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# PARENT'S REVIEW

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How do we bring life to our child's education? How does the spark of learning turn into a flame of joy. We know it when we see it, because the child wants more. It's a love of learning. Recently, my eldest, grown daughter told me that she missed reading literature together outdoors. "Hmmm," I thought, "What book would we enjoy reading to my preschooler?" In this issue, I want to share a few ways we brought life to our homeschool, and then a few ideas from Kimbley, a dear sister homeschool mom, and how her family brought life to our Program 1: Christian Study. I know you'll be blessed.

1. **Outdoors.** We read literature, chapter-by-chapter, outdoors with the birds chirping. We also went for many walks.

Each found their own interests in God's huge and beautiful world filled with life.

2. **A Good Book.** We read literature and still talk about characters we met years ago: *The Cricket in Time Square*, *The Wind in the Willow*, *Sense and Sensibility*. I could go on! Because of good literature, my daughters are lifetime readers.
3. **Play.** My girls played and played. Homeschool was not endless hours of drill, but there was time for play. It was very creative, from homemade Barbie movies, to complex stuffed animal dramas, to cooking in my kitchen, to learning to sew. It came from their own God-given interests. Now, those same gifts, they use.
4. **Lively Discussions.** When the girls got older, we would debate about different topics that come up in our reading. It was great to analyze and challenge one another. One day on a nature walk, we had a philosophical discussion on "Can a person do the right thing, but with wrong motives?" These weren't scripted from a book but came from life, our readings, our observations.
5. **Music.** We have a piano. The girls would sit and practice lessons. It was their interest; I just provided the resource. They would sing praise and worship songs. They learned to love God.

## LETTER FROM A PARENT

Now, I present an email letter from Kimbley, and how her and her children brought life to Program 1: Christian Study.

*Thank you so, so much for all your hard work. It is really appreciated!!!! The children and I have enjoyed your curriculum so much this year. I have seen so much growth in them.*

*When we first started, they really did not participate too much in the hymns, I was mostly singing by myself, and they would just whisper the words.*

*But after about a month, they started getting louder and louder, and now whenever we sing, they are louder than me. They even sing the hymns together while at the dinner table or when they are washing the dishes.*

*They have also really grown in their narration skills, thanks to your curriculum. When we started the Greek Tales, they could barely tell me anything they had heard. But now, as we have completed year 1, they are narration pros!!!!*

**She also shared:** *I already had the Golden Children's Bible and every other book I was able to find online, so we read every book and completed every assignment. After a couple of weeks, we really started to find our rhythm and I actually think all the books really flowed well together. The only parts of the curriculum we did not use were the scripture verse copy pages,*

*because the provided lines were too big. So, I just had them write their verses on regular notebook paper. And I also did not do the hymn, "How Firm a Foundation." Instead, we switched that one out for their AWANA songs and some other songs we sing at our church that I wanted them to practice.*

*The children enjoyed the picture study activity the best. I bought them a magnifying glass and they loved searching the picture for the hidden details. I asked them what their favorite book was. My son and younger daughter both said it was the Children's Bible, but my older daughter said she really liked the stories in "On the Shores of the Great Sea." My favorite activity was Geography because I really enjoyed helping them memorize the answers to the questions. I bought them each 1 of those huge plastic microphones that echo from the Dollar Tree and they love to take turns being the "teacher" and asking the questions and their siblings will use the microphones and give the answers.*

- How can you bring life to your child's education?
- What resource can you provide to help your child explore a natural interest?
- What part of your schedule needs tweaked to bring more life and joy?
- Do you need less or more?

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