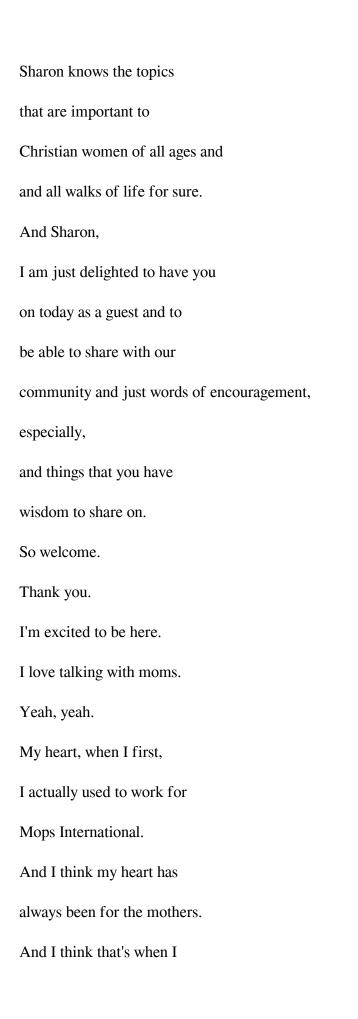
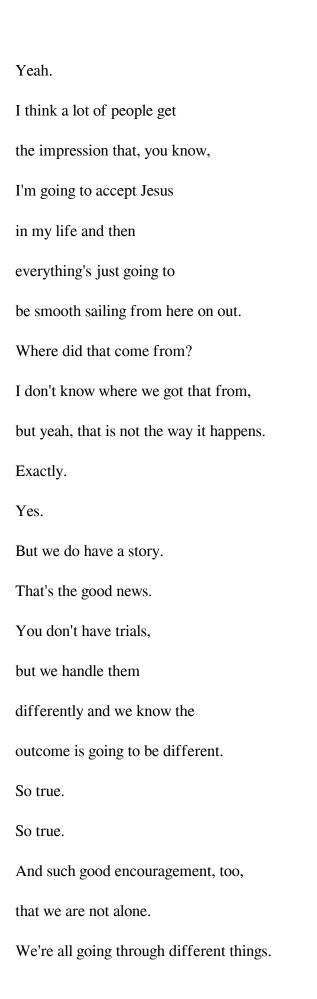
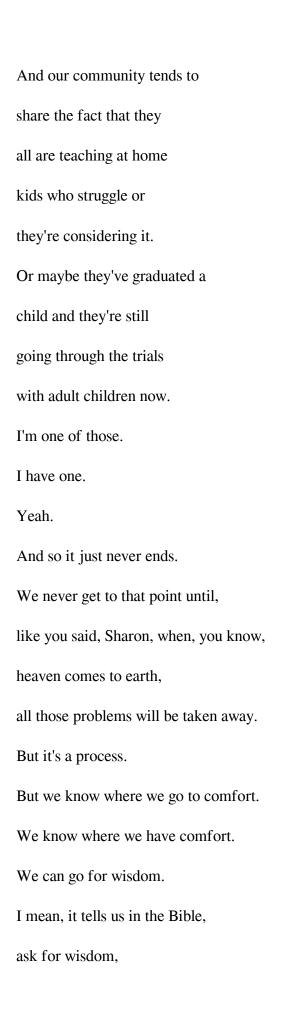
Welcome to Empowering Homeschool Conversations, your authority in navigating the world of homeschooling diverse learners. Featuring Peggy Ployer from Sped Homeschool, Annie Yorty from Annie Yorty.com, Leilani Melendez from LivingWithEve.com, Stephanie Buckwalter from ELARP Learning and Don Jackson from 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,

