

Classical Conversations

# Morning Time Plans

## Cycle 1



Copyright © 2018 by Andie Davidson

All Rights Reserved

The purchaser may print a copy of this work for their own personal use. Otherwise, no part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted without prior written permission of the publisher, except by a reviewer, who may quote brief passages in a review.

For written permission contact [davidson@frontier.net](mailto:davidson@frontier.net)

# Thank you for purchasing our Morning Time Plans for Cycle 1!

Hello! My name is Andie Davidson and I am the blessed and busy mama of 8 kids from ages five to eighteen. We have been a part of Classical Conversations for six years and it is my deep heart's desire to encourage and equip homeschooling moms like myself. For that reason, I created these Morning Time plans to go along with Cycle 1. In order for this eBook to be the most useful for you, you must own a Foundations Guide where you will find the memory work and weekly plans for Cycle 1. This eBook is created to go along with the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the guide but it will work with previous editions as well. It is also helpful, but not necessary, to be a subscriber to CC Connected as found at [www.ClassicalConversations.com](http://www.ClassicalConversations.com).

You will find that much of the methodology encouraged in this eBook comes from the Charlotte Mason method of education. It is my firm belief that Classical Conversations and Charlotte Mason principles work quite well together and offer both the educator and the student the best chance at a peaceful and Spirit-inspired learning process. If you are unfamiliar with this method, please take some time to read this article:

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/what-is-the-charlotte-mason-method/>

If Morning Time is a new concept for you, I recommend you start by reading the article found at this link: <https://edsnapshots.com/morning-time-and-how-it-can-change-your-homeschool/>. Our family has been using a version of Morning Time for many years now and I have compiled the resources in this eBook to help you have a peaceful and successful homeschool year of discipleship with your children. Feel free to add to what I offer here or simplify it according to the needs and desires of your family. While there are seven components to morning time in this eBook (Faith Study, History Read-Alouds, Poetry, Artist Picture Study, Math Games, Shakespeare, and Memory Work Review Games), you will not be doing all seven each day. You will notice there is a planning template for you to decide how to spread out the work to meet your family's needs. As a firm believer in the principle 'Multum non Multa' meaning 'much not many' or 'less is more', I have intentionally made these plans very attainable for the average family. In addition to an hour-ish morning time, I have my kids spend 45 minutes on their Language program (Explode the Code for kids under 9 and Essentials for kids over 9) and 45 minutes on their math curriculum - THAT IS IT! The rest of our day is spent exploring learning in non-traditional ways such as individual reading, nature study, gatherings with friends, field trips, hand crafts, spending time with grandparents, etc. Of course, my Challenge-aged students spend more time on school work than that, but they are always welcome to join us for Morning Time. Sometimes they do and sometimes they do not. My hope is that after a small investment of just a few hours of reading and printing this eBook and creating your binder, you will feel equipped and excited about the learning adventure that this new school year brings!

Blessings in Jesus,  
Andie Davidson





Please check out our other printable Bible studies, resources, and freebies by Quiet Times for Kids!

[www.QuietTimesForKids.com](http://www.QuietTimesForKids.com)



Quiet Times for Kids  
Bible studies your children will love!



## Table of Contents

Printing Instructions.....	6
How to Assemble Your Binder.....	8
Tips for Training Toddlers.....	10
Why Morning Time Might Not Work for You.....	12
Prayer Guide.....	14
Morning Time Mottos .....	25
Picture Study.....	26
Faith Study.....	46
Printable Booklist.....	47
Poetry Plan.....	48
Math Games.....	55
Shakespeare.....	59
Weekly Plans.....	63
Weekly Template.....	67
Ways to integrate N.A.M.E.S.....	68
Memory Work Games.....	69
Essentials Review Ideas for Morning Time.....	70
Question Asking Guide for Moms and Dads.....	72
Ideas for Keeping Hands Busy in Morning Time.....	74
Podcasts in Morning Time.....	75
Afternoon Nature Study Tips .....	76
Encouraging Resources.....	78
Ten Commandments of Homeschooling.....	79
Narration Helps.....	80
Frequently Asked Questions .....	81

