

2024 UTCH Convention Keynote Address Descriptions

Deuteronomy 6 Revisited by Rachael Carman

This passage is often used as the proof text for the homeschooling mandate. There are other verses that reinforce the importance of the family as the primary context for discipleship, but this one is the standard. Let's take some time to look at it again, afresh and anew. We're admonished in this passage to teach our children diligently, that's the 'how'. But what are we supposed to teach them? When? And why is it so important? Real cultural change begins in our homes. How about we determine to make a difference one family at a time?

From Fringe, to Movement, to Enduring Institution by Jim Mason

Homeschooling in America is freer from restrictions and more accessible than ever. One major reason for this is the advocacy of HSLDA over the past 40 years. However, this year we've witnessed yet another wave of persecution.

Christian homeschoolers have shown that we are uniquely equipped to serve and lead our culture. We need to champion homeschooling as an enduring institution—one that continues to shape the character of children by modeling virtue.

Preserving Educational Freedom by Christina Boggess

Description coming soon!

Conquering Corrupt Culture by Raising Christian Communicators by Andrew Pudewa

Today, many of us have an intuitive sense that major changes are coming. When this happens, our lives may become very different in ways not necessarily convenient or comfortable. At the same time, we must live each day as though things will continue pretty much as they are. Resolving this cognitive dissonance requires that we carefully contemplate our circumstances because we are in a cultural war, fighting the "non-gospel" of aesthetic and moral relativism on three fronts: personal, familial, and social. What should our priorities be? How can we prepare our children to be culture warriors?

Beware the Worship of Ease by Rachael Carman

We've all heard the adage, "nothing is easy", and it's true. So why then do we use 'ease' as the determining factor in our life choices? As a culture we want dinner-making to be easy. We want house projects to be easy. We want relationships to be easy. We want our jobs to be easy. Look around, 'easy' seems to be a pretty high-value today. But what about the Christian life? What about marriage? What about parenting? Are any of those easy? Could it be that our longing for easy is what keeps us from becoming the people, spouses, and parents that God has intended for us to be? God is calling, He's inviting us to be a part of His plan to change the world. It won't be easy, but it will be for His glory and our good. Let's get to work together.

Focus Up by Rachael Carman

There are many things in life that draw our attention down, and many things that bring us down. Let's be honest, life is hard. It's true. But God invites us to focus up. Time and again, God calls His people's attention upward, toward Himself and His glory. There's no denial in Scripture of the challenges, difficulties, trials, obstacles, pains, or temptations that we face here in this world. The Bible is a catalog of imperfect people wrestling with the realities of life on a planet infected with sin. And even when God's people endeavor to do His will, their paths aren't easy.

So, how do we continue on in faith when life is hard? How do we do the next right thing? How do we hold on when what we really want to do is let go? Paul repeats his encouragement throughout his letters. Let's lean in and learn from its echo.

2024 UTCH Convention Special Event Descriptions

Homeschooling Through High School Open Q&A

Stop by W-1 anytime over the lunch break on Friday to ask moms of homeschool high school graduates your questions. Whether you are wondering about making a transcript, record keeping, required courses, or something else, they will be happy to assist you with whatever you need!

Homeschooling Foundations Open Q&A

Considering homeschooling or recently began your homeschool journey? Wondering about curriculum, homeschool legal requirements, extracurriculars, or something else? Stop by W-1 anytime over the lunch break on Saturday to talk with experienced homeschool parents and find answers to all your questions!

Friday Night Women's Event: Evening of REAL Refreshment *with Rachael Carman*

You won't want to miss this turn-key event for moms! This presentation is full of encouragement in the Word of God, worship, games with prizes, giveaways, and more encouragement in the Word of God, as Rachael speaks from years of experience as a child of God, wife, mom, and homeschool mom. Jesus offers us the Living Water – come together with other women to experience life and tap into the source that satiates!

Friday Night Men's Event: HEART Exam for Dads *with Davis Carman*

Tests and exams are a typical part of school, even home schools. In this evening session for the men, Davis helps homeschooling dads take an exam — a spiritual exam of the heart. He uses the word H.E.A.R.T. as an acronym to display truths found in the book of Malachi, which deals with very real heart issues. The topics covered by “Dr. Malachi” include relationships with both God and family. The goal is to discover the practical and faithful steps a father can take in the journey towards turning one's heart to his children. Join Davis and other homeschool dads for refreshments, encouragement, and inspiration.

