Why Your Family Needs Your Local Church to Be a Priority

Episode 276

Rachel Winchester [00:00:03]:
Our spiritual development cannot thrive apart from our involvement in the local church. Unfortunately, other commitments often compete for many families time these days we need to evaluate our commitment to the people of God and the place it ought to have in our Christian life for our own sake and for our children's sake. You're listening to the Homeschool Made simple podcast. This is a podcast to help you homeschool simply and inexpensively and enjoyably. Carol Joy side has been helping families homeschool for several decades now through her literature based approach to education. In this episode from the archives, Carol is joined by Pastor Dean Inserra to talk about the important place the local church has in the Christian life and family. Listen in.

Carole Joy Seid [00:00:46]:
Well, I am so delighted to be with my new friend Dean and Sarah today. Looking at him through a zoom screen. Not my favorite way to do life. But we're going to figure this out. He and I are not. We're not high tech. Right, Dean? We're kind of low tech.

Dave Inserra [00:01:02]:
That's right. But it's great to be with you and I'm thankful we have this, even though we're both struggle a little bit getting it to work.

Carole Joy Seid [00:01:08]:
I know. What would we do without our assistance? Both. Right?

Dave Inserra [00:01:12]:
Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:01:13]:
So I had the pleasure of hearing you, Dean, on a podcast and you were talking first about your book getting. Would you Getting Over Yourself and then would you give me the subtitle of that book?

Dave Inserra [00:01:26]:

Yeah. Getting Over Yourself. The subtitle is Trading Believing Yourself Religion for Christ Centered Christianity. Because a lot of we were here, here and out there today really is just kind of motivational TED talks disguised as Christian with a little bit of Bible verses sprinkled on top. When the scriptures actually point us to Jesus, not to ourselves, over and over again. So it's to help people see that phenomena what's going on out there right now, which I call this new prosperity gospel.

Carole Joy Seid [00:01:52]:
Yeah.

Dave Inserra [00:01:53]:
And it's not the old name it and claim it before. It's now that God wants you to reach your wildest dreams and kind of wants to be your life coach kind of idea to help people see what's happening out there, especially on Instagram and other social media avenues. And then to see how God has slept much better for all of us. And that's himself.

Carole Joy Seid [00:02:08]:
Amen.

Dave Inserra [00:02:09]:
Yeah. So I hope that can be helpful for people. It's called Getting over yourself.

Carole Joy Seid [00:02:12]:
It's super helpful. And as I heard you being interviewed, you talked about our responsibility to decide. And in the homeschool community, I always tell parents that our primary goal is to mentor and disciple our children for eternity. And yeah, we care about whether they're smart, but we care way more whether they're godly. And I feel that the local church is our number one tool, apart from our family structure, of making that happen. And talk to me a little bit about you I didn't mention, are the pastor of City Church in Tallahassee, Florida, which I called immediately, a friend that's moving there to tell her I found your church.

Dave Inserra [00:02:58]:
So come on, that's great.

Carole Joy Seid [00:03:01]:
So you've been pastoring there for 15 years.

Dave Inserra [00:03:04]:

Fifteen years, right.

Carole Joy Seid [00:03:05]:
And you and your wife Chrissy, have three children. Fifteen, 11, which are both boys and then a little girl, the light of your life, who's seven. And so you speak as a parent as well as a pastor. So talk to me about the church's impact on our children's lives and why it's so important.

Dave Inserra [00:03:25]:
Well, I think when you first said that the home and the church, those two being the main avenues, you just described God's design. Those are God's two primary institutions, family and the church. And they're supposed to be in harmony together. Yes, Your family is the main area. That's level one. That's the varsity level of where evangelism and discipleship is to take place. But then God has given us the church. He's given us a spiritual family as well.

Dave Inserra [00:03:53]:
And I think we have really kind of lost that, and especially in the American church, and we've used spiritual language to justify it. Let me explain what I mean by that. We say things like, oh, well, you know, you don't go to church. You are the church. That sounds really nice and really spiritual. It's not true. It's both of those things. Like, both of those things are.