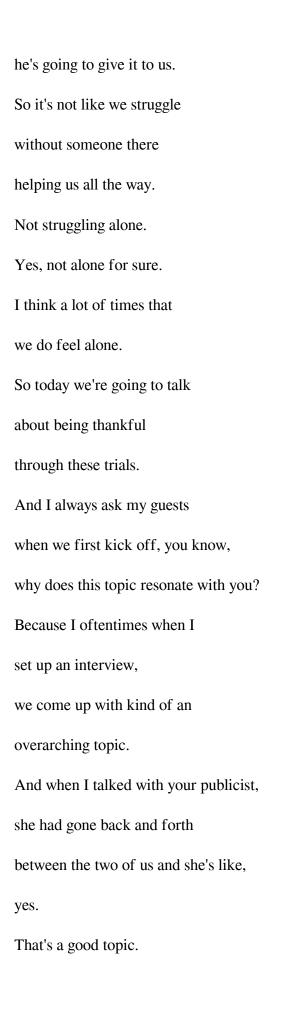
valuable insights and practical tips. Give your homeschool the power boost it needs to successfully educate the unique learners in your home. Hi, everyone, and welcome to Empowering Homeschool Conversations. Today, we are going to talk about thankful in trials, trusting God's work through your family 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,



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.







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,

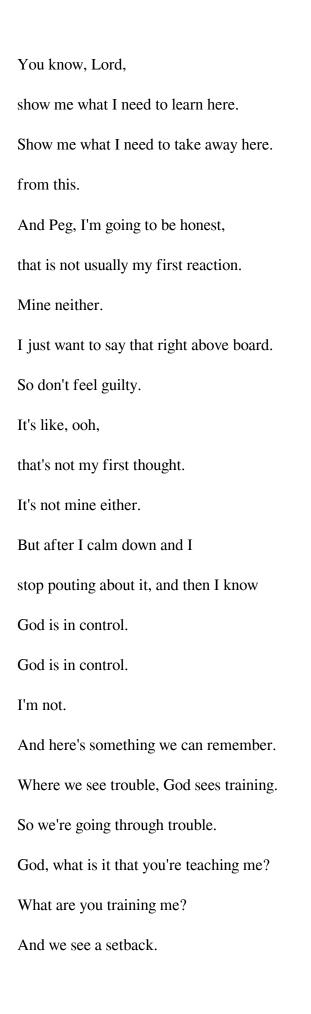
then they're not going to

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.



