

Family Heritage Developer

Walkersville Christian Family Schools - Established 1983

16827 Sabillasville Road, Sabillasville, MD, 21780; Voice: 301-241-2072

Fax: 301-241-2073; Email: admin@wcfs.edu; Web: www.wcfs.edu



"God forbid that I should forsake the inheritance of my fathers" -- 1 Kings 21:3

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Discovering God's Curriculum for Your Child's Life

An Introduction—by Gary L. Cox

"And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not: for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the LORD: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest." (Jer 45:5 KJV)

Every soul on earth is engaged in a battle for their very life-- *eternal life!* Why do you exist? What is your purpose in life? These questions must be answered as a part of the regular, thorough instruction that you give your children in your home school program. Your answers, I believe, will determine whether your children's future hope of life, liberty, and happiness will come from the Creator who made them or from the creation we temporarily enjoy as a part of His provisions for us (Romans 1:25).

When the meaning and importance of life are limited to and dependent upon the tangible finite world that God created, the fear of death holds mankind in bondage to *his* plans, actions and decisions that *require* a present victory and a hope for *today*. Fear flows from the possibility and risk of everything *in* this life being stripped away from you

and leaving you empty (Hebrews 2:14-15).

Conversely, the hope of life eternal delivers you from the power and fear of death and gives you overcoming hope in the Creator in this life and in the next!

God is infinite and unbounded by time and matter. No longer should you cling to the visible security of this world; God's higher Treasure is untouchable and lasts forever. Peace comes to the soul that is settled and knows his purpose and destiny is safely hidden in Christ! That purpose is to glorify God and that destiny is heaven with Christ, forever. Therefore, it is necessary that God's purpose is the paramount objective of the Christian home school. To make God's purpose a clear part of your home school curriculum, you must deliberately discover and receive God's eternal purpose into every life circumstance at your home.

God is the object of every soul. You are designed and created by God, and you will succeed best when you are trusting and walking with Him. Remember, God does not force His creation to seek Him! He stands at the

door of every heart, knocks and waits to be invited.

Thanking and praising Him as God opens your heart's door to Him and He enters through the circumstances that He has ordained for you and your family (Rom.1:21). God enters to bring you the provision of Jesus Christ's saving work on the cross. If you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord in your circumstances, you will become a Victor over death, and a Soloist in God's mighty heavenly choir. The soul that has rested his inheritance on Jesus will obtain blessing and liberty *in this life*, and eternal life *in the next*; these treasures can never be lost or taken away. In contrast, that soul who refuses to acknowledge that God is loving and sovereign in his own circumstances is a victim of himself, shortsighted, without real hope in this world, and therefore a scoffer and mocker against the truth. Such a shortsighted one is a rebel and sees his personal circumstances as a bitter imposition of others and a pathway to all that is

burdensome, hopeless and empty.

Bondage to the fear of death entered a perfect world *through Adam's Rebellion* by questioning God's decree (Don't eat the fruit!). *Liberty over the fear of death* entered into a corrupt world *through the hope of eternal life* after death. This was the *joy set before Jesus* who endured unimaginable injustice *and death* to bring the promise of life through His own Resurrection (Hebrews 12:2). Satan's questions led to the fear of missing out on life (death) and caused Adam to reject God's promises in fear, resulting in bitterness and death for all mankind. However, Jesus Christ came into this world and *without complaining*, died so that He could justly deliver His creation from the bondage of the fear of death! Jesus Christ is now alive and seated at the Father's right hand in Heaven, and His eternal life can be yours, and your children's just by calling on His name. This is the paradigm of a corrupt world being overcome by an incorruptible God. This is the

Gospel that shapes the believer's vision of life on earth by using it as a training ground in preparation for living for eternity.

God's home school program is the Gospel. There is no part of life that is not touched by the Gospel. If you believe in God and trust Him regarding His *eternal* plan for mankind, then you will incorporate the gospel first and foremost into your everyday home school plans. That plan must be to walk in the liberty and freedom from the fear of death that Christ purchased and not to become entangled in the bondage of the fear of death that this finite world screams. *Stand fast in Christ's Liberty* (Galatians 5:1)! Christ-followers are *freemen* who can walk in love as *victors* and not victims. The greatest earthly heritage of believers is that all their children shall be *Taught of God* (John 6:45). That is your greatest heritage as well.

