



Homeschool Educators, Let's Stick Together

By Rev. Jan Wilton, Homeschool Representative

"I feel so alone." "How do I have some adult interaction time?" "What, when, where, how, who do I go to when I have homeschooling questions?" Have you ever felt this way? There are many who feel the same way.

Homeschooling brings many challenges and blessings. Among the blessings is the flexibility to plan the learning day for you and the children. However, feeling isolated is often a challenge. Rueben Welch wrote *We Really Do Need Each Other*, explaining why we need fellowship with others. Homeschool educators need each other. Isolation does not need to be a part of homeschooling. This article will provide a creative list of ways to overcome the challenges of isolation.

- Become active in locating other Nazarene homeschool families who live in your community or your district.
Contact your district NDI chairperson and ask about sending out information encouraging homeschool educators in your district to contact you.
- Develop a neighborhood homeschool group and encourage each other.
- Form a homeschool co-op. This is a group of homeschool families that meet together and do school together. This can be as simple or organized as desired. Imagine homeschool families sharing a space on a regular basis or occasionally at a church, park, or home. Each family can

conduct their lessons and then have a combined recess, play time, or team sport—such as basketball, baseball, or soccer. Eat lunch together. Build friendships, enjoy conversations; learn together. The possibilities are endless!

- Plan fieldtrips with other families to the zoo, fishing, kayaking, swimming, museum, etc.

Homeschool educators stick together and do not fall into discouragement isolation. We do need each other. Hebrews 10:22-25 (MSG) says,

“So, let’s do it—full of belief, confident that we’re presentable inside and out. Let’s keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but spurring each other on”

We usually think of this verse in terms of church attendance. However, when we think outside of this interpretation, we understand how we can apply this to building relationships with others. Work together, play together, care for each other, pray together. We, your Nazarene Educators Worldwide homeschool representatives, Jan Wilton and Lindsay Parson, are here to resource and encourage.

You are invited to participate in a Zoom meeting of homeschooling educators:

NEW Homeschool Second Friday Morning Coffee Zoom beginning 8:30 a.m. CDT. Come and enjoy a time to breathe in the Word, pray, and make new friends! All you need to do is have a cup of coffee (or other beverage) and join in a fun, inspirational time together. Let’s stick together and encourage each other.

The meeting will be held on the second Friday morning of each month.

Check the NEW website for announcements about Zoom events.

Rev. Jan Wilton lives in Lancaster, Texas. She has a wide variety of teaching experiences in public school, Christian school, and homeschooling. She currently is serving as an instructional tutor for grades 4-6 in a charter school. You may contact Jan at revjan2008@gmail.com.