# Printing Instructions

My first piece of advice for you regarding printing is to consider purchasing a HP Printer with and Instant Ink subscription. I can't believe I spent a decade as a homeschooler without this invaluable service! I pay a flat fee each month for 300 pages and ink cartridges are automatically shipped to me when the printer runs low. And best of all, color copies are the same cost as black and white! You can find out more here: <https://instantink.hpconnected.com/us/en/r>

Likely it is best to simply print out this whole eBook and create a Morning Time Binder to store it all in with the following dividers in this order: Weekly Plan, Faith Study, Picture Study, Poetry Plan, Math Activities, and Shakespeare. I also recommend that you laminate the Prayer Cards and the Artist pictures for your Picture Study. It is the best practice to have a copy of the paintings for each child as you will get the most out of the process this way. I know it may seem like a lot to print but trying to do a picture study while sharing the picture with multiple kids takes all the truth, beauty, and goodness right out of it! Trust me, I am speaking from experience ;)

You will notice that there is a simple weekly plan based on the 24 weeks of Cycle 1 as well as a blank template for you to create a more detailed weekly plan for your family if the simple version is too basic for you or if you wish to add in more elements to your Morning Time. If you wish to use the weekly plan template you should print out 24 copies, one for each week, it is found on page 58. Notice there is room to add any additional studies such as nature study, catechism, science, hymn study, scripture memory, math computation, Language Arts, Phonics, or Essentials work.

## Printing at Office Depot or Staples

If you prefer not to print this ebook at home, you could simply have it sent to your local office supply store to have it printed. I emailed it to my local Office Depot, showed them the Classical Conversations discount card (shown below) and was able to print the whole document in color for only \$16.00, which was nearly 75% off the retail price! I know Staples also offers a discount so you could ask your director or the CC Facebook page for that information since I do not have a local Staples store.



## A note About Presentations & Printing

Getting 8 kids ready for a CC Community day has proven to be one of the greatest tests of my sanctification yet! I can't tell you how many times a child asked me what they should do for their presentation as we are walking out the door - I am sure you have had a similar experience! Well, the content of this eBook will provide you countless ideas for Community Day presentations. They can do reports on the books you read aloud, they could recite a poem you learned, they could present a picture study on one of the artists, or they could retell a Shakespeare play you studied. Being generous with the printing can be helpful for presentations by giving your student their own copy of a poem, artist print, or a Shakespeare quote. Here's to a more peaceful year getting out the door on community day!

## Multiple Copies

There are a few things in this document of which you might want multiple copies. I recommend that you print a copy of the Artist Pictures on page 28-45 for each child. I know it is an initial investment of ink, but I believe the rewards pay off when each child can really look at, observe, and discuss the picture without having to share with a sibling. After using the discount at Office Depot, a color copy costs about two cents each so the investment is well worth the pay off. The second thing that I recommend you make multiple copies of is the Ultimate Tic Tac Toe board, you will need one board for every two players. If you choose to use the Weekly Planning Template to create a detailed plan each week (which I do not - I just use the quarter-at-a-glance plan and wing the rest) then you will want 24 pages of page 67 for the 24 weeks of CC. Print a few copies of the Five Common Topic chart on page 73 as well. The final page that needs multiple copies is the Scripture Memory Work found on page 24. I keep a copy in the car for review on the road and a copy under the table runner at the dinner table for meal time review.

## One Final Recommendation...

There is a book that has truly changed my life that I would be remiss if I didn't share with you. It is called *Miracle Mornings* by Hal Enrod. I have never been considered a "morning person" by anyone who knows me but I must say, this book totally changed me and I now consider myself a morning person. The book is so much more than just a self-help book on how to wake up early. It is a systemized plan to craft the life you desire by setting goals, inviting accountability, taking responsibility for your life and learning the disciplines that bring true fulfillment. Please consider reading it and join the Miracle Morning community on Facebook as well!