Dave Inserra [00:04:14]:
They're in harmony. We are the church, and we go to church.

Carole Joy Seid [00:04:17]:
And.

Dave Inserra [00:04:18]:
And when you read the New Testament letters, they're all in the context. It's like assuming that people are part of a local church, because there. There wasn't a category for a Christian who didn't go to. Wasn't a part of a church. So. So. So every verse, the Bible doesn't have to be, go to church, go to church, go to church. Because he's writing letters to people who are part of local churches.

Dave Inserra [00:04:37]:
You know, in a city under church leadership, there's elders, there's deacons, there's all these things. There's gatherings taking place. So I think that we really are in trouble. And I'm not an alarmist. This is just what's happening right now is we have this

unchurched spirituality, that it was unrecognizable to the scriptures, but we're justifying by spiritual language and by just believing that there's nothing wrong with that, it's becoming normal, when really it should be very abnormal for a Christian to see it that way. Yeah.

Carole Joy Seid [00:05:07]:
You know, my son is also a pastor and I would say that one of the things that shaped him more than anything else was his childhood church and his youth pastors and the kids that were in that youth group. Every one of them are in full time Christian ministry today.

Dave Inserra [00:05:23]:
That's awesome.

Carole Joy Seid [00:05:24]:
Was a wonderful, almost a revival really, that took place among our kids. And we used to say that J.J. would go to church in a taxi cab if no one could get him there, because it wasn't always for the best reasons. It was probably that there are a lot of cute girls and things like that. But the point is that once he got there, he, he was being met with the power of the Holy Spirit and prayer and worship and calls to holiness and accountability. And he didn't get away with anything because the leadership had his number. Right. Because that's their family.

Carole Joy Seid [00:05:59]:
That's what families do.

Dave Inserra [00:06:01]:
And he's participating. The big picture of that is he's participating in God's design. Like God has given him as a believer to be a part of and to flourish. It is that. And I blame my generation, I'm 41, and I blame my generation a little for this. Because we were raised in the 90s, right? So like in 90s and all we ever heard about in 90s youth ministry over and over again was a personal relationship with Jesus. That was every sermon, that was every song, it was every idea. And is that true? Does God want a personal relationship with us through Jesus Christ? Absolutely, that's true.

Dave Inserra [00:06:33]:
But it became this main emphasis to where now as adults, you're hearing people from my generation go, well, all that matters is your relationship with God. So I can have relationship with God on the boat, on the golf course, fishing, at brunch, you know, that's what matters. Like, well, that's not what that means. Like, it was never.

Christianity was never designed to be a solo endeavor where you can go do your thing, as they call it, with God wherever you want to. That's just not the Christian faith. The Christian faith is about people existing in local churches together, corporately expressing their relationship with Christ. So I think a good thing like, hey, God wants a relationship with you.

Dave Inserra [00:07:10]:
A good thing became really an off the rails, off the off the train tracks that led us to this belief oftentimes that you can totally have your own relationship with God independent of the church and it's no big deal. That would be. That's news to the Lord. Nothing's news to him. He knows all things. But in terms. But by that I mean sarcastically, that is not what he has given us.

Carole Joy Seid [00:07:33]:
So talk to us about the conflicts, particularly, you know, I came out of the Jesus movement in Southern California where we went to church literally seven nights a week. Bible study, seven nights a week at Cowbridge Chapel. And one night was a rock concert, but most of them were Bible studies. And this idea of even just going to church just on Sunday to me is kind of like, yeah, what do you mean? I need more than that. But many people are not even going to church just on Sunday anymore. Why is that? What are the interruptions that are threatening our relationship with our church family?

Dave Inserra [00:08:08]:
The biggest thing is mindset. We've convinced ourselves that's okay and it's no big deal. And then functionally, as a result of that, we're putting everything else above it. So you said earlier that your spiritual health is even more important than your academic health or anything along those lines in terms of homeschool community, which I really appreciate that. But functionally, we're acting. Every Christian would claim that. I've never met a Christian in my entire life that would say my kids athletic future, their academics, their social involvement is all more important than the church. I've never met a Christian who would claim that functionally.

