com,
Stephanie Buckwalter from
ELARP Learning and Don
Jackson from Don 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 thankful

in trials,

trusting God's work through

your family struggles.

And my guest today is Sharon Janes,

an international speaker,

bestselling author of

twenty six books and a

powerful voice in the

global faith community.

Formerly the vice president

of Proverbs thirty one

ministries and co-host of

the radio program,

Sharon knows the topics
that are important to
Christian women of all ages and
and all walks of life for sure.

And Sharon,

I am just delighted to have you
on today as a guest and to
be able to share with our
community and just words of encouragement,
especially,
and things that you have
wisdom to share on.

So welcome.

Thank you.

I'm excited to be here.

I love talking with moms.

Yeah, yeah.

My heart, when I first,

I actually used to work for

Mops International.

And I think my heart has

always been for the mothers.

And I think that's when I

formed Sped Homeschool.

And then we do, we help a lot of dads too,

and grandparents as well.

But my heart truly is for moms.

And so, yeah.

So, yes.

So today's conversation just

really we're going to hone

in on those moms and and

just encouragement and times of trial.

We all face them, don't we?

Yes, we do.

We do.

And we're going to on this side of heaven.

I mean,

that's just Jesus told us that in

this world you will have tribulation.

And I'm so glad he said that

because that way we know when it happens,

we should not be surprised

because we live on this side of heaven.

Right.

Yes.

Yeah.

I think a lot of people get
the impression that, you know,
I'm going to accept Jesus
in my life and then
everything's just going to
be smooth sailing from here on out.

Where did that come from?

I don't know where we got that from,
but yeah, that is not the way it happens.

Exactly.

Yes.

But we do have a story.

That's the good news.

You don't have trials,
but we handle them
differently and we know the
outcome is going to be different.

So true.

So true.

And such good encouragement, too,
that we are not alone.

We're all going through different things.

And our community tends to
share the fact that they
all are teaching at home
kids who struggle or
they're considering it.

Or maybe they've graduated a
child and they're still
going through the trials
with adult children now.

I'm one of those.

I have one.

Yeah.

And so it just never ends.

We never get to that point until,
like you said, Sharon, when, you know,
heaven comes to earth,
all those problems will be taken away.

But it's a process.

But we know where we go to comfort.

We know where we have comfort.

We can go for wisdom.

I mean, it tells us in the Bible,

ask for wisdom,

he's going to give it to us.

So it's not like we struggle

without someone there

helping us all the way.

Not struggling alone.

Yes, not alone for sure.

I think a lot of times that

we do feel alone.

So today we're going to talk

about being thankful

through these trials.

And I always ask my guests

when we first kick off, you know,

why does this topic resonate with you?

Because I oftentimes when I

set up an interview,

we come up with kind of an

overarching topic.

And when I talked with your publicist,

she had gone back and forth

between the two of us and she's like,

yes.

That's a good topic.

So I just kind of like to

know a little bit about, you know,

being thankful in trials.

Why does that resonate with you so much?

You know, Peggy,

if you think about your own

life and think about when

you have grown the most

spiritually and as a person, okay?

Yeah.

I would I would bet that it

was during times of trial.

Absolutely.

And we need to think about

that with their kids, too.

And I know we're going to

get to this later,

but but we we pray for our kids.

Sometimes we pray that they

won't struggle when we see

them struggling.

We pray that God will take

care of that struggle.

And I'm not sure that that's
necessarily the best thing to be praying,
but maybe we should be
praying that they will
learn what they need to
learn in the struggle.

And we all know that story,
The Little Train That Could.

I mean, I think,
I don't know how old I was
when I read that the first
time as a child,
and I think as moms then.

And homeschooling moms,
sometimes we want to push
that train when it's
struggling and help it get over the hill.

But if we do try to fix that,
then they're not going to
go down that hill saying, I knew I could,
I knew I could, I knew I could.

So we pray and I pray for
myself when I'm going through struggles.

You know, Lord,

show me what I need to learn here.

Show me what I need to take away here.

from this.

And Peg, I'm going to be honest,

that is not usually my first reaction.

Mine neither.

I just want to say that right above board.

So don't feel guilty.

It's like, ooh,

that's not my first thought.

It's not mine either.

But after I calm down and I

stop pouting about it, and then I know

God is in control.

God is in control.

I'm not.

And here's something we can remember.

Where we see trouble, God sees training.

So we're going through trouble.

God, what is it that you're teaching me?

What are you training me?

And we see a setback.

He sees a set up.

So through difficulties, I mean,

just we can look through

the Bible and see people

that had difficulties and

what they learned through that.

And we can apply it to ourselves.

But again, if it's not your first reaction,

don't feel bad about it.

You know,

I think about Joseph in the Bible.

Wow.

How many struggles did he have?

Remember, Joseph,

he was the favorite son of Abraham.

And yet many colors.

And he was the favorite son.

He might as well have had

his favorite monogrammed on his coat,

right?

And he had these dreams that

one day his brothers and his parents,

he had two dreams,

that they were going to bow down to him.

And instead of keeping that to himself,

remember,

he shared that with his brothers.

And they hated him.

Or even more.

And so we know what happened

that one day when he was around seventeen,

the brothers were working.

Joseph was at home,

which is a big red flag to me.

Why wasn't he working, too?

But anyway,

his father told him to go check on him.

And they said, here comes that dreamer.

And so they they put him in a cistern,

tore up his coat,

put blood on it and then a caravan.

And listen, I love where it says,

meanwhile.