# How to Assemble Your Morning Time Basket & Binder

I recommend you use a 1-inch binder to store your Morning Time Plans. You will also need to purchase 8 Tabbed folder dividers. You can insert page one of this document as the cover for your divider and use the long, narrow image to insert in the spine of the binder. Here is a description of the eight tabs you will label:

## Binder Tab Label Explanations:

1. **Weekly Plan** - Keep your weekly plans here. You can either use the 'Quarter-at-a-glance' weekly plan pages (page 63-66) or you can use the week at a glance template (page 67) to fill in your own plan if you are one who likes to detail out each week.
2. **Faith Study** - This section will contain any hymns you would like to sing (such as the one found on page 23, scripture memory plan your family is working on or the one on page 24, any catechism questions your family does, and Morning Time Mottos found on page 25. In the folder of this tab you will want to store the Prayer Cards on pages 15-22.
3. **Picture Study** - this contains the 'Picture Study Questions to Ask' on page 27 and copies of the pictures we are studying in the folder of this tab. I recommend multiple prints if you have multiple children and laminating will make them last a lot longer as well.
4. **Shakespeare & Poetry** - this contains the Shakespeare quotes you will memorize and the 6 poems as well. You should also include the 5 Step Plan to Digging into Shakespeare found on page 59.
5. **Math Games** - this contains ideas for card and dice math games found on page 55. In the folder of this tab you should include the laminated Ultimate Tic Tac Toe boards found on pages 56-58.
6. **Review Games** - this section contains the memory work games found on page 69 and the Essentials memory work review ideas on page 70-71 along with copies of the Essentials grammar charts.
7. **Cycle 1 Memory Work Pages** - Make copies of the Subject Summary pages on page 58-71 of the new Foundations Guide (or pages 58-68 on the old 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Foundations Guide). You may also want to make a copy of the 'Year at a Glance' page found on page 33 of the new guide.
8. **Narration Helps** - I encourage you to do narrations after history read-alouds, poetry, Shakespeare, picture studies, and even math! This section contains helps to get the conversation going and give ideas for questions. Print out page 80 and put it in this section. Get to know these questions very well and you will enjoy hours of great conversation with your kids!

## Additional Ideas:

- Current & Future Ideas - I am always reading and listening to great podcasts on Morning Time (like Your Morning Basket!) so I have loads of new ideas brewing. I keep those ideas on a page labeled 'Current & Future Ideas' and slip it in the back cover of the binder.
- Laminated Blank White Cardstock - I store a few of these in the front pocket cover of the binder to use as white boards for math and review games if needed.

Pictures - Here are the items I purchased to set up our Morning Time Basket and Binder and I keep them in our Morning Time corner in our family room:



Rurality  
**RURALITY Wicker Woven Picnic Basket with Double Folding Handles**  
★★★★☆ 5 customer reviews

Price: **\$26.40** ✓prime

Get \$70 off instantly: Pay \$0.00 upon approval for the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Card.

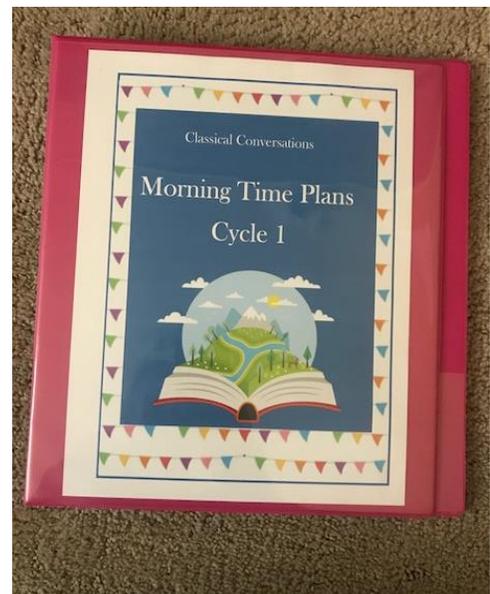
**Only 15 left in stock - order soon.**

**Want it Thursday, April 26?** Order within **2 hrs 35 mins** and choose **Two-Day Shipping** at checkout. Details  
Sold by RURALITY and Fulfilled by Amazon. Gift-wrap available.