Dave Inserra [00:08:40]:
Many are doing that because we're. Because, yeah, we're saying that you becoming famous or you achieving your dreams, or you, you know, whatever it could be. It's all the beach, the golf course is all more important than you being part of a local church, which in the scriptures the local church is tied to your spiritual health. They're not independent of each other. So the most important things about your faith, which your faith is the most important thing about you is how you view the local church. I'm not

saying you're not going to go on vacation. I'm not saying you're not going to have days where you don't feel well. I'm not saying that.

Dave Inserra [00:09:11]:
But I had someone tell me a guy is significantly older than me. We were having lunch last week and he said, you know, in Tallahassee, when somebody gets a beach house, you never see him at church again. He's exaggerating a little bit, but in principle, like that really, really is a lot of truth that you just really don't. And because they just have a reason to be gone every weekend. We live in Florida, so a lot of people have Walt Disney World annual passes. They're gone all the time. And we're just saying over and over again that this is more important. Again, of course you're going to have family vacations.

Dave Inserra [00:09:39]:
Yes. You're going to go do things together. I work for this church, and I don't go 52 Sundays a year. Okay. So I'm not trying to be legalistic about it, but there's just, again, the dis. We have to see it as strange and weird that this unchurched spirituality is actually a thing like we have to. So it's getting in the way of. It is the mindset.

Dave Inserra [00:09:57]:
And then what comes from the mindset are all these layers of the ramifications of it. Which means, you know, my kids. Baseball is more important. My kids. Dance is more important. And not just a sports thing. The couch is more important. You know, the beach.

Dave Inserra [00:10:10]:
There's just so many things. And also, we're not teaching our kids to. To learn how to bear burdens either, because now it's like, let's say you go to the youth ministry at a church, whatever you want to call it, student ministry. And it's like, well, I didn't really know anybody. I don't. You know, I didn't really click. I didn't really fit in. You would.

Dave Inserra [00:10:26]:
So, okay, you don't have to go anymore. You would never use that logic with the travel volleyball team. You know, if your kid came up for travel volleyball practice and said, well, I just don't really know anybody. You're not going to go, okay, we're done. No, you're going to say, hey, tough it out. It's going to be okay. Like, you know, this is. This is good for you.

Dave Inserra [00:10:44]:
We got things backwards.

Carole Joy Seid [00:10:45]:
Yes.

Dave Inserra [00:10:46]:
We have things backwards. And we need to talk about out loud. This is. For some reason, this is a sensitive topic, and it doesn't need to be. It really is. There's people listening to us that are going to be mad at me, but it's because we've convinced ourselves and programmed our minds to think this way. And we have to, like, reprogram.

Carole Joy Seid [00:11:02]:
So, Dean, but I just want to sit home on the couch. People say to me, and we watch church on TV and we really enjoy it, and it's. It's a good thing for us.

Dave Inserra [00:11:13]:
There is no such thing as online church. You can call it whatever you want. You're watching. You're watching a movie. I mean, you know you're watching it. Yeah, it's just churches supposed to be expressed together. Now, again, are there. Again, we're not being legalistic here.

Dave Inserra [00:11:26]:
Are there exceptions? Of course there are. We know there are homebound people. You know, we know there is a season in our American life where if you were extremely immune compromised, like it. We know there's exceptions. Let's not be difficult here. Right. In terms of our listeners, I'm sure they aren't, but, but, but, yeah, that's just. It's not a real thing.

Dave Inserra [00:11:43]:
And again, until. Thank God for technology and the advances of technology, that should not change God's design for us, which would be a part of his local. Local body of believers organized as a local church. God is a big fan of organized religion. You know, another trendy thing is for Americans to say that, like, I just don't like organized religion. Well, guess what the Bible is. The Bible is organized religion. Like Paul's writing letters going, dear church, organize your religion.

