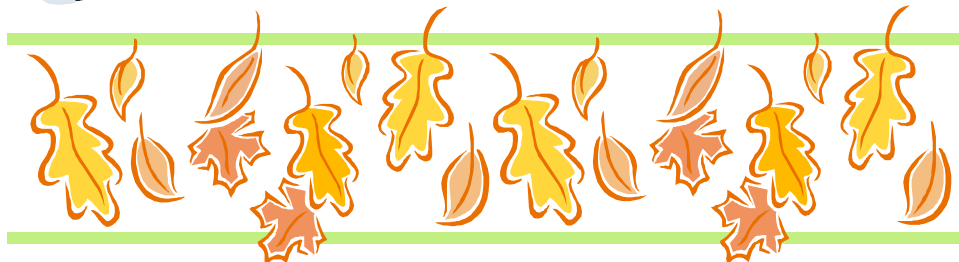


23 Day Countdown— Back to HOMESchool!



Day 1

On your mark . . .

Well, it's that time of year again! Time to wake up and smell the coffee . . .time to get ready to crack the books . . .time to start grading papers. I don't know about you, but by the end of summer I'm ready to get back to more of a structured routine with my kids! There are a few things I need to do first, though.

For most of us, homeschooling is probably our “most favoritest” thing about our family’s structure and lifestyle. Also for most of us, it’s one of (if not THE) most difficult! We don’t want to just jump into another year without thinking things through. Even that takes some organization. What do we do first? Second? Third? If we don’t have a plan, how will we know whether this year will be a success or failure? Accomplishing anything requires a plan, and since the education of our children is of major importance, plan we must.

I just happen to have 23 days before I want to start structured education of my kids once again. And so this plan is made up for a 23-day preparation. Feel free to do whatever you want to make it work for you! Stretch it out, scrunch it down—whatever it takes. I just thought I might as well make my thought process available in case it would help anyone else out there. Hold on—it could be a bumpy ride!

The first thing on the list is . . .determining where you are.

When you ask someone how to get somewhere, their first return question is almost always, “Where are you right now?” And so we must know first of all where we ARE. Take some time today to think about yourself, mom! (There’s a concept!) Where are you?

Are you rested? Stressed?

How's your relationship with God? As I like to say, "Don't keep your kids home without Him!" Seriously, though, really take some time to look at your own heart. Maybe grab your journal and a cup of coffee and head to your prayer closet (or couch, or desk, or tree) and ask Him to show you the state of your heart right now.

Are there weights you need to set aside? They could be sinful habits, friends who drag you down or philosophies of education that just aren't working for you or your children. They could be unrealistic expectations or lies you're believing that need to be thrown down. After you've thought about it, again, go to God and ask Him. He just might have a few things you haven't thought of!

Take God as your partner in all of this preparation. He is madly in love with you, and He gave you these children to love and educate. Spend some time thanking Him for the gifts He's given that are all around you. Gratitude goes a long way in raising our joy level—and thereby, our strength!