2024 UTCH Convention Workshop Descriptions

Workshop 1

Remember & Do Not Forget *by Rachael Carman*

At the end of his life, Moses cast a vision to the generation of God's people who would enter the Promised Land. Their parents had failed to remember God's faithfulness. They forgot His goodness, His love, His provision, His promises. For 40 years they wandered in the desert until the generation who witnessed the plagues and crossed the Red Sea lay buried in the hot sand. Then God raised up a new generation who stood with a new leader at their helm. As you face going forward in your homeschooling journey with obstacles, challenges, and giants, the voice of Moses echoes clearly, "Remember and do not forget."

Principles of Motivation *by Andrew Pudewa*

A life-long student of motivation, Andrew has organized fundamental ideas of motivation into categories: four forms of relevancy, three laws of motivation, and two secret weapons. Citing several credible sources, Andrew Pudewa offers insight into specific ways you can motivate your children as you teach them academic as well as life skills.

Scientific Evidence for God's Existence *by Richard Stepanek*

God proclaims His great power and wisdom in His creation (Romans 1:20). As we study the laws of science, they proclaim the necessity of a Creator. Examining Genesis chapter 1 "as it is written", we will see the irrefutable evidence for God's existence.

In this workshop, we will examine the science that God is proclaiming on day one and two of creation. We will study several laws of science that proclaim God's existence and reveal some of His attributes. The lie of evolution will be exposed by science and revealed as a religion instead. You will be equipped with information and empowered to teach your children about how we know God exists biblically and scientifically!

Homeschool 101: Nuts and Bolts *by Cynthia Edwards*

Wondering where to start in your homeschool? Unsure about educating different ages and levels? Figuring out how to teach several children at the same time? And then, there's knowing how and when to keep records, and how to stay on task! The idea of homeschooling can seem daunting, but YOU are the best teacher for your children!

Every family is unique, but there are plenty of ideas available to help you develop your own personalized family homeschool! Discover ideas, ask questions, and be encouraged in this session designed for those new to homeschooling or considering beginning!

Workshop 2

Family – Our Best Apologia Ever *by Davis Carman*

Apologia is a Greek word meaning "defend the faith." In a society saturated with an anti-God and relative-truth perspectives, students need to be taught from a biblical worldview. The statistics show that a very small percentage of born-again believers have a worldview consistent with basic Christian doctrines. The Internet, movies, music, books and other media heavily influence the thoughts, beliefs, and corresponding actions of young people. How can homeschooling parents help their children stand firm and not be as vulnerable to modern-day lies? Certainly one solution can be the use of good books and curricula including creation-based science curricula. The best way is by committing to three ideals. Davis will explain how raising children in a family setting where Christ is worshipped and where the Word of God is the primary text can fulfill the great commission and result in generational faithfulness. Family is truly our best defense of the Christian faith!

Cultivating Language Arts: Preschool Thru High School *by Andrew Pudewa*

Listening and reading well, speaking and writing clearly, and thinking and debating effectively are abilities that most parents hope to cultivate in their children. With that goal in mind, Andrew Pudewa explores various environments and

activities that accelerate the development of these language skills, beginning with the youngest students and continuing into the high school years.

Truth & Discipleship for the Next Generation by Corry Pensabene

Do you ever feel overwhelmed with how to understand, communicate, and defend truth in this chaos of our culture? Have you ever heard people say something like “We just need to love people so they’ll come to know Jesus?”

Join us as we help you think freshly about truth and give you tools and ideas to engage both the minds and hearts of your kids! If we’re going to love, train, and prepare our kids for the future, we must recognize the foundational importance of both truth and godly love and relationships. By discipling our kids and engaging them in ways that are rational, relatable, and relational, we lay the groundwork for passing on truth and biblical faith to the next generation.