Dave Inserra [00:12:07]:
And here's what it looks like. So all these things we say are not biblical. They sound really spiritual. And we just got to push back against that in a way that exalts the name of Christ and exalts the bride of Christ as the local church is a good thing. And this is

his design for us, for people who believe his gospel and also the light post for the world to see who Jesus is.

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:27]:
So, Dean, if my extended family were having a family reunion and I said, well, I'm just gonna phone it in or I'm just gonna, like, you film it for me, would that be the same as me driving to, you know, Omaha or wherever the family's from and being with my family? What would be the benefit of me being physically present, embodied in that day?

Dave Inserra [00:12:50]:
Well, another angle out of that, too, is your family would be outraged.

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:54]:
That's right.

Dave Inserra [00:12:54]:
Unless you were. Unless you were actually sick. They'd be like, what? You know, are you really not going to come? It means a lot to Mom. We haven't seen you in this long. Like, they would give you a really hard time.

Carole Joy Seid [00:13:04]:
That's right.

Dave Inserra [00:13:05]:
Right. I mean, it would be a thing. It'd be considered almost offensive, you know, because they want you there. Because why? You're part of the family, but you're.

Carole Joy Seid [00:13:12]:
Also relationally present in a very different way.

Dave Inserra [00:13:15]:
Yeah. And you bring something to the table.

Carole Joy Seid [00:13:17]:
Yeah.

Dave Inserra [00:13:17]:
It's not just what you get from it. They want you there because you're part of it. So they want your personality there. They Want your gifts there, and they want your stories and

they want your presence. So, yes, we're receiving from it. It's gonna. You're gonna be blessed by your family being there, but also you bring something to it. So it's not just what can the church do? It's kind of go, John F.

Dave Inserra [00:13:34]:
Kennedy. What can your country can do for you? It's what your church can do for you, but also what you can do for your local church. It's both of those things. And you're not going to Omaha for the family reunion. Both those things are being missed out. What you bring to the table and, and what you receive from it.

Carole Joy Seid [00:13:49]:
And let's camp on what you were just saying, because this is something I say, everyone I disciple, because I was taught this as a new believer. When you walk into church, ask the Lord, who can I be a blessing to? Who needs prayer? Who needs me to sit with them? Who needs me to introduce them to people instead of, well, nobody said hello to me and I'm not going back, or nobody paid attention or blah, blah, blah. Same thing in youth group. As you said, saying to your kids, why don't you pray about who you're going to bring to youth group? And then you've got somebody there that you know, and why don't you reach out, introducing that friend to other people there instead of it being all about me? Like, church isn't all about me, is it?

Dave Inserra [00:14:31]:
No. And it's. We. We say that a person standing alone is a state of emergency.

Carole Joy Seid [00:14:35]:
Amen.

Dave Inserra [00:14:36]:
You know, and. And also we're also teaching kids, being missional in that context. And I want to just give an encouragement to the homeschool community. Like being a part of a cohort once a week, that's not enough. I mean, like, if anyone should even see more than need, you know, for. For your kid. Yeah, you have your sports teams and things like that. But to be a part of a spiritual community outside of the, of the regular rhythm of the homeschool calendar, it should.

Dave Inserra [00:14:58]:
It should be our listeners today that they know. Like, we want our. We got our kids to go be a part of this and take what they're learning at home and go apply it into this context.

Carole Joy Seid [00:15:06]:
And yeah, and I would say that the church is even more important to a homeschooler, and that was the case for my son, is that these were his mother's fathers, uncles, aunties, grandparents, cousins, big brothers and sisters. The church becomes so much a part. It is your peer group, it is your social life, and it should be absolutely.

Dave Inserra [00:15:31]:
Like, it is not in a shelter way in a. Here's what I call. I've used this language at our church lately, a good echo chamber. And what do I mean by that? The phrase the term echo chambers really frowned upon in our culture today. Oh, you know, you're just in an echo chamber. You're just in an echo chamber. Well, that should not be our exclusive world. But in this discouraging world, the secular world, this godless world where so much messaging is coming out as 100 different directions, that is not of the Lord.

