



Standing Appointment

Thirty-six-year-old Tracy was mother to twin daughters age ten. Before Tracy ever married, she had become interested in the whole idea of homeschooling. As a former special education teacher at the local public school, Tracy understood how a small tutorial approach to education could be far superior to a class ratio of thirty to one. She also recognized throughout her stint as a public educator that as she worked one-on-one with her students she was able to tailor each child's assignments to his or her particular needs and abilities. No doubt, Tracy mused, this is the same approach I want to use when I have my own children. Some years later, Tracy and her husband Tim made the decision to home educate their daughters. It had been five years now, and Tracy was quite satisfied with her daughters' progress.

Yet there was one snag. Tim, who traveled several days each week out of the state, repeatedly expressed a desire to become more active in his children's education as well. But how would this ever work? Tracy schooled the girls from 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. each weekday. Tim's work schedule never allowed him to plan more than a few weeks in advance. Tracy mulled the problem over and finally came up with a workable solution. Since history was Tim's strong

suit, they decided to implement a novel method for Tim to take over teaching this subject. Every day, at the same time, no matter where Tim was, he either called or e-mailed his girls. He would look over their work for the upcoming week before he left, and he always carried both a workbook and the teacher's edition with him. Then via the wonderful world of computer technology, Tim would ask his daughters questions and alternately they would either write out their essay replies on the computer or give him verbal explanations over the telephone. Even though it took some planning, Tim always looked forward to his half-hour of "teaching time" with his girls. Tracy was thrilled that not only was Tim keeping a pulse on the children's educational progress, but he was also investing in his daughters' lives on a day-to-day basis.



You, therefore, who teach one another, do you not teach yourself?

—ROMANS 2:21

Dear Lord, I am in awe of the marvelous methods you employ to work out our problems. We came before you asking for a solution to a small problem. It was no earth-shattering issue. Yet you were able to give us a novel way to solve it. Thank you, Lord. I give you praise for who you are as my heavenly father and my instructor. I am amazed that you care so much for even the smallest of my concerns. I'm also astounded by how much I've learned as I've become my children's teacher. Since we've taken on the responsibility of

educating our children, I have witnessed your gracious provision time after time. On days when I do not have the strength or the desire to open another book, you are ready to lend me a hand. I can even sense your strength and good purpose course through me when I come to you for help. How would I ever accomplish this task without you? I dare not even contemplate it! You have been so very faithful to us. I ask that you continue to instruct me as I attempt to be a wise and diligent parent. Continue to infuse my mind with the words that will incite a love for learning in my children's hearts. Help me see the great privilege I have as a parent to impart life skills and lessons to my family. Mold and remake me; never stop instructing me as a parent, I beg. Help me set aside the nonessential and concentrate on what lasts throughout eternity. Lord, at times this task seems so daunting. Our schedule alone is often so complicated that I wonder how we'll accomplish all that we've set out to do. Lord, in this, give us your thoughts too. Show us the way when there doesn't seem to be any clear answer. Again, I am so grateful that you are always with us. Let our family bring honor to you today. Amen.

Be a student in some kind of class.

—H. JACKSON BROWN JR. AND ROSEMARY C. BROWN
IN *Life's Little Instructions from the Bible*