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,

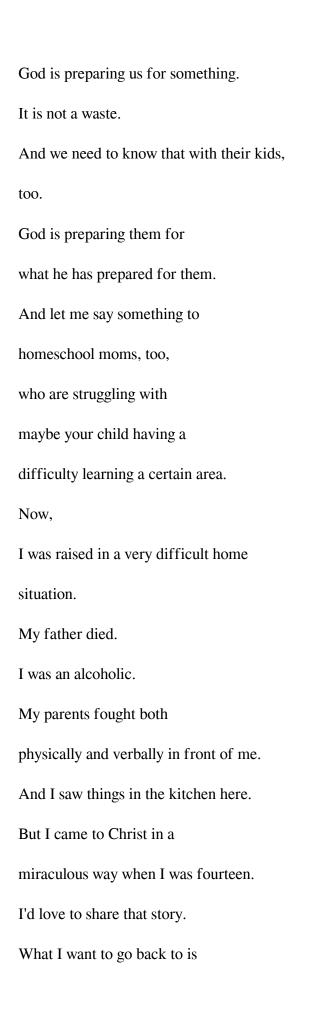
but I promise you

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,



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

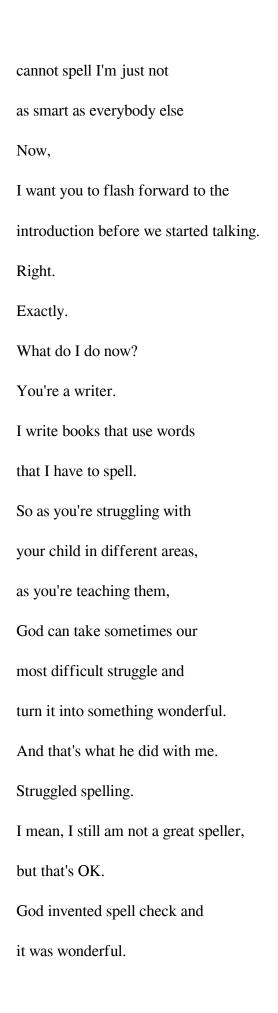
boy and you know I didn't

know much but I knew what

it meant to be after school

with tommy and I knew

something's wrong with me I



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

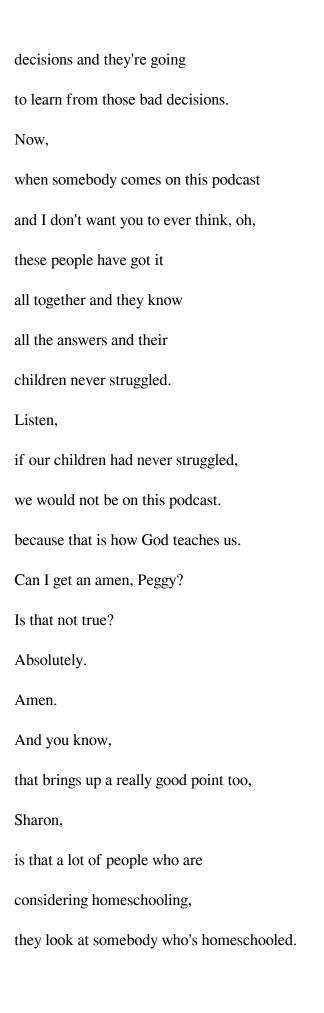
uncomfortable situations in

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



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 pay,

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,

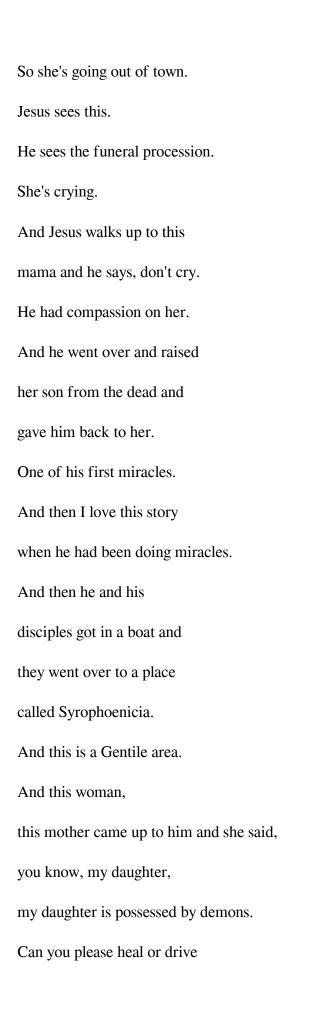
the Greek word dunamis.

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 dunamis 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.



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

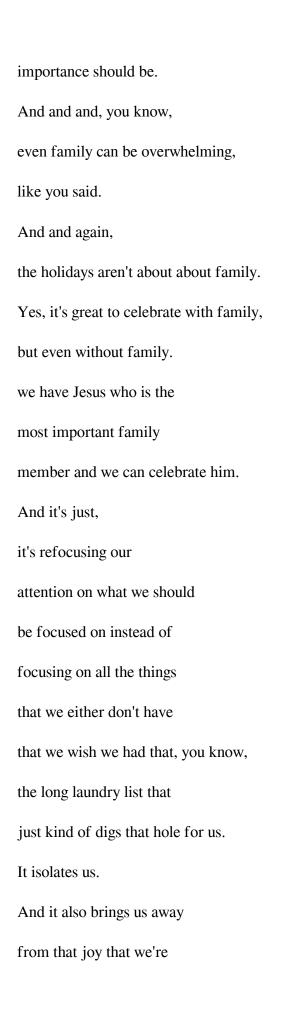
about how to throw jesus a

birthday party um so so

that's coming up um but yeah it

We we do.