A caravan was coming, a slave caravan.

And I want us to always

remember when we are going

through a struggle, Peggy,
God is always working behind the scenes.
God is always working in our meanwhile.
And Jesus told us,
my father is always at work.
And I am working too.
So when we're going through
a struggle and we think God
is not answering my prayer,
Jesus tells us differently.
So we need to remember God
is always working.
And I love that word.
Meanwhile, all through the Bible,
when we see it, what that means,
like when my son was little, um,
people were still allowed to
play cowboy Indians.
I think that's been outlawed now.
So it's really not
politically correct to play
cowboys and Indians anymore,
but he would dress up like a cowboy.

He did not have a gun, but you know what?

He picked up a stick and pow, pow, pow.

But with the cowboys in the

old cowboy movies, the black and whites,

which you cannot even remember,

but I remember them.

And there was always this

one line and it said, meanwhile,

do you know what comes next?

oh yes what comes next back

at the ranch so meanwhile

what that means is

something's going on over

here something's going on

over here in a different

scene and then at the end

it all comes together for an aha moment

That's the way it is with our lives.

That's the way it is with our struggles.

Something's going on over here that we see,

but I promise you

something's going over here

that we cannot see.

And at just the right moment,
it's going to come together
and make sense.

But you know what?

Sometimes we never do.

know the why of it all now

with Joseph going back to

his story and when we know

that he was sold into

slavery he went to

Potiphar's house and became

a slave but you know what

scripture says there it

says and the Lord was with Joseph

While he was in Potiphar's house,

the Lord was with Joseph.

That sounds good, right?

But then what happens?

Potiphar's wife tries to get

him to sleep with her and

he will not do it.

And one day she grabbed his clothes.

He said, no, he ran,

but she was still holding

onto his clothes and she cried rape.

But what did it say before that happened?

The Lord was with Joseph,

but bad things still happened.

So then he goes off to

prison and he's in prison.

And it says in scripture,

and the Lord was with

Joseph in prison and found

favor of the people.

But you've got to be kidding.

I don't think he was going

around singing the happy

song or God is so good.

Even though this looks like a bad story,

God was with Joseph.

And I think that all these

years is about thirteen years.

He was going through this struggle.

God was preparing him for

what he had prepared for him.

And when we're going through struggles,

God is preparing us for something.

It is not a waste.

And we need to know that with their kids,
too.

God is preparing them for
what he has prepared for them.

And let me say something to
homeschool moms, too,
who are struggling with
maybe your child having a
difficulty learning a certain area.

Now,

I was raised in a very difficult home
situation.

My father died.

I was an alcoholic.

My parents fought both
physically and verbally in front of me.

And I saw things in the kitchen here.

But I came to Christ in a
miraculous way when I was fourteen.

I'd love to share that story.

What I want to go back to is

during those years of
growing up and then going
off to first grade.

And back then,
kindergarten was not what it is today.

And we colored, we took naps,
we had playtime, heard a story.

But then first grade's when
it got serious.

And in first grade,
we had to learn how to spell.

And that was a problem to me.

I thought I was going to go
off to first grade and have friends.

My brother was five years older than me.

I thought, I'm going to be smart like him.

But I went off to first
grade and spelling terrified me.

And back then we did not,
we were not hooked on phonics.

Let's just say that.

We had to memorize spelling
words and we had flashcards

and the teacher would hold
up a flashcard and we had
to tell what the card was.
Now the teacher put our chairs,
this sounds very cool,
but she put our chairs like
a train and she was the
engineer and she even called
a flash card I know she was
trying to make it fun for
us right but she held up a
flash card and if we did
not know that word we had
to go to the caboose and I
spent first grade in the
caboose because I could not
spell and she even kept me
after school with another
boy and you know I didn't
know much but I knew what
it meant to be after school
with tommy and I knew
something's wrong with me I

cannot spell I'm just not
as smart as everybody else

Now,

I want you to flash forward to the
introduction before we started talking.

Right.

Exactly.

What do I do now?

You're a writer.

I write books that use words
that I have to spell.

So as you're struggling with
your child in different areas,
as you're teaching them,

God can take sometimes our
most difficult struggle and
turn it into something wonderful.

And that's what he did with me.

Struggled spelling.

I mean, I still am not a great speller,
but that's OK.

God invented spell check and
it was wonderful.

But even before that,
my son comes along and he
is not a good speller.

But praise God,
he had a mama who was not a
good speller either.

And he was so discouraged by that.

Okay, I told him, Stephen,
it's a very uncreative
person who can only spell a word one way.

Okay, that might not be the best advice.

But he knew that his mom
struggled with spelling
when she was younger.

And now she wrote books.

So don't get discouraged if
there's an area that you're
teaching your child and
they're just not getting it.

You know,

God can do amazing things when we
give all of our struggles to him.

But going back to those struggles,

you know,

they're training us for something.

We look at the story of Joseph.

God was training him.

And just remember that each

time he was in those struggles,

when he was sold into slavery,

when he was in prison for

something he didn't do,

it says the Lord was with him.

And no matter what we're going through,

and no matter what our

children are going through,

the Lord is with them too,

because that's what he's promised.

And we know how that story ends,

that the Pharaoh,

there were two fellows in prison.

Meanwhile,

there were two guys in prison with him.

One was the Pharaoh's baker.

One was the Pharaoh's wine tester.

And they had dreams.

They didn't know what they meant.

Joseph,

that the power of the Holy Spirit

interpreted those dreams

that the baker would be

hung and that the wine

taster basically would be set free.