- Made of natural wicker
- Cotton liner can be removed and washed
- Folding handles
- Suitable as picnic basket, fruits basket, shopping basket and so on
- Approx dimensions: L 15" X W 11" X H 7" (height not included handle)

**New (1)** from **\$26.40** ✓prime

Report incorrect product information.



The basket on the left is our Morning Time Basket, the one on the right is our library book basket for our independent reading time in the afternoon.

# Tips for Training Toddlers to Be in Morning Time

How do you deal with your toddlers in Morning Time? Now that is a good question! My youngest 6 children were born within 7 years (and I had two older kids whom I was already trying to consistently homeschool during that season) so I know all about homeschooling with babies and toddlers underfoot! I will say that lack of consistent obedience and habit training will quickly sabotage your plans for a peaceful and rich Morning Time with your older children. Some parents choose to do a later Morning Time when the littlest are down for a nap, which can be very helpful. However, investing in your child training so that your toddler can learn the habits of obedience and self-control will produce fruit that will bless you and your family in countless ways.

I speak from experience, it is entirely possible for your toddler to learn the self-control to sit quietly (with a snack and some quiet toys) for 45 minutes to an hour while you enjoy Morning Time with your children. There is no secret trick or magic method that will accomplish this, just good old-fashioned discipline and consistency. ***My biggest piece of advice is to train towards this behavior long before you need it.*** If you plan to begin Morning Time with your kids on August 1<sup>st</sup>, then your toddler training program should begin July 1<sup>st</sup>. Start small with 5-10 minute increments. Choose a place with clear boundaries such as a rug on the floor, a large arm chair, a play pen, or a highchair for children over a year old. For infants under a year old, I would have them sit on my lap or in a booster seat (with a seat belt preferably) and consider it 'lap training'. Explain to the child that you want them to play quietly and after 5-10 minutes, they will be given their snack. Make sure you are setting aside all distractions so that you can focus on your child's training exclusively. Explain clearly where you want them to sit and set a timer that they can see for the amount of time you expect them to sit still and play with their quiet toy or book. When the timer goes off, praise them excitedly and reward them with their snack. If they choose to be loud or refuse to stay in the place you have asked them, give them a verbal reproof and explain what you expect again. After you are confident they understand what is expected, if they choose to disobey or refuse to practice the habit of self-control, you can give a small flick on the hand or even a light swat. Now I know some families may be against all forms of physical discipline. While it will be much harder to instill the habits of obedience and self-control, it is still possible to train towards that end without physical consequences. After they are consistent at 10 minutes of self-control, slowly raise it by increments of 5 until you have reached a full hour.

In our family we also used times of watching a movie, extended meal times, and family worship to train the habit of sitting still. I promise, as hard as it may be to believe, it is possible for your baby or toddler to sit still in an area designated by you and quietly play for up to an hour. In more extreme cases, you can even bring a car seat into the living room and buckle your child into it and use that to train self-control. Of course, the goal is that your child would learn to exercise internal restraint towards self-control but until they can be governed by internal restraint, a car seat can provide external restraint. Once you have trained towards this end, you will reap the benefits when you are at church, the doctor's office, or anywhere else you need your little one to be still! When I had multiple toddlers to manage during our Morning Time I would set up a few 'quiet spaces' in your living room and use them as stations. For example, I would have a play pen, a

high chair, and an arm chair and train each toddler to entertain themselves contentedly for 20- 30 minutes at each. Then I would rotate through the stations to give the children some variety. I know the initial investment of training is a lot of hard work, but the payoff is huge and so worth the effort because it allowed me focused time with the older children. It truly is not just a gift to the toddler to train them in self-control and obedience, but a gift of love towards the other children as well as they benefit from the peace it brings to the home. Please consider Charlotte Mason's words on this issue, read each word very carefully and let it sink in if you want to experience 'smooth and easy days' in your home...

*"The mother's great stronghold is in the habit of obedience. If she begins by requiring that her children always obey her, why, they will always do so as a matter of course; but let them once get the thin end of the wedge in, let them discover that they can do otherwise than obey, and a woeful struggle begins, which commonly ends in the children doing that which is right in their own eyes.*

The mother who takes pains to endow her children with good habits  
secures for herself smooth and easy days."