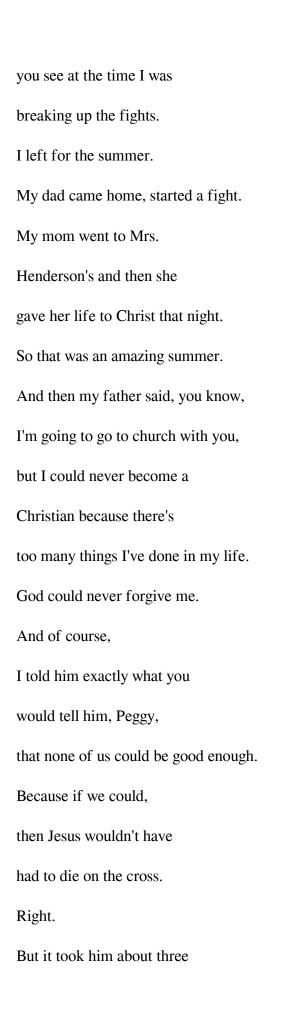
We get off track of what the



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



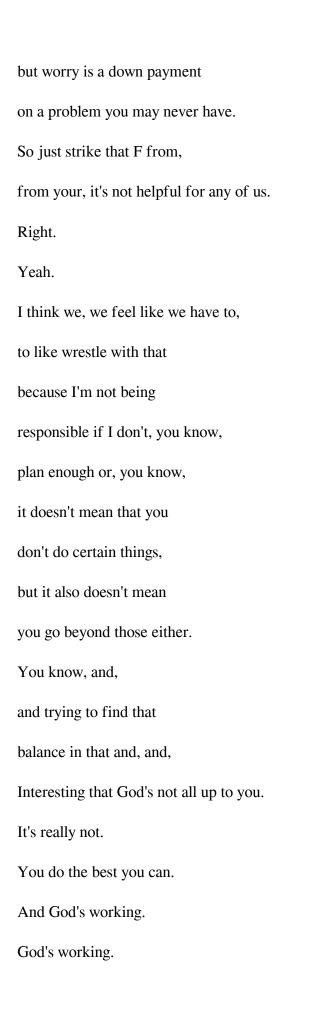
more years after that. He was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. He was being sued. And my mom was in Pennsylvania from North Carolina. He drove to try to find her, couldn't find her, stopped at a church, said, and that's the one to pray for me. And the lady said, the priest isn't here, but I'll draw 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?

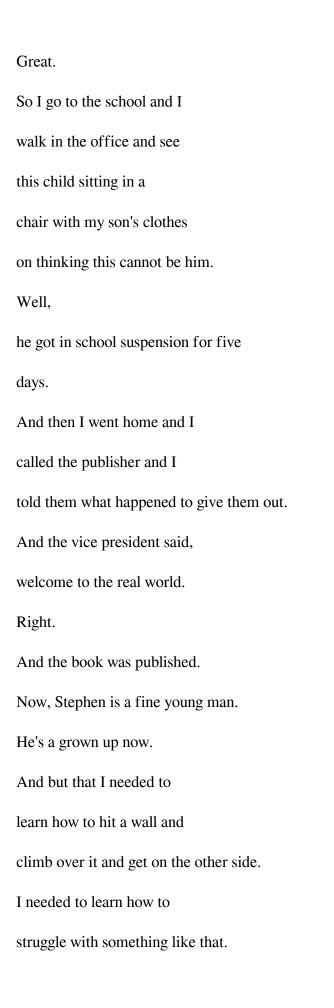
This is going to be part of their story. This is going to be part of your story and how you're going to be helped somebody else. Just like Peggy, think about it. What'd you say? It's been... How many years since you started? Nineteen years since you started? Well, yeah, nineteen. And I've graduated them 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,



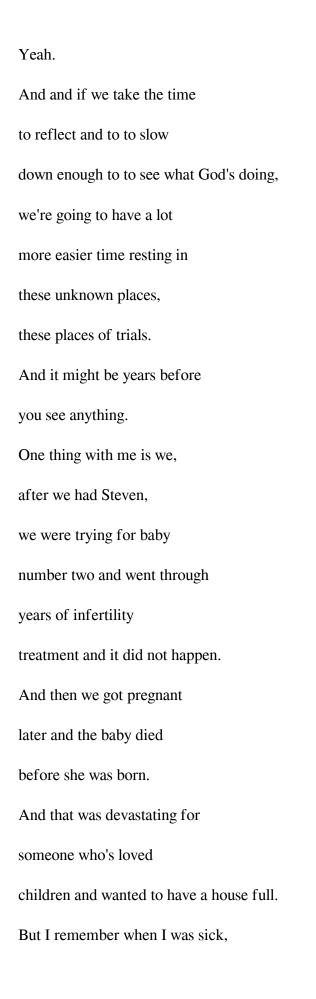
And I think this will encourage someone. But one of my first books of about twenty years ago was called Being a Great Mom Raising Great Kids. It was with Moody Press. I think it was longer than that. But my son was in middle school and he was a great kid. He was so easy. He just was. And I wrote this 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.