And that is exactly what happened.

And Joseph said, now,

when you get out of here.

do you tell the Pharaoh about me?

Cause I didn't do anything wrong.

You know,

it doesn't have exclamation marks

or big capital letters in the Bible,

but I probably would have

yelled that a little bit.

And you know what Peggy,

it was two years after he got out.

I was with everyone right now.

I'd get you to say it out loud.

Two years, two years later,

the Pharaoh has that dream

and no one can interpret it.

And the, um,

fellow the wine taster said

I know a guy and then

joseph comes interprets the

dreams and seven years of

plenty followed by seven

years of famine barrow

makes him second in command

and he saves the entire

nation from starvation but

he had a long way to get

there didn't he and we

might have we might have

some struggles that we need

to go through because you

know god is so much more

concerned about our

character than our comfort.

So we might have some

uncomfortable situations in

order to develop our character.

So don't panic when it happens to you.

Good words.

Don't panic when it happens to your child.

And I know there's some

times where something will

happen and we think,

I cannot believe my child did this.

If you haven't said that already,

you are going to say it just yet.

You're going to believe my child did this.

And you know what?

Your first reaction is

probably going to be after

you get over getting mad at that child.

You're probably going to feel guilty.

Like what did I do wrong to

make my child make that decision?

And let me tell you nothing.

You are responsible for everything.

developing that child and

nurturing that child, but he still,

God gave us the gift of

choice and our children are

still going to make bad

decisions and they're going
to learn from those bad decisions.

Now,
when somebody comes on this podcast
and I don't want you to ever think, oh,
these people have got it
all together and they know
all the answers and their
children never struggled.

Listen,
if our children had never struggled,
we would not be on this podcast.
because that is how God teaches us.

Can I get an amen, Peggy?

Is that not true?

Absolutely.

Amen.

And you know,
that brings up a really good point too,

Sharon,

is that a lot of people who are
considering homeschooling,
they look at somebody who's homeschooled.

Like I homeschooled for
nineteen years and they're like, well,

I can't be that person.

The problem is,

is they're looking at the

person that has been through the trial,

the person that has been

formed by that trial,

not the person who started

out who had an anger issue.

that was like their son was

ready to commit suicide at

age five and they were

already depressed themselves.

That's where I started out

and where God has taken me

through because of that

journey to persevering and saying,

this is what you've called me to.

I'm going to trust you.

I feel very ill-equipped for anything, but

You'll be with me and we'll

walk through this together.

And the amazing,
amazing stories that we have to share,
not because of what I did right,
but because of what God did
in the middle of what I was
being obedient to follow through.

Um, and, and that's just, I mean, it's,
there's so many layers to
the way God works in,
in and through our stories
and Joseph's story.

It was an amazing, um,
story to bring us to Sharon because, um,
we do, we feel like God's forgotten us,
that our circumstances are
above and beyond anything
that he could work through
and that our child is just forgotten.

a lost cause at least that's
what the world tells us but
god tells us something
different and we all need
to hear those stories again

and again and again as
reminders that um this it
hasn't changed it's always
been this way right and
almost every person that
god used in the in the
bible had struggles

Oh, absolutely.

You know, think about Moses.

Moses, you know, when he called him,
he had a stuttering problem.

He couldn't even couldn't even speak.

I mean,

this goes through almost every one
of them and struggled.

So, yeah, that's I mean, God,

I did not write this.

I didn't make this up.

I've heard it so many times

that God doesn't call the qualified,

but he qualifies the called.

Yeah.

And we say yes to him.

And every time you look through the Bible,
when God did something miraculous,
our obedience precedes that.

So obedience, our obedience,
his power follows our obedience.

So we have to move first and
then that power comes.

And that's true whether
we're talking about
homeschooling or whatever
he's called you to.

That we start moving and
then that power comes.

We want it the other way around, don't we?

We want to see that miracle
before we take that step.

But that's not how it happens.

You can walk around the wall
seven times and then seven
times on the seventh time
and the wall's going to fall down.

That is very odd.

That is a very strange thing.

battle attack to make the

Jericho walls fall.

But they had to take those steps.

And then God's power came.

And that's the way it is in our own lives.

We begin to do what he's called us to do.

But we've got to make sure

this is what God's called me to do.

And it's not just my idea.

We should never ask God to

bless our blueprint.

So let me say that again.

We should not ask God to

bless our blueprint or our plan.

And speaking of Moses,

that's exactly what

happened with him when he was forty.

He came up with a plan on his own.

I'm going to save my people.

And it failed.

He bailed forty more years

before God came to him

again at that burning bush.

So, yes, we were listening to God.

And sometimes you might wonder, well,

I don't know if this is

really God or if it's me or

maybe it's an enemy.

But I've decided that I'm

going to always err on the

side of obedience.

Instead of analyzing out the kazoo,

I am going to err on the

side of obedience and move forward.

Because God knows your heart.

He knows your heart.

Yes.

And that's what it really

comes down to is your heart.

And what are your intentions

behind what you do?

And that'll divert you if you're here.

Yeah.

your heart's in the wrong place.

But we do it with the best

intentions and knowledge that we have,

which aren't perfect.

They're never going to be.

Yeah.

Can you talk a little bit
about prayer and how prayer
can help us in this area as
well as in so many areas?

And

As we approach trials and as
we go through trials,
how do we use that as a
tool and a way to just get
closer to what God's doing
and be able to just use
that to help us walk the
walk we've been called to?

