



# Elijah Academy Homeschool Handbook

## Homeschool Dad – Job Description

**Job Title:** Homeschool Dad

**Position Type:** Full Time, Volunteer

**Start date:** Immediately

**Job Criteria:** Must be willing to work longer hours than normal with no additional pay. Eternal rewards program is available for those who qualify.

### Description

Husbands are called to “live with their wives in an understanding way, giving them honor as the weaker vessel,” in 1 Peter 3:7. For homeschool husbands, this is a real paradox. It is no secret that the bulk of the homeschooling effort typically falls on the wife. When you lead your family into homeschooling, you are asking your wife to take on a full-time job! If you have children in multiple grade levels, the role of “teacher” means preparing even more lesson plans than a normal teacher would have to! Is this a good way to “give honor to your wife as the weaker vessel” – asking her to add “teacher” to the list of everything else she does? How will you let go of, take over, or subcontract out some of those things you take for granted?

Let’s face it, for Homeschool Dad’s, it’s kind of easy to hop in the car and commute out earshot for the day. Given the opportunity to work from home, we might say “No thank you; my wife homeschools the kids!” For most people, a short commute allows them to decompress before they get home. We’re the opposite. We decompress on our way to work in the morning, and ramp up on our way home. At the office, you can breathe a leisurely sigh of relief... go get a cup of coffee... talk to the coworkers about weekend projects and the ballgame. Meanwhile, on the home front, your wife is waging a holy war!

That description is a little lighthearted, but the scenario is not unrealistic. The underlying question is indeed a serious one: how do you give your wife honor when the majority of the homeschooling burden falls on her? The decision to homeschool is a serious one. Like marriage, it is “not to be entered into lightly or ill-advisedly.” Homeschooling is a tremendous undertaking! You must come to understand what you are asking your wife to go through, and what that means for you. It has been said, “homeschool moms either go crazy or look sloppy.” It’s your job to prove this wrong on both counts.

### Responsibilities

The tasks of the homeschool parents are many and varied, and homeschooling is always at its best when both parents are working at it together. God made parents with complimentary natures for child rearing. Don’t let your wife “go it alone.” If she is the homeschool teacher, then you are the principal. The point is that you have an additional job to work as well.

What does the job of a homeschool dad look like? Here are a few ideas (with some references to Elijah Academy [Planning Forms](#) and other parts of our [Getting Started Guide](#)):

- **Get the plan started with the right expectations and goals -**
  - Review the “Tasks of Homeschool” form with your wife. There’s a lot there for Dad to do.
  - Develop the written family mission and vision each year,
  - Work with your wife to develop goals for each of your children and update them at least yearly.



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- **Help develop an appropriate philosophy of education for your homeschool.** Our “Getting Started - Planning Guide” has many concepts to think through.
- **Review the curriculum plan to make sure it is compatible with the philosophy and goals.** Our “Getting Started - Curriculum Guide” has many concepts and outlines to guide your thoughts here.
- **Help maintain the schedule**
  - Give your wife ample time alone for semester/quarterly, weekly, and daily planning.
  - Help your wife develop and hold to a schedule – weekly, daily, and semester progress.
  - Make the hard calls to say “no” to good things in order to maintain family priorities when outside commitments become burdensome.
- **Help in practical ways**
  - You will need to watch the kids and let your wife be alone for hours at a time each week to plan,
  - You’ll also need to protect your marriage and make sure regular time with each other is part of your daily and weekly routines.
  - Consider what additional household chores you can take on as your responsibility,
  - Maintain consistent systems of discipline and order for your children,
  - Instill in your children a deep respect and love for their mother.
  - Humble yourself and give more hugs.
- **Stay engaged –**
  - Ask your wife for updates regularly, study up on topics they are learning, plan trips to the library,
  - Engage with your children on what they are learning, instruct them of the importance of learning, and motivate them to excel.
  - Lead the family in devoting time out for regular family worship, praise and prayer.
  - Tell each of them and show them that you love them by spending extra time with them individually each week.