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,

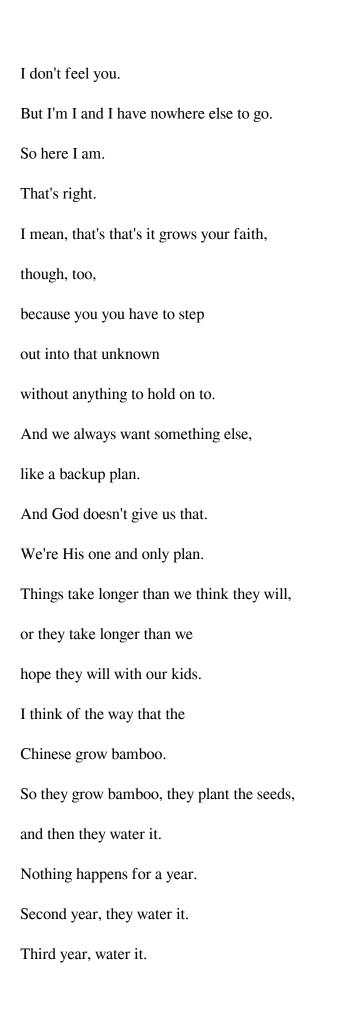
Just know that the person
who wrote Being a Great Mom
Raising Great Kids had that
kind of struggle.
And we just kept putting the
next foot forward to doing
the next thing.
Yeah.
Yeah.
We live in such an if-then society.
You know, if I do this, then this happens.
You know, and we think it's so scientific.
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.

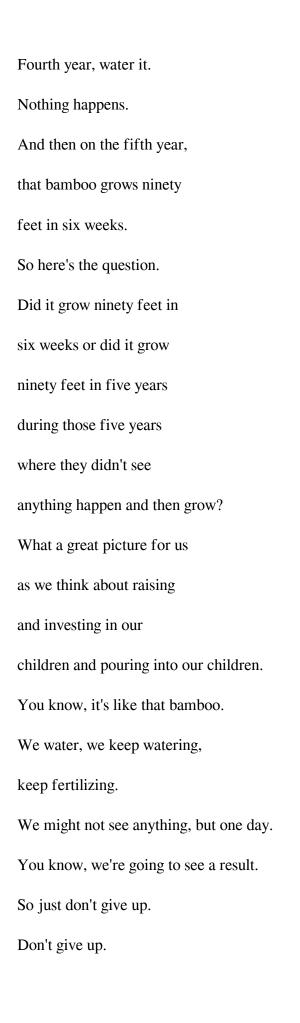
And he's going to do it with our help or with us by his side or without. The privilege we have is that God wants us to be part of that story. He wants us to be used to be part of his story. Um, just like the man who talked to your father, just, you know, like so many places in your life. And I've seen 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.

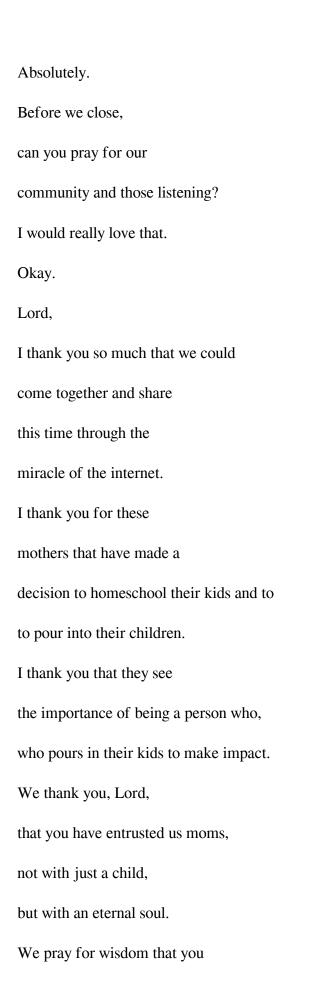


Stephen was sixteen and he was six feet long and he was asleep on his bed and he had a hairy leg hanging off and drool coming down his face. Oh, I love that kid. Lord, I love that boy so much. And why is there only one? And then John three, sixteen just watched over me and said, God so loved the world. 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