Well, again, all through the Bible,
we see how God answers
prayer and how miracles
happen after someone has prayed.

We see how Jesus actually
prayed the son of God.

Think about that.

He even prayed.

But all through the Bible,

we see that God answered

someone and miracles happen

when someone prayed.

But sometimes for us, though, Peggy,

I think we just don't know what to pray.

You know, with our children,

we might think, well,

I'm going to pray about this.

I'm going to pray about this

learning problem.

I'm going to pray about this behavior.

And we certainly could and should do that.

But we can also just pray

scripture over our children.

And that's why I wrote the book,

Praying for Your Child from Head to Toe.

We're praying for their mind

all the way down and what

they think all the way down

to their feet and the path they take.

And we're praying scripture

because sometimes we just

don't know what to pray.

But when you don't know what to pray,

if you pray the word of God,

you are praying the will of God.

So that is so reassuring to me.

And those areas that,

that I have another book

for praying for your

husband from head to toe.

And it's really the same basic format,

but praying scripture for three days,

these certain scriptures

over different areas,

we're praying for their

mind and what they think about.

And I start there because

that is so important

because sometimes we pray about behaviors,

but you cannot act

differently than you think.

Amen.

So we're going to pray about

their mind first.

And, um,

that they will have their mind renewed.

Well, you know, great passage,

great verse on that.

Do not be conformed to any

language of the pattern of this world,

but be transformed by the

renewing of your mind.

So praying that over your children,

because whether you're

homeschooling or they're in

public school or private school,

they're going to see what's

going on in the world.

They're going to see it on social media.

They're going to see it on the internet.

They're going to see it on television.

They're going to hear about

it on the playground.

They're going to hear about on a school.

I mean, they're going to hear it.

They're going to see it.

Yeah, exactly.

Praying about how they interpret that.

Then we're going to pray for their ears,

what they listen to, their eyes,

what they look at, their mouth,

the words they speak, their neck.

And the neck is what turns the head.

So that's the decisions that they make.

Shoulders, their burdens and worries,

their back, their spiritual protection,

their heart, who and what they love.

their side, their friendships.

Oh, that is so important, isn't it?

Who they walk through life with.

We're going to pray,

pray for their sexuality,

that they celebrate the,

the gender of their birth.

We're going to pray for

their legs to their stand

on scripture and their feet,

the path that they take.

I left out one, the knees,

how they humble themselves
before the Lord.
We're going to pray for their arms,
their strength, their hands,
what they end up doing with their lives,
the work of their hands and
the ring finger, their, their, their,
spouse that they choose for
the future so we can pray
about all this with our own
thoughts but man when we
pray the scripture when the
scripture listed for thirty
days for each one of those
things we are paying
powerful prayer because I
think um scripture tells us
that we have incredible
power for those who believe
that's an incredible power
for those who believe
And that word power there is dunamis,
the Greek word dunamis.

It's where we get dynamite.

And you have to make

dynamite with nitrogen and glycerin.

So I say that powerful

prayer is praying and

praying the scripture.

And when you bring those together,

you've got dynamis power, dynamite,

dynamite power.

So prayer is just so

important as we pray for our children,

as we pray for this world,

as we pray for our culture,

pray for our husbands.

Power is just so key and

prayer is so key to that.

Yeah, yeah, absolutely.

And let me say this too,

you moms that are tired,

anybody tired out there?

I know you are.

I think they all are.

It's so easy to say,

when am I going to pray?

They're often, you don't have, yes,

we need to sit down in times of prayer.

But the Bible says pray

without ceasing also.

And that's just praying through your day.

That's just, I mean,

praying when you do the wash,

praying when you're doing

the washing the dishes, you know,

just praying throughout the day.

There is a time to sit and

have a time of prayer,

but we pray without ceasing

just as we go through our days.

Absolutely.

Yes.

I used to have lots of index

cards with lots of

scripture on the backs of doors,

cabinets.

When I opened the kitchen cabinets,

they were there.

It was just this constant
reminder because we do,
we can get so caught up that we forget.

And, and those were, that was before,
I guess,
cell phones had reminders on them.

And I think the most effective prayer,
you know,
the most effective prayer is just help,
help me Lord Jesus, just, you know,
just help.

So,

You know,

I don't feel like you have to say
that just the right word.

Sometimes you could get
around people who were
praying so eloquently, you think,

I don't know how to pray.

But again, when you pray the word of God,
as you're even going
through your daily Bible reading,
you're praying those scriptures in.

And Peggy, I just want to say too,
when you go through and you
read the New Testament,
you read the gospels,
we see just how much Jesus
cared about mom's
Jesus stopped so many times for moms.

Remember one of the very
first miracles that he performed,
he was walking into town
and going out of town was a
funeral procession.

Remember that?

And it was a widow whose
only son had died.

And honestly,
you can't get much lower than that.

I mean,
especially in that culture when
women didn't have hardly
any way to take care of
themselves and to make a living.

Right.

So she's going out of town.

Jesus sees this.

He sees the funeral procession.

She's crying.

And Jesus walks up to this

mama and he says, don't cry.

He had compassion on her.

And he went over and raised

her son from the dead and

gave him back to her.

One of his first miracles.

And then I love this story

when he had been doing miracles.

And then he and his

disciples got in a boat and

they went over to a place

called Syrophenicia.

And this is a Gentile area.

And this woman,

this mother came up to him and she said,

you know, my daughter,

my daughter is possessed by demons.

Can you please heal or drive

these demons out?