Dave Inserra [00:15:56]:
We need to gather together and have a good echo chamber where I realize I'm not crazy. There are people who also believe that Jesus rose from the grave and it matters to their life. You know, like, I need that. And so. And that needs to be out. Not just your family, that needs to extend outside your family. And I think it's great for, for your kids to be able to show up at a local, their local church regularly. Go, wow, look at these college kids who think it's okay to follow Jesus.

Dave Inserra [00:16:19]:
You know, look, look at this, look at this family over here that, like, we're okay. My parents aren't crazy either. You know, like, this is not just our thing. This is bigger than that. It's just again, there's so many benefits as well. It's God. Of course. God knew what he was doing.

Dave Inserra [00:16:32]:
This is what he gave us, right? So who are we to say, God, I know you gave us this, but I don't think my family needs it. Who am I to say that that's gutsy, right?

Carole Joy Seid [00:16:43]:
Is what it is. There are so. There's such protection in being part of the body. It's being under an umbrella. It's being under covering, it's being accountable. It's being corrected. Like, you know, if I'm just me, myself and I, I feel like I'm doing great. I am a rock star.

Carole Joy Seid [00:17:03]:

But as soon as I come under the word of God, I'm being corrected, I'm being rebuked. I mean, that's what Timothy says, the word of God is for those purposes. And it's.

Dave Inserra [00:17:13]:
Yeah, could you imagine Paul writing that letter to Timothy and saying, hey, I have some instructions. But, you know, it doesn't really matter because all that really matters is your own personal relationship with Jesus. So we're not going to talk about it? Come on. I mean, it's just not. That's just not reality. That's not what God's given us to the church. And so I just want to see people say, this is going to matter to our family. It's going to be a priority in our life.

Dave Inserra [00:17:34]:
We call it a Saturday night decision. Sunday morning church, the Saturday night decision, where, you know. But you know, before you go to bed, hey, you know, we're going to church tomorrow. Just everybody knows we're going. You know who gets to the point where if you don't go, the kids think it's weird. They go, wait, we're not going to church today. What's going on?

Carole Joy Seid [00:17:48]:
Okay, but may I even say it isn't, are we going to church? It would be like saying, are we brushing our teeth tomorrow?

Dave Inserra [00:17:57]:
Yes. For a Christian, that should be normal.

Carole Joy Seid [00:17:59]:
Absolutely. And I tell everyone I mentor this. It's like, we don't get up in the morning on Sunday and say, should we go to church? That is not a decision any more than brushing your teeth is. Christians go to church. It's the gathering. It's the ecclesia.

Dave Inserra [00:18:14]:
Absolutely. You said it perfectly. I'm with you 100%.

Carole Joy Seid [00:18:17]:
I love it. It's too bad we don't agree on anything. So talk about choosing a church. Well, first of all, there's two things I want to talk about. One, talk to me about not having the pastor for lunch. Do you know what I mean by that? It's an old phrase that means that you analyze, critique, judge. Right, okay.

Dave Inserra [00:18:38]:

Yeah.

Carole Joy Seid [00:18:39]:
That makes me physically ill when I see families do that that I'm with, and it hasn't happened in years, but I used to know a family that would critique and analyze and criticize the sermon and the church every Sunday at church. I mean, every Sunday afternoon after church. And I would just get so angry and so grieved. Tell me about how we teach our children to love our pastor, to pray for them, to pray for our leadership, to honor them, starting with mom and dad honoring them and then the children being raised to do the same.

Dave Inserra [00:19:12]:
Well, yeah, I appreciate you asking that question, actually. I think first we need to realize that if there was a perfect church this side of heaven, it wouldn't be anymore once you showed up. Right. So. Because it just doesn't exist. So the human side of things just really matters. And God gave us. God didn't give us our churches for us to sit around and just critique them all the time.

Dave Inserra [00:19:32]:
There's false teaching going on. That's a different kind of conversation. That's not a lunch conversation. That's like a church elders or church board, every church functions kind of conversation. But, yeah, but we don't want the kids to see that as a negative place. So don't start putting in their mind negative thoughts about the church. And also, it's so easy to become cynical in our culture and become just so critical in our culture. And the place where you should be able to be guarded from that is your local church, your expectations need to lower.

