

Story #1: Bringing the Children Home

Our story this month involves people making dramatic choices. Two families are beginning to train their children at home as the culmination of several years of studying and applying the Hebraic foundations to their family life. As well, this decision represents the initial stage of gathering a home fellowship together to join them in training succeeding generations. There is no “canned-program” to accomplish this. It takes both trust in God and biblical determination to prepare your children, no matter what the cost. The issues that these families and the others who join them will face parallel your own choices if you want to live for Jesus.

Use this illustrative story to ask yourself what *you* would do. Scrutinize similar areas in your own life and family, and establish your own biblical foundations.

The Way of the Lord

Four purposes for training succeeding generations

1. To both role model and train up the next generation to live in loving trust in Jesus.
2. To role model and nurture the journey into Christlike character.
3. To train for a vocation that brings glory to our Father.
4. To expand their spiritual horizon beyond themselves to serve the goals and purposes of our Father and reach the lost.

From Mike & Sue

We're blessed to have dear family in Christ who have offered to be the characters in our stories: Chad and Chris Parlier and their daughter Nicole; James and Joyce Skeet, together with their sons, Malcolm and Martin; and Matt Kowlsen.



Chad: “Chris and I have come a long way since we attended the Hebraic Seminar in Phoenix 5 years ago. Now we have a big decision to make about Nic.”

Mike: “Chad, it only *seems* difficult when you first consider home schooling than after you’ve been convinced about the biblical basis for doing it. And keep in mind how much Nic loves and trusts you both for her future.”

Chad: “It’s amazing to think that 5 years ago I was pastoring a church with *no idea* of how much Jesus wanted me to draw closer to Him and to my family. It’s been hard to describe to friends who sit in pews every Sunday what it’s like to now be making the same choices our forefathers in the earliest Church made. Their worldview back then and the world of the pew-sitter today have nothing in common!”

Mike: “You’re right! After 8 years of sharing the Hebraic foundations, Sue and I know all too well what you’re talking about. It takes a lot of trust in our Father to go through what appears to be isolation for a period of time. But it’s during this time that we experience the sufficiency and preciousness of Jesus. Out of this period of being focused on Him we become committed to loving and serving Him no matter what the cost. That currency of devotion can grow when we aren’t consumed by activities and programs.”



Sue: “I’m so glad you came over to discuss the possibility of home schooling Nic, Chris. We wish we could home school our son, Mike, all over again. We would have done it entirely different! He was already out of our home when we learned about the Hebraic foundations.”

Chris: “Thanks for taking the time to help us. But how can home schooling be that different from when you did it?”

Sue: “Like so many other home schooling families, we focused on the academics. Many of us mothers set aside the joy of our motherhood and became our child’s *teacher*. We became a mini-schoolhouse rather than incorporating each day the four biblical purposes for training succeeding generations. Besides, before our research in Israel, we were unaware of the biblical importance of having the extended spiritual family of a home fellowship to help us.”

Chris: “The relational priorities of the Restoration Diagram which Chad and I have been applying for the past few years made the transition to teaching Nic a natural.”

Sue: “Helping you to wisely choose the right way for Nic eases my own pain of not being able to do this with Mikey. I can’t wait until many other families are surrounded by a home fellowship that supports training the succeeding generations!”



Sue: *It takes ongoing discussion in order to clarify the goals and methods of home schooling children. Because of my relationship with both Chris and Joyce, I was able to help them think through the mechanics of starting to home school their children.*

We home schooled our son through junior and senior high school [1986-92]. Like so many others at that time who knew nothing of the Hebraic roots, we emphasized academic achievement over character development and preparation of a vocation that suited the bent our Father gave him. One of the painful statements our son made to me years later was, "You were more my teacher than my Mother." Sadly, the majority of home schooling today focuses on obtaining and using the best curriculum.

For those who are looking to gain wisdom from the earliest followers of Jesus, the four purposes we discovered as a result of our research are crucial. They enable parents to remain parents, and especially encourage mothers not to abandon their God-given role.



Mike: "Chad, the steps you've taken to apply the Hebraic foundations in your family and job follow the same pattern in this matter too. Keep applying God's Word each step of the way as you consider home schooling."

Our God is the God of *our motives*. Being able to give the biblical basis to the 'why' of your actions is crucial. Too many home-schooling families have never aligned their goals and methods with the Bible, so they and their kids suffer needlessly."

Chad: "I've seen how important we fathers are in establishing biblical foundations and keeping the focus on the four purposes for training our children. It sure would be nice if some more older couples would come out of their pleasure-bent retirement and help families like ours prepare a Godly generation to succeed us."