Homeschool High School by Carrie de Francisco

Homeschooling high school is easier than you think! Successfully navigating high school requires starting with the end in mind. In this session, Carrie will explore graduation requirements, gives tips on meeting those requirements in creative ways, and will encourage you that homeschooling through high school is not only doable but can be enjoyable too! Topics that will be explored include:

- Designing a 4-year plan for high school
- Creating a transcript and determining high school credit
- Meeting state graduation requirements in traditional and non-traditional ways
- Preparing for college admissions for the college-bound teen
- Information on AP, CLEP, Honors, and dual enrollment
- Capitalizing on the freedom and flexibility of homeschooling high school
- Using the high school years to discern God’s purpose and plan for your teen’s life

Workshop 3

What About “That” Child by Rachael Carman

The first thing you must know is that you’re not alone if you have one. And the second thing you need to know is that they’re sent to you as a blessing. If those two things seem unimaginable, if you’re thinking, “if you only knew,”. Well, I do. I’ve got one too. So, what face comes to mind when you hear the phrase “That” child? Do you smile or scowl when you see that face? Do you see yourself in that face? Do you struggle to like that child? Does it seem difficult? Impossible? I want you to know: that child is a world changer. God has a plan for that child. All of that energy, all those questions, all that strength, all THAT, is God-given for His glory. Come learn strategies for learning to love that child, to embrace that child, to train that child. They are worth it and He is worthy!

Preparing for Persecution: A Curriculum Proposal by Andrew Pudewa

In the future is it imaginable that freedom of speech and freedom of religion could be suppressed where we live? History indicates so. Andrew Pudewa discusses ways to prepare for such a contingency, which may include persecution and even martyrdom. He also explains how to cultivate necessary virtues without sparking burdensome fears. Although this is not a pleasant subject to contemplate, it is an important one.

The First 5 Years of Homeschooling Parenting by Davis Carman

The first five years of parenting are crucial times of development for young children. Foundations are set that give them a perspective of God, themselves, and others. During these early years, children gain an understanding of love, obedience, and responsibility. Their worldview will be shaped by the books you read to them (including the Bible) and the freedom they are given to sing, dance, play, and explore the great outdoors of God’s wonderful Creation. Is this parenting, homeschooling, or both? In this workshop, you will discover ten lessons your young children should learn and experience that can make a big difference in the first five years of their life.

More Than 1 Way to Homeschool by Lacy Abouo

For too long, the lie we have believed has been that we homeschool to shield our children from the culture around us. However, the truth is that we need homeschooling to educate our children about that culture, equipping them to navigate the world with discernment. In this workshop, Lacy will help you uncover your sacred calling for homeschooling. Come

discover practical tools and resources to help you in your journey, and find a deep sense of confidence in the path you've chosen. Breaking free from conventional molds and embrace the freedom and flexibility that homeschooling offers!

Get ready to embark on this exciting journey with us – a journey that goes beyond textbooks and classrooms, a journey of faith, discovery, and growth.

Workshop 4

Biblical Expectations: Pursuing Excellence in Education *by Lucas Manning*

Does God expect parents to be the primary influence in teaching and training their children? Most homeschool parents would say “yes.” However, is the way we teach and train them purely subjective? Or is there a Biblical expectation for how parents are to teach and train the next generation?

This workshop will examine the Biblical expectation for excellence in education and the consequences of parental complacency. We have a responsibility to set our children up for success. I pray this time will challenge and encourage us to do just that.

Reaching the Reluctant Writer *by Andrew Pudewa*

Many children really do not like to write. Why? Andrew Pudewa answers this basic question and teaches a specific and successful method of separating the complex process of writing into the smallest possible steps. This process makes it possible for even the most reluctant writers to produce short but complete compositions so that they will be proud and motivated to write again. Results guaranteed!

The Mystery of Life's Origin *by Richard Stepanek*

In this workshop, we will examine the science that God is proclaiming on day three, five, and six of creation. We will study “intelligent design” and explore the evidence for God’s handiwork. We find complex design in nature, which only an intelligent designer could create. According to mathematical probabilities and the science of chemistry there is 0% chance that evolution could happen. So, what is the alternative? Come and see!

What We Believe: Biblical Worldview Education at Home *by Davis Carman*

With statistics showing that seventy-five percent or more teens leave the Christian faith within a few years after they leave home, it is critical that parents give a solid biblical worldview education to their children when they are young. How is this to be accomplished? In this session, Davis addresses some of the most important questions a person will ever ask including “Who is God?” and “Who am I?” Once a person has a biblical worldview of God, Truth, and Self-Image, then they can tackle the questions of “Who is my neighbor?” and “What on earth can I do?” You may already know why it is important to teach your children what you believe. Now come find out what to teach them and how it can be done. Their eternal future may be at stake.

