

EPISODE 96 • DAWN GARRETT

Getting Started with Morning Time

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About Dawn

Dawn Garrett is the Your Morning Basket Community Manager. She lives in Ohio with her husband Jason and their three always-homeschooled children, ages 15, 13, and 11. In her homeschool, they learn about God and His cosmos by studying the seven liberal arts in order to know Him better, imitate Him and His ways, and share about Him with others. She has been blogging for 17 years about books, school and life at ladydusk.com.



Key Ideas

- Morning Time can be built by starting with one simple thing and adding to it over time. With the elementary ages and pre-teens, it's great to start with a funny book that gets everyone laughing. Over time, adding in a prayer, a poem, and maybe some music, and you are on your way to a full Morning Time.
- As you are establishing your Morning Time, it is easy to get discouraged if you start comparing what you do to someone who has been doing it a long time. So don't compare your Morning Time to anyone else's. Just keep going.
- One of the main goals of Morning Time is to knit the family together with common vocabulary and shared memories.
- Make sure your Morning Time is age appropriate especially for the older kids. If you have a range of ages, It's a good practice to aim Morning Time at your older kids and allow your younger kids to listen in.
- Keep in mind that Morning Time isn't going to look picture perfect. Just aim for a warm and inviting environment that engages everyone as much as possible. Remember, it's an opportunity for you to learn alongside your children and your attitude helps to create the atmosphere.

Time Stamps

3:16 meet Dawn Garrett
4:35 questions for today's podcast
8:42 Morning Time defined
14:04 starting Morning Time with elementary ages
23:01 singing songs in Morning Time
27:20 starting Morning Time with preschoolers
34:00 challenges with toddlers
40:10 starting Morning Time with teens
51:40 Morning Time in real life

Quotables

"What is Morning Time? It is simply a time in your homeschool when all of your children are learning together. And it's something that you repeat consistently in your homeschool over time."

Pam Barnhill

"I loved using Morning Time to teach my kids the things that they were going to need on Sunday during worship so that they could participate from the time they were two and three"

Dawn Garrett

"The atmosphere that you are creating, the temperature that you are creating in your Morning Time goes a long way toward making everybody happy to be there."

Dawn Garrett

"You never know what your younger kids, what ideas they're going to pick up on. They can understand ideas that they cannot themselves read in a book. They will grow and grasp towards those things. Don't try to dumb things down. Give them engaging ideas and they will reach for them."

Dawn Garrett