And Jesus said, now this woman,

can be a little confusing if

you're reading this and it

makes it sound like Jesus is being harsh,

but he's not.

And he says, well, you know,

I didn't come for the Gentiles.

I came for the Israelites,

for the Hebrews.

And she said, yes,

but even the dogs get the

scraps under their master's table.

And then Jesus is basically, he says,

And this is not worth a word, but woman,

your faith is really something.

And so he was showing the

disciples were listening to all this.

They were trying to get her to go away,

but they got to hear her

incredible faith.

You know who else got to hear it?

The woman got to hear it as

it came out of her mouth.

So he healed that woman's daughter,

drove the demons out.

And then you know what he did?

He left.

That's the only thing we

know that happens.

The only thing that he did there.

Yeah.

So does that mean that Jesus

loves moms enough that he

would go all the way to a different city,

a different town to take

care of one mother who was struggling?

And the answer is yes.

He did that for her and then he left.

So that is so encouraging to

me as I think about when you're saying,

God, are you hearing me?

Do you even care what's going on?

oh yes, he hears you and he's here.

But always remember the main why award,

even though we can't see it,

God is working in the
background in ways that we
could never see.

So true.

Yeah.

Yeah.

We had a comment from one of our viewers.

She said, good topic here.

Good reminder when this is
going on over here,
something else is going on over there.

I really needed to hear that today.

Yeah, absolutely.

And

We get so focused in on
what's going on in our life
and we think nobody else is
dealing with this.

It's just me.

I'm all alone.

And, you know,

I see everybody else's lives
are perfect on Facebook or

wherever else I'm watching.

And mine's just miserable.

So we can get that idea.

But the problem is, isn't it?

the majority of us are all

dealing with all this stuff.

And we can either say,

woe is me and kind of close in,

or we can reach out to God.

And like you said, Sharon, we can,

we can wait on him and wait

on what he's working out

because it's so much bigger,

so much better than we could ever imagine,

but we can't lose hope.

Yeah.

You know, the holidays are, yeah,

the holidays are coming up

and it's a really, really hard season.

I remember times in our family,

even growing up,

I had my youngest brother

was the most difficult to

manage before I had ten

adopted siblings that was

added to that mix.

But my one birth brother, he,

people would say when we were coming,

are you bringing him?

You know, my poor mother,

she just laughed it off.

But people are serious.

And unfortunately,

a lot of times the the

extra work that we bring

with as a family sometimes

makes it to the point where

we don't get invited or the

holidays just aren't a lovely,

happy time because they

aren't what we pictured they would be.

And so a lot of our parents

just kind of close in more

so than feel like it's a celebration.

So do you have any advice

for parents on finding joy

and thankfulness amidst
maybe these unmet
expectations that they have
of these times and, you know,
other times throughout the year as well?

Well,

I'm going to go back to something you
said right before
describing that situation
is the whole idea of social
media and the Internet.

And when you are looking at social media,
we always have to remember.

And, you know, I say this to myself,
but it's so hard to remember.

that this is someone's highlight reel.

This is not their everyday
life because we don't post everyday life.

We're only showing the good parts.

We're not saying how their
son got in trouble at school or how their,
their daughter got caught sneaking off.

And,

The fight that mom and dad had last night.

I mean, we're not showing any of that.

So we look at these highlights.

And during the holidays,

we look at the highlights.

We look at Christmas cards.

And listen, don't even get me.

I don't know if people do

this much anymore.

I quit doing it.

But people would send Christmas letters.

And in the Christmas letter,

it's just a highlight.

Some of the old family

members still do that.

Oh, no.

I'm like, don't do it, you know,

but it has all the

highlights of everything

that happened that year.

We don't have to do it

anymore because people are

posting every single day

about something wonderful that happened.

But that is not real life.

And I promise you that is

not their real life.

So I will tell you that

comparison kills contentment.

Comparison kills contentment.

And when we compare ourselves,

what we have going on on the inside,

what somebody else is

posting on the outside,

we are going to be very discouraged.

And we've talked a little

bit about loneliness, not a whole lot yet,

but moms are so lonely today.

And especially if you're

homeschooling mom and

you're not getting out as

much with other moms,

then they look at these

posts on Facebook.

Facebook and Instagram and

they see all these people

together and you know I
think it's hilarious that
it was called social media
because social it makes you
feel unsocial because you
feel like I'm not doing
that I'm not having any fun
and it's really not
social media and it's making
people feel lonely and teenagers.

And once they get that,
they start comparing themselves.

You know, when we were growing up,
we compared before we had
the Internet and cell
phones and Internet Instagram.

I mean,
we compared ourselves to people at school,
people in the neighborhood
or people we knew.

Now they're comparing
themselves to people all
around the world and people

they don't even know.

And it's just making

everyone feel lonely and

feeling like they're not good enough.

And that is such a tool of the enemy.

I think that feeling of comparison.

And listen, comparison kills calling.

That's another thing I tell people often.

Comparison kills calling.

And the measuring stick will

get you stuck.

So as a mom, as a homeschooling mom,

as a mom going into the holidays,

if you are measuring

yourself by what you think

someone else is doing,

then you're going to get stuck there.

So we need to make sure not

to compare ourselves with others.

So what do you do if you're

if you're going into a

holiday season and you know

there's going to be drama

from certain family members?

I think one idea is telling

your children age

appropriate things that might occur.

So let's say that Uncle

Bobby has a really bad

temper and he gets mad a lot.

Well, tell them.

You know,

sometimes Uncle Bobby has a bad

temper and he might struggle with that.