-Charlotte Mason

"Every day, every hour, the parents are either passively or actively forming those habits in their children upon which, more than upon anything else, future character and conduct depend...

What you would have the man become, that you must train the child to be."

- Charlotte Mason

# Why Morning Time Might Not Work for You

## 6 Problems that may Sabotage your Morning Time

While I love the idea and results of Morning Time, I know that is truly is not for everyone. There are those families who have a different vision for their homeschool, and that is ok. But there are also many families that love the vision of Morning Time but they are simply unable to implement it in their home in a successful way. I would like to offer my thoughts as to what causes Morning Time to not work for some families. It is for one of these six reasons, please read the following sentences very carefully:

- **Since education is a discipline, an atmosphere and a lifestyle of ideas Morning Time can be sabotaged if one of these three ingredients are missing. These three problems are primarily in the heart of the parent:**

**Problem #1** | A discipline problem - A parent who has not built up the fruit of discipline in their own life will prove to be an obstacle to a successful Morning Time

**Problem #2** | An atmosphere problem- A parent who has not taken authority over the environment of the home by allowing outside influences, media, excessive screen time, lack of organization and order will prove to be an obstacle to a successful Morning Time due to the atmosphere of chaos and distraction.

**Problem #3** | A lifestyle problem - A parent who has not intentionally crafted their lifestyle and instead runs ragged to too many outside activities and is physically exhausted will prove to be an obstacle to a successful Morning Time.

- **Since the three most important habits for any child to learn are obedience, attention and self-control, Morning time can be sabotaged when any one of these habits was not trained or instilled by the parents. These three problems are primarily in the heart of the child:**

**Problem #4** | An obedience problem - A child who is not characterized by obedience to their parents and other rightful authorities will cause many problems in Morning Time.

**Problem #5** | An attention problem - A child who has not been trained in the habit of attention will struggle to give attention in Morning Time and will prove to be a great distraction to themselves and others.

**Problem #6** | A self-control problem - A child who has not gained self-control will struggle to discipline their mind and actions to focus and do the hard work of learning.

“Education is a discipline—that is, the discipline of the good habits in which the child is trained. Education is a life, nourished upon ideas; and education is an atmosphere—that is, the child breathes the atmosphere emanating from his parents; that of the ideas which rule their own lives”  
Charlotte Mason

You may identify with one of those problems, or all six! It is not meant to be a discouragement to you but rather a tool to help you evaluate where areas of potential growth are needed. Please take the time to pray over all six of those problems and rate them in the order you need to prioritize them. I encourage you to share your thoughts with a friend or spouse and brainstorm ways you and your children can grow in those areas by creating goals in each area.

After nearly 15 years of homeschooling, I have seen all six of those problems at work in my life but I have also seen the Holy Spirit respond to my cries for help with power to change and grow. I know that growth can come at a very discouragingly slow rate but I encourage you to be patient with the process of sanctification in your own life.

I would like to recommend some resources that have proven helpful to me in these areas. My biggest recommendation for the parents growth in the personal discipline, atmosphere, lifestyle area is *Miracle Mornings* by Hal Enrod. I do not exaggerate at all to say this book has greatly changed my mornings and personal disciplines. I also recommend *Hello Mornings* by Kat Lee. Both authors have podcasts I highly recommend as well.

Regarding resources for your child's growth in obedience, attention, and self-control, I strongly recommend the book *Raising Godly Tomatoes* by Elizabeth Krueger and *Shepherding Your Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp. Both of those books have shaped my understanding and success in early child training greatly.

While books can be super helpful, it is also very important that you learn and grow in the context of mentoring and relationship. I strongly encourage you to reach out to an older believer in your community of faith and ask them to help mentor you in these areas.