### **Requirements**

There are no new commandments for homeschool husbands, but there are practical considerations for loving your wife better in light of your homeschool family dynamic. If your parents sent you off to school when you were a child, the dynamic of your homeschooling family will be very different from the routine and family life you are used to. There is much more required in less time, and it is your job to lead the charge, forge the plan of attack, and take responsibility for the failures along the way. Here are a few thoughts:

- Your wife needs your leadership. There are already too many homeschool moms out to sea without an anchor, tossed about by every wave of doctrine, philosophy of education, or new curriculum suggested by other homeschool moms. Your wife’s female friends, ministry leaders, and strangers’ blogs on the internet are not the leadership your wife needs in this area. You alone are called to understand her inside and out, to love her individually, and to lead your family.
- Your wife needs money for curriculum materials. There are more free resources for homeschooling now than ever, but most good curriculum is not free. Lending libraries are great, but only go so far. You can help your wife tremendously by setting aside ample budget for good books and curriculum materials. And time is money. If you are blessed to live on one of the handful of states that give a tax credit to



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homeschoolers, then this is easier for you. Unfortunately, Texas isn't one of those states.

- Your wife needs time to plan each week. Daily planning might fit into a normal routine, but the weekly, quarterly, and semester planning is more intense. A bigger block of time is needed. You might have to take the children to the library. Take them for a bike ride. Take them to the park. Take them anywhere that will give your wife a block of hours to herself!
- Your wife needs time to unwind each day. Moms who drop their kids off at school have additional time to accomplish things during the day. Not so with a homeschooling wife. The available amount of time is greatly diminished by homeschooling. Additional time is taken up with planning and logistics that couldn't be done during school hours. They hit the ground running with whiney kids for a wake-up call, and it doesn't stop until the kids are in bed and asleep. Your wife needs time to unwind each day – whether that's at home or out and about. You, at least, get your commute and lunch break to unwind. She doesn't. That means you will be helping more than normal with the household chores, maintenance, and procurement.
- Your wife needs time talking to other adults. As much as your wife may love her children, they are a drain on her energy. They need constant guidance, help, and encouragement. It is simply hard for anyone to talk to children all day. She needs adult conversation. This includes you, but it's not all about you. Maybe your wife likes to talk about philosophy of education, and other topics that don't excite you. One thing you can do is to listen and try to understand. You can also help her find the time and opportunity to chat stuff out with likeminded female friends. It is amazing how refreshing it can be to take time out to talk to others – even if you feel like there isn't time for it. It pays dividends in return.
- Your wife needs spiritual refreshment. Homeschooling is life in the fast lane. Temptations abound. The enemy, the roaring lion, is looking for the tired and weary ones. You both need spiritual refreshment. If you can't make evening church services because of bedtime, you can live stream services or subscribe to podcasts. Help set up the protocol and priority. Your wife's spiritual health is your responsibility that she may be cleansed by the washing of the word. You may both be getting instruction from various teachers in the church, but you need to engage with her on her trials and tribulations. It is your responsibility to ensure this is done.
- Your wife needs you to care. If she asks you a question, have an informed opinion. If you don't have an opinion, you can think it through and get one. There are too many homeschool moms frustrated by the fact that their husbands don't care enough to help them with major decisions. How can you take responsibility for a failure if you weren't involved with at the point of decision? It doesn't make sense for you not to care. These are your children, and their brain is their most important asset. You should pay special attention to what goes into their brain.
- Your wife needs your encouragement. The truth is that most homeschool moms do a good job providing both academic instruction and enrichment opportunities. Regardless of this fact, homeschooling feels like constant failure. You may never understand the magnitude of what she does for you and your children; but you should definitely try to. It will overwhelm you with gratitude and thankfulness. Let her know how you feel. She needs to be encouraged in her efforts because, too often, she feels like a flat tire and a failure.

Home education is a tremendous undertaking in every sense. There are many potential problems and pitfalls to avoid along the road of opportunity. But at the end of that road, for those who persevere, is amazing success. The encouragements here may seem unduly focused on marriage rather than children and



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education. However, the marriage relationship is the foundation of success in parenting, and homeschooling is just parenting in the extreme. Pursue God's plan for life and marriage, and many homeschool problems will solve themselves.

### **Recommended Reading**

Wilson, Todd. *Help, I'm Married to a Homeschool Mom: Showing Dads How to Meet the Needs of Their Homeschooling Wives*. Moody Publishers; April 1, 2004. Print.

Elijah Academy Homeschool **Planning Guide**

Elijah Academy Homeschool **Curriculum Guide**