So we need to know that

might happen or if we know

somebody's not a Christian

and they have really bad behavior and say,

you know, they don't know Jesus yet.

And, you know,

appropriate behavior as they get older,

explaining more,

letting them know what they

might see when they're

there and how we can pray for them.

So that's something to know

going into the holidays.

But I do think that

lowering your expectations

of what the holidays might

look like um it might look

like um that is um is an

important thing to do for

all of us and then if it

exceeds our expectations

isn't that great so right

just make sure that they're

not you know they're not

too high and lowering our

expectations and and

keeping in mind what it's

all about in the first

place exactly actually

that's so true yeah one of

the first books I ever

wrote which is now out of

out of print now is um

celebrating a Christ-centered Christmas.

And that really had a focus

on the reason that we're
celebrating Christmas and
not getting stressed out
about what the culture
tells us that it should
look like and be like.

I actually have a list of
some ways to celebrate a
Christ in a Christmas as a
freebie on my website that
they can download.

But yeah, that's so.

And the reason that is so important to me,
Peggy, is because in my home, you know,
I mentioned growing up in a
difficult home environment
for my parents a lot.

It was always worse around the holidays.

It's always worse around Christmas.

Stress goes up and yeah, so much comes up.

Stress comes up.

My mom,

even though they had a very

difficult marriage,
we looked good on the outside,
lived in a nice neighborhood.
We just looked like we were
a typical American family.
And she worked very hard.
at making that look the case,
but we were not, um,
we were not happy and
Christmas was awful at my house.
So when I had a child,
I wanted to make sure that
we did focus on the right thing.
We did things, for example,
he only got three presents
all the way through.
He still, he still gets,
he's an adult now and he
still gets three presents.
Um, but that's, Jesus got three presents.
So why should we get more?
And, um, I mean,
we did lots of things to keep,

keep christ the focus of the
holiday and that made it
smaller than what the world
expects you to do I mean
you think about stores
stores right now and it's
october when we're
recording this and
christmas stuff's already
out so yeah oh it's not a
retail holiday mm-hmm
yeah it's that's such a good
point one of my co-hosts is
just launching a new
celebrating jesus at
christmas time book and so
she'll be on the show later
and we're going to talk
about how to throw jesus a
birthday party um so so
that's coming up um but yeah it
We we do.
We get off track of what the

importance should be.

And and and, you know,

even family can be overwhelming,

like you said.

And and again,

the holidays aren't about about family.

Yes, it's great to celebrate with family,

but even without family.

we have Jesus who is the

most important family

member and we can celebrate him.

And it's just,

it's refocusing our

attention on what we should

be focused on instead of

focusing on all the things

that we either don't have

that we wish we had that, you know,

the long laundry list that

just kind of digs that hole for us.

It isolates us.

And it also brings us away

from that joy that we're

supposed to be having in
that season and in our Lord.
Can I say this, Peggy, too?
I've mentioned twice here.
about my difficult childhood.
And I know there are people
listening who've had
difficult childhoods as well.
And I hope that's not the story.
But I don't know.
It just seems like that we
always tend to bring the
negative from our childhood
into our adulthood.
And we're afraid it's going
to affect our parenting.
But, you know,
I became a Christian at fourteen.
And let me tell you how that happened,
though.
When I was with all the
difficulty that went on in my family,
there was a woman in my neighborhood.

Her name was Mrs. Henderson.

It was my best friend's mom,

lived on the next block.

And I began to spend a lot

of time down at the Henderson's home.

And she began to tell me

about about Jesus.

And I thought she was a

little strange because she

would walk around the house

thinking little praise songs and songs.

She talked about Jesus like

she knew him personally.

And I thought that was odd

because you see my family

as bad as we were.

And so much went on behind that door.

We went to church on Sunday.

And just because someone

goes to church on Sunday

does not mean that they're

hearing the word or they

know that you can have a

personal relationship with Jesus.

But I've spent two years with her,

her mentoring me.

She started Bible study in

the neighborhood for teenagers.

And at fourteen, she sat me down one night,

asked me if I wanted to ask

Jesus in my heart.

And I told her yes.

And he did change my life.

But I had to get back home

into that that violent

environment with all the negativity.

And I'm going to tell you this really,

really quickly.

But three years later,

I had a chance to go out of

the country for the summer

as a foreign exchange student.

And while I was gone, I told my mom,

if something happens,

you need to go down to Mrs.

Henderson's house because

you see at the time I was
breaking up the fights.
I left for the summer.
My dad came home, started a fight.
My mom went to Mrs.
Henderson's and then she
gave her life to Christ that night.
So that was an amazing summer.
And then my father said, you know,
I'm going to go to church with you,
but I could never become a
Christian because there's
too many things I've done in my life.
God could never forgive me.
And of course,
I told him exactly what you
would tell him, Peggy,
that none of us could be good enough.
Because if we could,
then Jesus wouldn't have
had to die on the cross.
Right.
But it took him about three

more years after that.

He was on the verge of a

nervous breakdown.

He was being sued.

And my mom was in

Pennsylvania from North Carolina.

He drove to try to find her,

couldn't find her, stopped at a church,

said, and that's the one to pray for me.

And the lady said, the priest isn't here,

but I'll draw you a map of

a Baptist pastor out in the woods,

building his church.

My dad followed that little

map on a scrap piece of paper.

Wow.

pulled up to this church and

told the man with a hammer in his hand,

I need you to pray for me.

He said, tell me what's the problem is.

And my dad told him

everything he'd ever done.