You might wonder how this relates to math and science? God intends that our discovery of His order in the created world will provoke us to *Trust Him & His Sovereign Purpose*

and Order in our fearful circumstances of life. The invisible Creator, as seen in the visible creation astounds us with His might and wisdom, there is none like Him and we must seek Him in every circumstance of life, giving Him glory and thanks. Seek first His kingdom and trusting Him to add the things your family needs for life, *that* will bring Him glory in this life and prepare you for the next! In the months ahead, we will look at the practical applications of receiving God's curriculum in your home by embracing the hardship and difficulties that He has placed upon you and your family. Receiving your life "as a prey" *in difficult circumstances* is the promise that gives you and your family a heritage on the earth in the midst of trials and also eternally, in heaven as well.



Gary L. Cox

Becky's Tips

Comfort in the Word

"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Aren't you grateful for the Word of God. It makes everything for the believer so definite and sure.

Consider what your chief concern is right now and apply this verse.

- Perhaps you're going through a health crisis. Notice that you will not need to be afraid because the very creator of all bodies is going right along to the doctor with you.
- Perhaps you are in a child training crisis. Notice that you will have both

strength and help to go through that crisis.

- Perhaps you are faced with a family job crisis. You need not be discouraged because the One ruler is yours to claim.
- Perhaps you are faced with crisis upon crisis. You have the hope of victory because God has provided believers with everlasting hope.

Train for the Heart

We read and hear about training the child's heart so that he chooses obedience. What exactly am I doing when I am training the child's heart? Follow closely at what I'm going to share. You will be amazed at the simplicity of God's way.

To train the child's heart we will make known to him the profound truth of the Gospel. We will make clear that Jesus loves him. We will repeat this at times of victory and times of defeat. As the child grows in his understanding of sacrificial love he will begin to long to obey such as Master. It is that obedience that the "trained heart" gives.

Engagement in Academics

We must be careful as we grow in our understanding of Engagement Learning that we not become complacent. Engagement Learning requires that I seek God specifically.

- Specifically with each child about each subject.
- Specifically as to time spent with each project.
- Specifically as to goals to be met and training to be given.

As we consider Engagement Learning and academics

- We ask God for clear academic goals
- We ask Him for best methods to accomplish goals
- We ask Him for the best materials to use to reach goals.
- We ask him for help in scheduling what He chooses for us to do.
- We ask for guidance for extra-curricular choices so that time is not stolen.

As we ask, we see ourselves as God's surrendered instrument.

Hurry Up

One of the parent's negative consequences of failure to schedule according to God's

plan is the need to cram, to hurry, to rush, to feel overwhelmed. At any time when you feel any of these responses, pause, seek God, regroup, erase some scheduled activities and begin anew.

From the student's perspective, failure in scheduling that leads to an atmosphere of rushing causes lack of focus. Lack of focus then creates more misunderstandings and mistakes. These misunderstandings and mistakes take more time causing the need for more rushing, creating an atmosphere of more lack of focus and we could continue our spiral.

The answer: Take a deep breath. Surrender. Seek God. Determine to offer your child the academic and spiritual advantage of school in your home.

Love,

Becky

STUDENT DEVELOPER

DO VAMPIRE BATS HAVE A PURPOSE?

By Matthew Kelbaugh 8th grade

If you asked someone what their favorite animal was, it would almost never be a vampire bat. In fact, if you asked someone what their top-ten least favorite animals were, the vampire bat would surely be on that list (unless that person was so busy thinking about other disgusting animals and forgot about them). Not to mention vampire bats

have starred in numerous horror films and stories of explorers in South America, depicting them as nasty, vicious, blood-sucking creatures that frequently attack men and animals. Most of the stories about vampire bats, however, are exaggerated. But due to recent medical science research, vampire bats may one day benefit mankind.