Mike: "That's part of my own sadness. In 8 years I've found only a few men older than I am who want to get involved. Twenty-five years ago I was warning about the demonic pitfall of retiring from biblical responsibilities, and now I've seen that prophecy fulfilled."

Sue: "Nic, are you ready for the high adventure you and your parents are about to embark on?"

Nic: "It means a lot to me that my Mom and Dad believe in teaching me at home. I'm excited!"

Sue: "I'm really happy for all of you, and that Mike and I can be a part of helping."

Chris: "This is new ground for so many of us parents who don't want to outsource our children for others to train any longer. I've attended a few home school conferences and they all seem to focus on curriculum. It's almost a form of idolatry if you over-emphasize academics, just like you've warned us about."

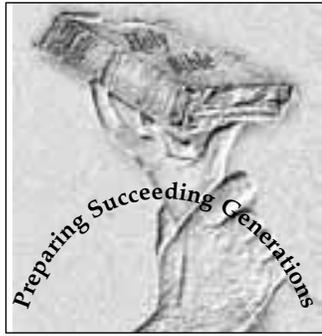


James: It's wonderful how God works! Five years ago Joyce and I debated about going to a local home fellowship meeting. I'm glad we went, because that's the meeting that you and Sue came to share the Hebraic foundations. Now, here Joyce and I are sharing these with my Navajo people.

Mike: Watching you and your family not only study and apply these truths to your own lives, but now seeing other Navajos join you has made all our effort worthwhile. Do you get excited realizing how much closer the Hebraic relational framework and worldview are to the Native American way of thinking?

James: I really do! As we travel across the Navajo Nation we can see that what we are doing is really in God's timing. The elders have seen the destruction of my people at the hand of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and even the churches have done more to hurt than to help. They both keep us always relying on charity rather than helping us have dignity. They take our children from us through public education and youth work rather than helping the parents to train up their own children with dignity to respect their Indian heritage and to focus on godly character.

With the introduction of the Hebraic foundations we're now seeing the men have hope for their own children for the first time. Even my father, our clan elder, has blessed us and wants our people to know these truths.



Mike: *My discussions with both Chad and James were similar to help both men clarify what all fathers need to establish: a biblical confidence of why we would undertake training up our children at home. Establishing the halakic foundations for your goals and methods is critical so that you don't get enticed from the right path. At that point the whole family gets discouraged.*

Teaching your children at home can sometimes be frustrating and aggravating! Thrusting them back into public education can seem awfully tempting at times! We've never seen any specific studies, but our own observation over the past 20 years indicates that about 50% of families who home school without faith community support end up sending their children back into public education.

We Must Open Our Bibles

Fathers, and elders of home fellowships, you need to get into God's Word. You need to grasp the importance of:

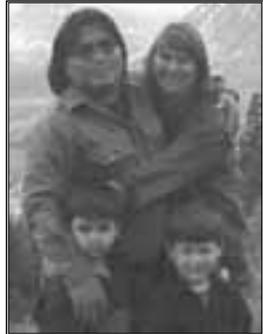
Gen. 18:19; Deu. 6:1-9; Eph. 6:4; Pro. 10:17; 12:1; 13:8,24; 15:33; 16:9,16,20,25; 19:11,18,20; 22:6,15; 23:13; 29:17; 30:5-8.

There are many more passages the Holy Spirit will guide you to. It is crit-

James: "I think the two of us have been influenced to guide our families on a bolder path in our love for Jesus since we first began to learn of the Hebraic foundations. Since Joyce and I first met Mike and Sue 5 years ago my marriage and family have been changed a lot."



Chad: "Mine too! Chris and I have really learned how to live the marriage Jesus has wanted. My love for Nic is deepening even more with this new responsibility I've assumed for her future. Mike and Sue told us to get to know her personality bent and to guide her in a path that fits her uniqueness. If this were the only thing, it would be worth it just to get to know her motives and gifting. But I can see how knowing her so well also helps us as parents to make wise decisions in her Christian development. I thank God that you and Joyce came alongside us as spiritual family, and for His grace to have this opportunity to join our forefathers who first put their trust in Jesus. It's a wonderful legacy to reattach to!"



James: We want to invite you families to start getting into the kindness our Father is showing to all of us through the Hebraic Foundations. My people have suffered their own holocaust for hundreds of years at the hands of the White man. Nothing of historical European Christianity has been able to free them from bitterness so powerfully as the truths our Father is now sharing. We now know that there's no hurt too great that Jesus can't heal!

