



MORNING
TIME
SNAPSHOTS

MELANIE'S MORNING TIME

"SO MANY TIMES I HAVE STARTED THE DAY BEING IRRITATED WITH THE KIDS FOR NOT DOING A GOOD JOB ON THEIR CHORES OR BEING UNKIND TO A SIBLING, AND INVARIABLY THE KIDS WILL CONFESS THIS AND ASK THE LORD TO HELP THEM IN THIS AREA. MY ATTITUDE IS COMPLETELY CHANGED."

How many kids do you have and what are their ages?

Six, ages 9-19. I'm currently homeschooling a 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th & 12th grader, all of whom are boys except the 6th grader.

How long have you been doing Morning Time?

I've been doing it for 13 years. It's the essential part of our homeschooling.

What do you call your Morning Time?

We call it "Together Time" or just school because it's what homeschooling is for us. Everything else we call homework, which I know is a little strange.



Typically how long does your Morning Time take on an average day?

1.5 hours a day

What is your favorite Morning Time subject or activity?

Prayer and Bible time for sure. We start with this. We usually pray over Christmas cards. I explain who sent the cards, because they are often from old friends or extended family the kids haven't met. We then pray giving thanks, confessing, and asking for help. So many times I have started the day being irritated with the kids for not doing a good job on their chores or being unkind to a sibling, and invariably the kids will confess this and ask the Lord to help them in this area. My attitude is completely changed.

What is your kids' favorite Morning Time subject or activity?

My kids really love read aloud time. I choose historical fiction to go along with what we are studying and usually the kids beg me to keep reading. I have even been tempted to read more of a book when the kids are doing something else. Terrible, I know. How amazing is it that we are all so passionate about reading?



What is your biggest struggle with Morning Time?

Morning Time is rarely a struggle for me. I absolutely love it. My problem is in not wanting to do other things like checking kids' individual work.

How have you seen Morning Time bear fruit in your home?

We use Morning Time to solve family problems. When there was way too much unkind talk happening between my kids, for example, we spent a whole morning working on our [Kindness Contract](#). Praying and talking through these kinds of challenges has not only solved temporary family problems, but has equipped my children to be good parents themselves. Morning Time is the singular reason our family is a close one. That closeness continues with my oldest son who is in college.

What are some of your favorite Morning Time resources?

We love memorizing Scripture with [Memlok](#). We use this picture-based memory software together, and it is a huge help to me personally in memorizing Scripture. I love when one of our memory verses comes up at church. I usually elbow the kids. I share some of the other Bible resources we have used and loved such as [Answers for Kids](#) in the [Bible Time planning challenge](#).

The kids love memorizing facts using [Classical Conversations Foundations materials](#) that we use at home. We cover history, English, science, and math facts, and I feel like we have learned the most important things in the morning, even if the rest of the day goes sour.

Finally, we love *Mystery of History*. I read the lesson aloud and then our read-alouds go along with that period of history. I love that faith, history, and language arts are all covered in such an engaging way.

What are some of the ritual practices you include in Morning Time?

You know it's time for morning time at our house, because the kids run to get their favorite blanket and try to be the one who gets to hold the dog. I had to assign everyone a day to eliminate arguing. We start our time with prayer and at times have included singing.

For the last couple of years, we take a one-minute break between subjects to do a short exercise to get the blood moving. It seems to help the kids stay focused. Some years, lunch has signaled the end of morning time, but as the kids have gotten older, everyone is dismissed after read-alouds to work on their individual work or to be tutored by mom. They seem to be ready for the break.



ABOUT MELANIE

Dr. Melanie Wilson is a Christian psychologist turned homeschooling mother of six. She credits God and her husband of 21 years for the time to write, speak, and homeschool too. While she doesn't practice anymore, she does share sanity-saving ideas at [Psychowith6](#).

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MORNING TIME PLAN



DAILY

Four sets of horizontal blue lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing space for handwriting practice.

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