And then that pastor said, now, Alan,

let me tell you what I've done.

And the way my dad described it, he said,

Sharon, everything I had done in my life,

that man had done too.

So I knew that if God could

forgive him and he could be a preacher,

that he could forgive me.

And listen, Peggy,

that's so powerful for us

because we go through struggles.

Our children are going to go

through struggles and see

God can use everything we've gone through,

just like with that pastor,

to help lead someone else to the Lord.

And we showed what God has

done in our life.

Then it says God comforts us

so that we can comfort

others with the comfort

we've received from God.

So as your kids are struggling,

you know what?

This is going to be part of their story.

This is going to be part of

your story and how you're

going to be helped somebody else.

Just like Peggy, think about it.

What'd you say?

It's been...

How many years since you started?

Nineteen years since you started?

Well, yeah, nineteen.

And I've graduated them all

a couple of years ago.

So that's awesome.

Yes.

What is what are you doing right now?

You're helping other moms.

telling them about the

struggles because of what you've learned.

So mama, as you are struggling now, listen,

know that God is going to

use everything you are

going through to help somebody else.

But we have to be willing to do that.

See my dad,
even he went to church for
those three years,
but he didn't see anybody like him.
Nobody was sharing their struggle.
And were there people like him?
Yes.
But they were just keeping
it to themselves.
God had to take him from
North Carolina to
Pennsylvania to meet a man
who was willing to tell his story.
So I want to encourage you
as you were going through these struggles,
as you get through these
struggles and on the other
side of the struggles,
just know God is going to use your story.
to help someone else god is
going to use your
children's struggle that
they can help someone else

just like I told you the
story about my spelling and
now I write books that's
going to use everything
your child's going through too

Yeah.

Oh, such good encouragement.

That was so good.

Because we do, we struggle with what,
what's, what if, what, you know,
what if we stay stuck in this?

What if my child stays stuck in this?

What about our future?

And, and it does, it keeps us,
it keeps us stuck.

Unfortunately, God has a plan.

And like you said, so many times,
meanwhile.

And we need to strike out of
our vocabulary.

I really think,

and I did not make this up.

I can't remember who did,

but worry is a down payment

on a problem you may never have.

So just strike that F from,

from your, it's not helpful for any of us.

Right.

Yeah.

I think we, we feel like we have to,

to like wrestle with that

because I'm not being

responsible if I don't, you know,

plan enough or, you know,

it doesn't mean that you

don't do certain things,

but it also doesn't mean

you go beyond those either.

You know, and,

and trying to find that

balance in that and, and,

Interesting that God's not all up to you.

It's really not.

You do the best you can.

And God's working.

God's working.

And I think this will encourage someone.

But one of my first books of
about twenty years ago was
called Being a Great Mom
Raising Great Kids.

It was with Moody Press.

I think it was longer than that.

But my son was in middle
school and he was a great kid.

He was so easy.

He just was.

And I wrote this book, Being a Great Mom,
Raising Great Kids.

And back then we had to type
it out and mail it in.

So I mailed that manuscript
out and I went home so excited about it,
dropped it in the mailbox.

My phone was ringing and it was Stephen.

And he said, mom, this is Stephen.

I am in the principal's office.

I just got caught stealing
in the lunchroom.

Great.

So I go to the school and I
walk in the office and see
this child sitting in a
chair with my son's clothes
on thinking this cannot be him.

Well,

he got in school suspension for five
days.

And then I went home and I
called the publisher and I
told them what happened to give them out.

And the vice president said,
welcome to the real world.

Right.

And the book was published.

Now, Stephen is a fine young man.

He's a grown up now.

And but that I needed to
learn how to hit a wall and
climb over it and get on the other side.

I needed to learn how to
struggle with something like that.

And you might think, you know,
you maybe think I'm doing a great job.

And then all of a sudden
something like that happens
and you think I am doing an awful job.

listen,
it's not about where you're doing a
great job or an awful job.

You know,

I was still a great mom and

Steven was still a great kid,

but there had things like

that are going to happen,

especially when they move

into those adolescent years.

And, um, and the good news,

he turned out to be a great young man.

So, but, um,

know that things like that'll happen.

Don't let it ruin you.

Don't let it discourage you

to the point of being stuck.

Um,

Just know that the person
who wrote Being a Great Mom
Raising Great Kids had that
kind of struggle.

And we just kept putting the
next foot forward to doing
the next thing.

Yeah.

Yeah.

We live in such an if-then society.

You know, if I do this, then this happens.

You know, and we think it's so scientific.

Yeah.

Absolutely not.

No, no.

There's so many things that
come in the middle.

And I love how much you've
shared your story over this last hour,

Sharon.

And it is God working.

God wants to bring himself glory.

And he's going to do it.

And he's going to do it with
our help or with us by his
side or without.

The privilege we have is
that God wants us to be
part of that story.

He wants us to be used to be
part of his story.

Um,

just like the man who talked to your
father, just, you know,
like so many places in your life.

And I've seen it happen in my life too, is,
you know, we're obedient.

We walk through it.

We don't know why we, we can, you know,
maybe we do, maybe we don't,
like you said,

we may be on this side of heaven.

We will never see the answer
to a lot of things we prayed for,
but in the end,

God is always faithful and always good.

Yeah.

And and if we take the time
to reflect and to to slow
down enough to to see what God's doing,
we're going to have a lot
more easier time resting in
these unknown places,
these places of trials.

And it might be years before
you see anything.

