



## *One Step at a Time*

Perusing the bookshelves of friends' homes had become a hobby for Cassie. Ever since she and her husband Kurt decided that the private school their daughter attended wasn't meeting the needs of their child in the way they'd hoped, Cassie had scoured around for any book she could find on homeschooling. Since two of her closest friends had homeschooled from day one, Cassie knew where to go for both emotional and practical support. Still, Cassie felt the burden of developing a well-rounded educational curriculum fall heavily upon her shoulders. Although Kurt agreed that homeschooling sounded like a viable option, he didn't feel he had the time to do the necessary research. So the bulk of the responsibility fell to Cassie to set up the new program before the holidays were over.

Beginning January 16, Cassie would be the teacher. Her part-time position as the school librarian gave her plenty of know-how in locating needed resources. Yet Cassie lacked experience in organizing a doable system in the practicalities of educating her daughter. She would most definitely need the assistance of her good friends. Some days as Cassie poured over various catalogs she felt overwhelmed by the sheer number of supplies on the market. A quick call to a friend usually calmed her down. But even though Cassie

and Kurt believed that home educating, at least for the remainder of the year, would prove beneficial to their daughter, Cassie still nursed niggling doubts in the back of her mind. After one especially difficult afternoon of planning, Cassie retreated to her enclosed porch with Bible in one hand and journal in the other. Right now I'm going to do business with God. I'm not getting up until I put on paper every reason we have for homeschooling. When the next bout of doubts comes calling, I'll be ready.



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*For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

—PHILIPPIANS 1:6

*Dear Lord, I must come before you in the deepest gratitude for I finally understand that you are the sole provider of my strength. Any confidence that I might possess stems directly from you. Thank you for graciously giving me the courage I require to take this momentous step. It's a rare thing for me to enter into unknown territory. There are moments, many of them quite frankly, when I am paralyzed by a sudden fear that leaves me frozen. I'm not certain I'm up to this challenge of educating my child. Yet there is another part of me that recognizes that you equipped me to parent my family even in this new way. I believe that you are able to teach me as I begin instructing my youngster. Thank you for the knowledge you have given me. I would ask that you continue to guide our steps and that we would bring honor to your name in all*

*that we do. This new phase of life will usher in joy I'm sure. I come to you, Father, rejoicing that as parents we have this option. Thank you for placing us here, at this time, when so many others are choosing this same road upon which to travel. Let me be humble enough to seek out the help I'll require. And encourage me to seek out assistance when need be. Restrain in me attitudes of pride and self-sufficiency that may hinder my abilities to best influence my family. I commit my loved ones once again into your faithful hands. Be with me, give me your good words of wisdom, and instruct me in the way I should go. Amen.*

*The intelligence we have is a gift from God; the circumstances in which we find ourselves he controls. Obviously, we have to bring our intelligence as well as our faith to bear on those circumstances.*

—ELISABETH ELLIOT IN *God's Guidance*