Dave Inserra [00:19:59]:
And by that, not for people to live lives that honor Jesus. Not those kind of things, but what you expect the church to be. You know, it's imperfect. People coming together to exalt a perfect Christ, folks trying to live on mission together and, you know, in holiness and live their lives for Jesus. But just. I would just say just be really careful about that. I had someone, actually, my. My counselor had a conversation or a counseling session.

Dave Inserra [00:20:20]:
You know what he told me? He told me, it's like a month ago. He said, you know what, Dean? Everybody wants their pastor to be normal until he is. You know, and that's really true. And it's a lot of times pastors get criticized because they're just regular, normal people. When on the other side, you're like, oh, well, you know, he's just so, like, kind of ivory tower, and he's not accessible and not approachable and all these

kind of things, then they become more normal, more. And then it's like, oh, well, you know, I think he's just kind of. This kind of. I would just.

Dave Inserra [00:20:49]:
Again, they know they're not perfect. That's why they preach the gospel. Right? So I would just say just to guard your mind from cynicism and from critique, because that's everywhere else in our culture. The church shouldn't be the same way. We must be different.

Carole Joy Seid [00:21:00]:
That's right, Dean, because love covers a multitude of sins, and we want to honor our pastors. And the Bible is very clear about that, that we're to honor those in leadership and that give and feed us the word of God, honor them in every way we can, and pray for them. You know, I love the tradition of praying for your church at every meal, for your pastor, praying for your church at every meal, where your children know that you're in partnership and you're honoring those in authority and blessing them.

Dave Inserra [00:21:34]:
And here's what you just. And here's what you just said there. I don't know if you. I'm sure you realize that what you just said was in having something like that, that sounds so simple, like including your church and your prayers, you declare it to be a regular rhythm in our lives, but the church is part of our lives. So it is on our mind at dinner when we pray and like. And that's just again, sadly, again, that's so Christian normal. But sadly, that's become unique. And.

Dave Inserra [00:21:58]:
But here's the good news though. It's not too late to change that trend for your family, you know, to say, hey, this is who we're going to be. Maybe, maybe you need to publicly, not publicly, but apologize to somebody in private. Maybe you need to talk to some, some friends in the church and go, I'm sorry that we've not been a part of this. I'm sorry that we've been MIA like, we just. I give you 100 excuses, but we realize that we've been wrong and it's.

Carole Joy Seid [00:22:16]:
Time that you think amen and not be consumers but be part of the solution. If you're like, children's ministry is weak, really well, then why don't you come up with some better options and are you volunteering? You know, like that it's just a change heart where you have ownership. It's like you're not renting. You own, you know, Own.

Dave Inserra [00:22:40]:

Yeah, absolutely. I know churches that call their members owners.

Carole Joy Seid [00:22:43]:
Oh, that's good. I love that because.

Dave Inserra [00:22:45]:
Because you're at a gym and the treadmill breaks, you go tell somebody. If you own it, you gotta fix it. So when Jesus owns, Jesus owns the church, but we're little mini owners next to him, you know, as his co laborers. So. Yeah.

Carole Joy Seid [00:23:00]:
All right, now let's talk. Last thing I want to talk about is choosing a church that your children love. I work as a consultant with families and I say to them, I would take a helicopter to get my child to a church they want to attend. And where the Lord is really moving in the youth. And so it might not even be the church we go to on Sunday. Maybe they don't even have a youth group. Some people go to very small churches. But I'm like, you get your children under the spout where the glory comes out.

Carole Joy Seid [00:23:27]:
So talk about choosing a church where your children encounter the living Christ.

Dave Inserra [00:23:32]:
Yeah. And there's different opinions on that, about how family worship supposed to happen and those type of things. I'm in your camp. Number one thing is I would want someone to be at the same youth ministry and kids ministry as they are churches on Sunday in general. I think that's how we can prevent kind of some consumer stuff. So we walk a fine line there because we don't want to create little consumers. But at the same time we want a church they enjoy. Right.