Workshop 5

Mary, Martha, You, And Me *by Rachael Carman*

So, do you tend to sit at the feet of Jesus or rush around chasing after the items on your To-Do List? Do you understand who He is? Do you know He is able? Are you concerned about what other people think more than what He requires? Mary and Martha’s inclusion in the biblical narrative is both raw and refreshing. Two women, sisters, two responses to Jesus on two different occasions. Let’s look again at the two snapshots from the gospels and see what we can learn and apply to our lives.

Seeing His Story *by Shelley Davidson*

The things we can experience through the five senses are the concrete things of the earth. However, the reality of the truest true, the things of heaven, is transcendent. During the early years of life, God blesses each of us with our imagination. Through the conduit of the imagination, we can see transcendent truths. According to Northrop Frye: “The feeling that **death** is inevitable comes to us from *ordinary experience*, but the feeling that **new life** is inevitable comes to us from *myth and fable*.”

If we want to go deep, we must get past the surface reality and see the transcendent truth in the depths as revealed in scripture and made real and exciting through imagination. And, fortunately, imagination can be enhanced by story, “often myth and fable.”

Reading Strategies for the Struggling Reader or Non-Reader by Andrew Pudewa

As schools have made reading their new god, they believe that producing good readers will solve all their academic problems. As a result, many children—the dyslexic, the easily distracted, the auditorily challenged—are left behind in the rush to improve test scores. What schools do not know (but what many parents discover) is that reading is not simply being able to rapidly decode symbols with the eyes. With humor and insight, Andrew Pudewa shares stories and strategies for helping students who need to engage the cognitive processes of reading but who are more likely to excel through a wider variety of practical, creative, and imaginative approaches.

Homeschool Hindsight: What NOT to Do When Homeschooling by Carrie de Francisco

If given the opportunity, Carrie would sit down with her younger self and give her some advice! As a retired homeschooling mom, Carrie shares five important lessons she has learned after 20+ years of homeschooling. She candidly shares her epic fails and what not to do when homeschooling. Come learn from the advice she wished she would have known before starting this homeschooling journey and wishes she had known along the way.

Workshop 6

Mastery Learning, Ability Development, and Individualized Education by Andrew Pudewa

What is mastery learning? How does it relate to education? Andrew Pudewa explains the methods, goals, and benefits of the ability development model as developed by Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, and how this applies to disciplines other than music. Learn how you can create success in areas where you or your children have struggled in the past.

A.P.P.L.E.S. for the Teacher by Davis Carman

The gift of a fresh, shiny apple still represents respect and gratitude towards one’s teacher. Why should it be any different for the homeschooling mom? They typically carry the lion’s share of the homeschooling workload. To help them avoid burnout, husbands need to help their wife avoid feeling 100% of the homeschooling responsibility. Your wife needs to hear “thank you” in many ways and know for sure that you are engaged. In this session, Davis gives six real and practical ideas for supporting your wife in the homeschooling journey.

The Power and Wisdom of God by Richard Stepanek

In this workshop, we will examine the science that God is proclaiming on day four and six of creation. Does science support the ‘Big Bang’ theory? Did the universe evolve by chance? Can stars make themselves or did a very powerful Creator make them and put them in their place? The power in the universe is beyond what we can fathom. Next, we will study the complexity of mankind. We will discover through science and the Bible that we all descended from one man and one woman. Chemistry and genetics reveal that there is an all-knowing Creator of the universe.

Homeschool for FREE (or Almost Free) by Carrie de Francisco

In this session, Carrie shares how to teach PreK- 4th-grade for free (or for almost free), how to keep God and His Word at the center of your PreK-4th studies, how to protect your child's childhood from academic overload, and more. This session will help you keep the WONDER years WONDERful, full of awe and fun, and on a budget! If you are a mom of a PreK-4th grade student, a family on a strict budget, a parent wanting to have more meaningful experiences with her younger children, or a homeschool mom wanting to simplify her schedule, then this workshop is for you.