

I Didn't See That Coming...

by Diana Waring and Dr. Jay L. Wile

Mike Waring

Since the age of 7, he thought the Lord was calling him to be a missionary in a closed country.

He originally didn't think he would go to college, but he decided it would be best for his missionary work to become a medical missionary, so he went to college to study medicine.

In college, he got very interested in dance and wanted to be a dancer.

He then enlisted in the Navy and is now an officer in Navy Medical Services Corps.

Dawn Wile

I wanted her to be writer

- She studied sociology to become a counselor
- She then studied to be a vet tech
- She became a vet tech

She and her husband are now a long-haul trucking team

Dr. Wile did not react well to this change. His reaction put a lot of stress on their relationship. Now that they have been doing it for more than a year, he is happy to admit that he was wrong. This is where the Lord wants her right now.

Jesse thought he, too, had it pegged.

“Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered.
“He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.” So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.” So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. (1 Samuel 16:10-13)

When it comes to parenting. . .

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding.”
(Proverbs 3:5)

Jonathan Leedahl

In the last two years of high school, he decided the Lord was leading him to be a missionary pilot, despite the fact that no one in his family had any connection to aviation. His mother radically restructured his homeschool, and his father helped him buy a plane. He is now flying missionary missions in a helicopter, because his parents supported him.

Katie Davis

- At 16, she had it all
- Parents wanted her to go to college
- She wanted to do mission work
- Worked at a Ugandan mission over Christmas break during senior year
- Decided to teach kindergarten to Ugandan children after graduation
- PROMISED her parents she would come back and go to college

She never came back. (except for visits)

Instead, she adopted fourteen girls who had no hope and is running a ministry that feeds, clothes, and pays the school fees for hundreds of Ugandan children.

Here is what they learn when you let God guide them:

"The children would run to me with gifts of stones or dirt and I saw myself, filthy and broken, offering my life to the God of the universe and begging Him to make it into something beautiful...He blinds himself to my sin and my filth so that He can forge a relationship with me. And this is what He did for me with these precious children. He blinded me to the filth and disease, and I saw only children hungry for love...I just sat right down on that cold, hard floor and snuggled my nose into their dirty necks and kissed their fungus-covered heads and didn't even see it. I was in love."

[Katie Davis, *Kisses From Katie: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption*, Howard Books 2012, p. 7]

So, in our homeschool, how do we provide opportunities for our children to learn freedom to follow the Lord's leading...instead of ours?

Allow the student to pursue his or her interests (to a reasonable degree), even if that means following a few rabbit trails! Don't be such a slave to finishing a text or a lesson that you stop the child from learning something really interesting!

Take advantage of "Teachable Moments." When your children are enthralled by something, see it as an opportunity, because they will be eager to learn!

Let your children play, even the older ones!

Play promotes:

- creativity
- abstract thinking
- imagination
- problem-solving
- cooperation
- conflict resolution

You can't lead them on a leash forever. The end goal of parenting isn't being their guide. It is being their support.

For this to happen, older students need a more active role in their homeschooling.

This doesn't mean you should agree with everything they decide!

Provide critical analysis, but make it clear that you are just helping your child think through all the issues involved.

Remember, stay relational. Put your relationship above your expectations!