Dave Inserra [00:23:53]:
So at this time in our cultural moment where kids are maybe disillusioned with. Just think it's boring, whatever it could be. That should be a crime in our churches if kids are bored and don't like our churches. So when choosing a church, I always say, what do they believe? That that's number one, the most important thing. Number two, what are they doing with what they believe? Are they just a holy huddle? Are they actually like on mission together? And the third thing would. I want to invite my friend who's not a believer here. And I think the kid category fits under number three.

Carole Joy Seid [00:24:25]:
Yeah.

Dave Inserra [00:24:25]:
You know, because they might be a believer by now, but like, this is their. This is what they're going to know as a kid. This is going to be their church experience. So they're going to see the local church as lame, out of touch, not worth their time, boring, roll their eyes, you know, color in their bulletin, whatever the whole time. Or they going to see it as I cannot wait to go. Like, I love my kids love going to our church. And yeah, and so we take kids ministry really seriously. We don't do that everybody in church together thing now if they want.

Dave Inserra [00:24:50]:
If people want to, of course they can. There's no rules about that. We have a dynamic children's ministry that exists the exact same time that our worship services happening. We have middle school, high school ministry. It's dynamic and we care about it a ton because we responsibly the next generation. So I would say, you know, really, what does it look like the church you're at right now? The kids aren't excited about it. Maybe you have some hard conversations with the leadership there, but what could happen and what your dreams could be for that church. But I would say that it's worth finding a church that your kids are going to be excited about and because one, most importantly, because what they believe, but also because what they do for children that matters, it just does.

Dave Inserra [00:25:25]:
Like, we have one shot, right? I mean, this is the one window. And so let's make sure something they're thrilled about.

Carole Joy Seid [00:25:31]:
Yeah. Sometimes I work with families and they're in grandma's church or they're. And I'm like, well, you know, that's fine. But your children are your priority. You're going to stand before God and you're going to answer to him for what you did with these, the discipleship of your children. You may have to give up the church you want to go to where you just feel comfortable and you grow up or whatever to be at a place where your Children's needs are going to be met. Put that first when they're grown. You can go to church anywhere you want.

Dave Inserra [00:25:58]:
Totally.

Carole Joy Seid [00:25:59]:
It's a priority.

Dave Inserra [00:26:00]:
We're still on the same page.

Carole Joy Seid [00:26:03]:
We're twins, separated from birth. Dean, would you close us in prayer?

Dave Inserra [00:26:08]:
I'd be glad to.

Carole Joy Seid [00:26:09]:
Thank you.

Dave Inserra [00:26:10]:
Yeah. Let's pray. Father, I thank you for this, this podcast that I can be a blessing to many people. I thank you for 127, I think it was, episodes that just your grace and just you using this. So we just ask for more and that you increase it to bless others, to help make disciples through this context. And I just thank you for the local church, this gift that you've given us. And I thank you that we were purchased, we were redeemed to be a part of it. So I will take that seriously, that what you have designed, that we will make a priority in our lives and maybe for those who have kind of shied away or have gotten just out of the habit, whatever it could be, teach us good habits, teach us good routines.

Dave Inserra [00:26:45]:
We know that oftentimes through the routine is where true disciples are made. And I just ask that those that maybe have wandered away will come back and then our churches will be dynamic because we want to be vibrant churches for our communities that point people to Jesus, the good news of the gospel, and your plan for us as believers united together at churches. So again, we ask that you bless the hearers of this message, this conversation. I thank you for it and allow us to be found faithful. We're thankful for Jesus. Name, we pray. Amen.

Rachel Winchester [00:27:11]:
You've been listening to the Homeschool Made simple podcast. If you like what you heard in this episode, please leave a rating and review on Apple Podcasts or Spotify or share this episode with a friend. It means so much when you help us spread the message of Homeschool Made simple with others. Thanks for joining us this week on the Homeschool Made simple simple podcast. Remember, Jesus's commandments are not burdensome. What he calls you to do, he will enable you to do. Blessings.