The family Desmodontidae has three species: Common, White-winged, and Hairy-legged vampire bats. Vampire bats are 3 inches long, and weigh 2 ounces. The Hairy-legged and White-winged vampire bats eat the blood of mostly birds (such as chickens) but also reptiles. Common vampire bats eat the blood of mammals (such as deer,

cattle, and horses). Young vampire bats stay longer with their mothers than other bats (they need to learn how to feed themselves). Female vampire bats roost with other females, their young, and a dominant male. Males that are not dominant roost with each other. False vampire bats are often mistaken for vampire bats. The difference between the two is that false vampire bats eat bats, reptiles, rodents, fish, birds, and amphibians, instead of blood. The American False Vampire Bat is the largest bat in the New World.

Because bats are secretive, mysterious, and hard to study, many falsehoods have been told about them due to ignorance. 1: Bats are related to shrews and primates. Shrews and primates cannot fly. So what would happen to an animal that was half way from evolving from ground-dwelling to flying? The animal would either starve to death because it would not be able to catch any food, or be eaten by other animals to extinction. 2: All bats feed on blood. Only the three species we are discussing are sanguivorous (blood eating). 3: Bats turn into vampires. 4: Bats are flying mice. Bats are not rodents. "Fledermous," the German word for bat, means "flying mouse". The Mexican word for bat, "Rata Vieja" means "old rat," because it was believed that old rats can grow wings. The French word for mouse, "Chauve-souris", means "Bald Mouse". 5: Bats are blind. Bats can actually see as well as humans. The only reason bats use echolocation is that (like everybody else) they cannot see in total darkness. 6: Bats fly into people's hair. Bats are afraid of humans and are too

good of flyers for that to happen. 7: Bats carry rabies. Actually they do, but getting rabies is very rare, as bats die soon after getting the disease. Just in case you see a bat flying in broad daylight, or lying on the ground, leave it alone. In the last 30-40 years, only 9 cases of people getting rabies from bats have been recorded. Today, we know that bats eat pesky insects and fertilize some of our favorite fruits. But even today, most people believe in at least one of these bat myths.

The first thing a vampire bat does to feed on its prey is to locate it by echolocation (a type of built in radar used to help some animals locate their prey) and sensing the heat the animal gives off. Once the vampire bat has found its prey and landed, it crawls or hops onto the animal. With its razor-sharp teeth, the vampire bat makes a tiny cut on the animal's skin. The vampire bat has several chemicals in its saliva. One makes the sleeping animal unable to feel the bite, while another keeps the blood from clotting. The vampire bat then laps up the blood that comes out of the cut. A vampire bat in one night can eat its weight in blood. Often a vampire bat can eat so much, that it will have to wait for its food to digest before it can fly off. The Common vampire bat is the only bat that can fly off from the ground. Vampire bats rarely eat the blood of humans, as they do not like the taste. Vampire bats are afraid of moving animals. Most of the time vampire bats cause no harm to their victims, but the bite might become infected, and vampire bats have been known to carry rabies. You might think that vampire bats can find a meal

easily, but it is the exact opposite. Most vampire bats find prey 2 out of 3 days. If a vampire bat doesn't feed in two days, it will die. Desperate vampire bats will beg other roost members or their mate for food. Often the other bat will regurgitate blood for them! Apparently, vampire bats are social and generous creatures.

This article has been mainly about how vampire bats have an undeserved reputation, and that they are not held with much regard by people. However, in the last few years vampire bats have been found to have some value. If you read "The Feeding of Vampire Bats" you will remember that vampire bats have some chemicals in their saliva. One of these chemicals prevents blood clotting. Well, strokes happen when there is a blood clot in the brain. So, one day, vampire bat saliva might save the lives of stroke victims! The saliva would not come directly from the vampire bat. The saliva would be put into medication as a main ingredient. Throughout the centuries man has called all types of animals useless, but God never does. So what's the next disgusting, ugly, pesky, parasite whose purpose is waiting to be discovered? Fleas? Tapeworms? Ticks? Bedbugs?

**Most of the information for this article comes from: The Encyclopedia of Mammals (Mckay, George, 2006, page 67) and Encyclopedia Britannica.*

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