# Prayer Guide & Ideas for Morning Time Prayer

Prayer ought to be a vital part of your Morning Time with your children. There are many ways you can incorporate prayer in your homeschool day but I want to offer you three to consider:

1. Purchase a simple journal and begin the habit of writing down requests and the date. As you see God answering the prayers, highlight the request. Remembering the providences of the Lord increases our faith and the faith of our kids.
2. Print the following pages A.C.T.S. prayer pages and laminate. This is a simple way to remember the four vital elements to prayer. As you begin to pray, sit in a circle with your kids and place the first card (Adoration) on the floor in the middle and use the prayer helps listed on the card to offer short 'popcorn' prayers. After a couple minutes, switch to the next card (Confession), placing it on the floor in the middle and offering short prayers of confession and repentance. Move through the Thanksgiving and Supplication cards in the same way. It may take a few times to teach your kids to be comfortable with this type of variety in their prayer life but it will be well worth the effort!
3. Print out the Days of the Week Prayer guide as found on page 12. Let the topic for that day guide you in who you should be praying for when you use the Supplication prayer card.
4. Pray the Psalms. Use scripture as a guide on what to pray by replacing the pronouns with specific loved ones and letting the themes found in each chapter guide the themes of your prayers. (See the Psalm Prayer Cards.)

# Printable Book List

## History Read-Alouds

I have chosen 11 read-alouds that loosely correlate with the history sentences as well as the IEW History Based Writing Lessons. The goal is to read a book every 3 weeks, completing two each quarter. These books can be read either during Morning Time or in the evening when dad is home. If you have already read some of these books or want to read more than one every three weeks, check out this link for more suggestions: <http://pocketsfullofrocks.com/2014/05/book-list-for-cc-cycle-3/> I have intentionally kept the reading goals minimal and attainable because I truly believe in the principal of 'Multum non Multa' meaning much not many or less is more. Better to read 8 books this year and read them well, taking it all in slowly than to fly through 20 books.

- The Priest with Dirty Clothes by R.C. Sproul
- Greek Myths for Young Children by Heather Amery
- Twice Freed by Patricia St. John
- The Children's Homer by Padraic Colum
- Little Pear by Elenore Francis Lattimore
- The Samurai's Tale by Erik Haugaard
- Shadow Spinner by Susan Fletcher
- A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park
- Naya Nuki: Shoshoni Girl Who Ran by Kenneth Thomasma
- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
- Jim Elliott: One Great Purpose (Christian Heroes Then & Now) by Janet Bengtson

## Faith Study

Here are suggestions based on the Protestant tradition, feel free to make adjustments if you are coming from another perspective.

- Discovering Jesus in Genesis by Susan Hunt
- God's Names (Children Desiring God) by Sally Michael
- Practical Happiness by Bob Schultz
- One Year of Dinner Table Devotions and Discussion Starters by Nancy Guthrie

## Shakespeare & Fine Art

If you are trying to save money, it is not necessary to purchase these specific books as you can easily find good alternatives at your local library however, if you prefer to own the books, here are some good suggestions.

- Shakespeare 16 Books Children's Story Collection Set By Tony Ross
- [Michelangelo for Kids: His Life and Ideas, with 21 Activities \(For Kids series\)](#) by [Simonetta Carr](#)
- [Giotto: The Founder of Renaissance Art--His Life in Paintings](#) by DK Publishing
- [Great Artists, Vol 1.: Raphael, Rubens, Murillo, and Durer\(illustrated\)](#) by Jennie Ellis Keysor and Joe Reese

## Math & Review Games

A couple of these suggestions are books and a couple are inexpensive dice games I recommend.

- Quick Flip Arithmetic by Classical Conversations MultiMedia
- Mega-Fun Card-Game Math by [Karol L. Yeatts](#)
- Math Dice Chase Action Game by [Think Fun](#)
- Think Fun Math Dice by [Think Fun](#)
- Bedtime Math by Laura Overdeck
- Penrose the Mathematical Cat by Theoni Pappas

## Nature Study Resources

- Pocket full of Pinecones by Karen Andreola
- Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
- One Small Square Series by Donald M. Silver

## Personal Growth Resources

- Miracle Mornings by Hal Enrod.
- Hello Mornings by Kat Lee.
- Raising Godly Tomatoes by Elizabeth Krueger
- Shepherding Your Child's heart by Tedd Tripp.

NOTE - Every book mentioned in this ebook is on this master Printable Book List