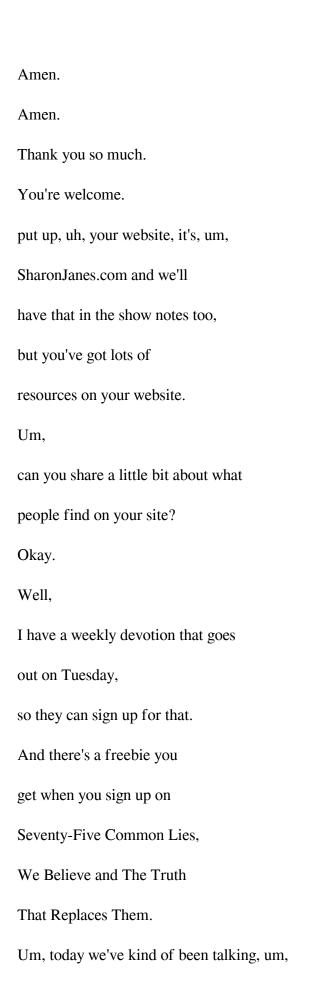
not answering your prayer.
And you've gone through a struggle.
God does not love you.
But God was showing me right there,
I love you so much that I
gave you a walking example
of how much I do love you.
Because there's nobody I
love enough to give my only son.
But God loved me enough to
give me his only 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.



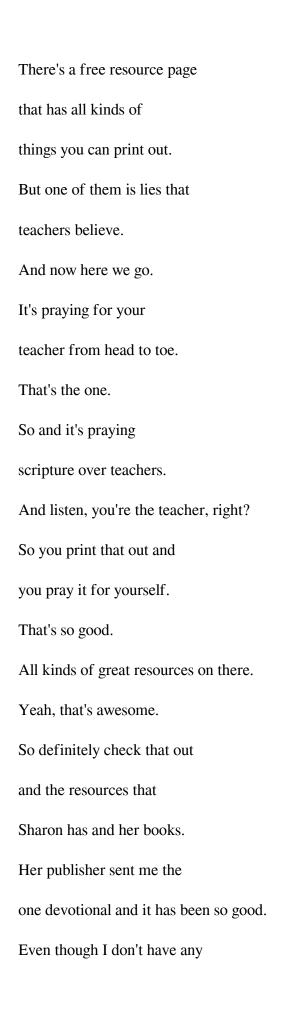


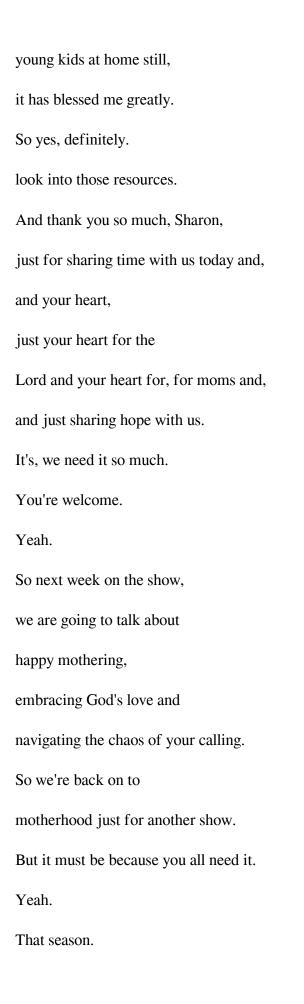


will give us wisdom to help know how to raise each one. It's this train up a child in the way that he should go. that she should go. So show us what that way is for each individual person. I pray that these moms listening will be encouraged to know how much you love them, how you were one of the main 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.



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.





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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