One thing with me is we,
after we had Steven,
we were trying for baby
number two and went through
years of infertility
treatment and it did not happen.

And then we got pregnant
later and the baby died
before she was born.

And that was devastating for
someone who's loved
children and wanted to have a house full.

But I remember when I was sick,

Stephen was sixteen and he
was six feet long and he
was asleep on his bed and
he had a hairy leg hanging
off and drool coming down his face.

Oh, I love that kid.

Lord, I love that boy so much.

And why is there only one?

And then

John three,

sixteen just watched over me and said,

God so loved the world.

He gave his what?

Only son,

whoever believes him shall not perish,

but have everlasting life.

And I said, Lord, is that it?

And then it washed over me again.

And I saw at that moment

when I was going through that struggle,

one of the things the devil

was telling me is God does

not love you because he is

not answering your prayer.

And you've gone through a struggle.

God does not love you.

But God was showing me right there,

I love you so much that I

gave you a walking example

of how much I do love you.

Because there's nobody I

love enough to give my only son.

But God loved me enough to

give me his only son.

So pray that God will show

you lessons from these dark

times that we go through.

Absolutely.

Yes.

And he will.

I mean, he's so faithful.

I remember some dark times

walking through it and I'm like, OK, God,

I know.

I know you're here.

I don't see you.

I don't feel you.

But I'm I and I have nowhere else to go.

So here I am.

That's right.

I mean, that's that's it grows your faith,

though, too,

because you you have to step

out into that unknown

without anything to hold on to.

And we always want something else,

like a backup plan.

And God doesn't give us that.

We're His one and only plan.

Things take longer than we think they will,

or they take longer than we

hope they will with our kids.

I think of the way that the

Chinese grow bamboo.

So they grow bamboo, they plant the seeds,

and then they water it.

Nothing happens for a year.

Second year, they water it.

Third year, water it.

Fourth year, water it.

Nothing happens.

And then on the fifth year,

that bamboo grows ninety

feet in six weeks.

So here's the question.

Did it grow ninety feet in

six weeks or did it grow

ninety feet in five years

during those five years

where they didn't see

anything happen and then grow?

What a great picture for us

as we think about raising

and investing in our

children and pouring into our children.

You know, it's like that bamboo.

We water, we keep watering,

keep fertilizing.

We might not see anything, but one day.

You know, we're going to see a result.

So just don't give up.

Don't give up.

Absolutely.

Before we close,

can you pray for our

community and those listening?

I would really love that.

Okay.

Lord,

I thank you so much that we could

come together and share

this time through the

miracle of the internet.

I thank you for these

mothers that have made a

decision to homeschool their kids and to

to pour into their children.

I thank you that they see

the importance of being a person who,

who pours in their kids to make impact.

We thank you, Lord,

that you have entrusted us moms,

not with just a child,

but with an eternal soul.

We pray for wisdom that you

will give us wisdom to help
know how to raise each one.

It's this train up a child
in the way that he should go.
that she should go.

So show us what that way is
for each individual person.

I pray that these moms
listening will be
encouraged to know how much you love them,

how you were one of the
main focuses that Jesus
took time out for his

For the moms, even his own mom,
one of the last words he
said on the cross was

geared towards someone
taking care of his mother
when he was gone.

Lord, I thank you for each one of them.

I pray that you just fill
them up as they pour out.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Amen.

Thank you so much.

You're welcome.

put up, uh, your website, it's, um,

SharonJanes.com and we'll

have that in the show notes too,

but you've got lots of

resources on your website.

Um,

can you share a little bit about what

people find on your site?

Okay.

Well,

I have a weekly devotion that goes

out on Tuesday,

so they can sign up for that.

And there's a freebie you

get when you sign up on

Seventy-Five Common Lies,

We Believe and The Truth

That Replaces Them.

Um, today we've kind of been talking, um,

Two books that I have this
praying for your child from head to toe.

That's a thirty day guide.

And then the mama moments with God.

Yes.

These are ninety devotions.

And, you know,

I don't take about five

minutes maybe to read a devotion.

It has a scripture and a prayer.

So that's for busy, busy moms.

But lots of other resources

on there that are not

geared just toward moms.

Actually,

most of them are not geared just

toward moms.

So I mentioned the feeling

of not being good enough.

There's a book called Enough,

Silence and the Lies that

Steal Your Confidence.

And there's a freebie.

There's a free resource page
that has all kinds of
things you can print out.

But one of them is lies that
teachers believe.

And now here we go.

It's praying for your
teacher from head to toe.

That's the one.

So and it's praying
scripture over teachers.

And listen, you're the teacher, right?

So you print that out and
you pray it for yourself.

That's so good.

All kinds of great resources on there.

Yeah, that's awesome.

So definitely check that out
and the resources that

Sharon has and her books.

Her publisher sent me the
one devotional and it has been so good.

Even though I don't have any

young kids at home still,

it has blessed me greatly.

So yes, definitely.

look into those resources.

And thank you so much, Sharon,

just for sharing time with us today and,

and your heart,

just your heart for the

Lord and your heart for, for moms and,

and just sharing hope with us.

It's, we need it so much.

You're welcome.

Yeah.

So next week on the show,

we are going to talk about

happy mothering,

embracing God's love and

navigating the chaos of your calling.

So we're back on to

motherhood just for another show.

But it must be because you all need it.

Yeah.

That season.

So, so definitely join us again for,
for that episode next week.

And until then, everyone,
thanks for joining us and
have a great week and God bless.

And we'll see you next time.

Bye everybody.

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