Joyce: I came out to the Navajo Reservation 14 years ago as a single missionary. After James and I met and were married we continued to try to minister to Native people through a variety of mission programs. What we didn't realize until we started reading and applying the Restoration research was that the *programs* were the problem.

We stepped aside to align our marriage and family with what Jesus wanted for us. Then once our family was in order, including home schooling our two boys, the Lord began to unite us with other people on the Reservation.

James: We tried to help others who'd been in ministry like ourselves, but we just hit a wall. Most of them had serious problems in their marriage and families, but just couldn't get off the treadmill of keeping the programs running.



Chad: We'd been an integral part of the Hellenistic Church system for many years. If it hadn't been for the Hebraic seminar Chris and I attended, I could have kept plugging away in ministry at the cost of my own family. If I could encourage any of you men under 50 who have been faked out by Hellenism and are fulfilling clergy roles, the second-highest occupation for divorce in this nation is clergy. Don't gamble with your family!

Chris: Our family isn't the same since we began living the different facets of the Hebraic foundations. Ministry isn't an aside to our marriage and home, it *flows* from it. I think words that could best describe our life now are simplicity, peace, and freedom. We're no longer imprisoned by religious programs and impersonal relationships.

Nicole: My Dad and Mom care a lot for me. Each day they help me see God and His Word in action around me. Mike asked me to write stories about facts, feelings, and biblical application so he and Sue could use them to help other children learn to live the purposes God wants from us. I look forward to doing that!



ical that you have a heart to obey our Lord. Pray that God will strengthen your resolve to obey regardless of the cost.

If you are a leader of a faith community we encourage you to download **He Has Showed You** from our website. You need to learn for yourself the tragic consequences for the children of your faith community being indoctrinated by the humanist perspective and worldly values of public education. Don't be an elder or pastor who emulates the Hellenist use of position to make sure all the programs run smoothly.

It's time for the true leaders of God's family to take initiative against the inroads Satan is making to destroy the ability of Christian parents to train up successors in the faith.

The common thread for everyone who comes in contact with the Hebraic foundations is: Don't look for someone else to do it! Look at the characters of the Bible whom God chose to fulfill His purposes. **Humility and repentance** are two equipping characteristics of success in God's Kingdom.

Please look at your own life and ask God to make it count in His Kingdom. It would be awful to show up at the Judgment Throne and have no fruit produced by His Spirit in and through you.



Matt: I remember when I first met you and Sue in Atlanta. You were teaching the Hebraic Foundations to a men's group. My real pilgrimage began several months later when I told you and Sue, "If you two died, I'd continue to share these truths."

Mike: That was a milestone day, Matt. Sometime after that I baptized you. Watching your spiritual growth has helped me become a better spiritual father.

Matt: Paul's words have sure come alive for me, "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God." I'm no longer satisfied sitting in church services, Sunday schools, and singles groups. I now want to live for the Lord in every area of my life. And what a blessing to have loadbearing relationships coming alongside as extended family!



Matt: I want to address many of you unmarried people reading this story. I'm in my forties and single. I had done the Christian singles' scene for some time before reading *Demolishing Strongholds*. When I finished reading it, I noticed Mike and Sue were living in the same town I was. I called them and began to live these truths out with them and later with the Parliers and Skeets.

I've found that among those who walk in the Hebraic Restoration you really *belong*. It's going to take your conviction and prayer to be apart of an extended spiritual family. In exchange for leaving loneliness behind you'll need to embrace relational responsibility and accountability.

If you don't know where to start, try finding a home schooling family and share the writings of the Hebraic foundations with them. What I'm saying is, if you don't have a spiritual family, pray about the people God puts in your life, and start one yourself!



Malcolm: Is this your first year of home schooling, Nic?

Nicole: Yes. I've been going to charter schools before this year. How have you and Martin liked your first year of having your parents teach you at home?

Martin: I think it's cool! We get to spend a lot of time with Mom and Dad.

Malcolm: I think you're going to really like it. At first, it took time for everybody to get use to it. My Mom used to be a teacher, and Sue's been encouraging her to just be our Mom.

Thoughts for Discussion and Application

1. Each person in our story had to make major adjustments in their lives to follow the path our Lord was taking them on to train up their children at home. What particular situation is facing you at this time that might require major changes in what you're used to?
2. Who in your life can come alongside as extended spiritual family to encourage you and help you be prepared to follow this new path?
3. What will you have to leave behind in order to walk in the steps of Jesus in what He's calling you to do?
4. If you are single at this time, or married but without children, have you considered your halakhah (biblical application) for training up your children in the future? If you've already decided to put them into daycare and public schools, have you considered whose values will be imparted from their earliest days onward?