

**How are tapestries made?** A weaver works from the back of her piece, never seeing the front. She typically works from a cartoon, or outline drawing. Usually, the colors she sees as she works, both in hue and amount, are the reverse of what they will be on the front of the work. Thus, when the weaver sees much dark color on her loom, very little of it will be seen in the finished work. Conversely, a little gold thread in the work as it appears on the loom can result in much gold visible in the finished work. Tapestries take a very long time to weave: usually years.

**How does that relate to me?** In many ways! It relates to your life as a Christian. You see “in a mirror darkly.” Much that appears dark or difficult in your life will result in blessing and reward in heaven, when perseverance has finished its work. You try to follow a pattern for your life, an outline, a “cartoon”—the Bible, which is your only authoritative guide. You live your life without seeing, at any time, the whole design or finished project. And it takes a long time for your life to be woven into the fabric of God’s gracious plan in the world.

As a home schooling mother raising children to the glory of God, we can worry that we are weaving all wrong. We can also wonder how today’s history lesson relates to today’s science reading and tomorrow’s writing lesson. What vocabulary should he learn, and how important is Latin after all? Some days, we feel like we’re progressing right along; other days we feel like dismal failures. Some days we’re aware of real progress in character development in our children; other days our own characters could use work!

The truth is that God is using *all* of our lives with our children: schoolwork, our example, our reactions to the influences of the world around us, interactions with those at our church and in our home school groups—all are being woven together in one magnificent tapestry of grace that we will only see when the whole work is finished and taken off the loom. Where does it say so in the Bible?

Romans 8:28 says:

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

And, Philippians 1:6 reminds us:

...He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

**How is this curriculum like a tapestry?** This program seeks to both discern the strands and patterns of the tapestry of time, and to help parents weave new sections of that tapestry—worldviews in their children’s minds that are solid and beautiful in God’s eyes.

Through the study and discussion of all aspects of history, we teach our children the facts, thoughts, and experiences of humankind past in an orderly progression, much as it unfolded. This framework gives an order to studies that encompasses all our children will need to learn. After all, everything we want to teach them happened *in history*—even Latin! We need not worry any more that we are missing crucial elements in our home school program because here we have an orderly plan that has a place for every discipline and every branch of knowledge.

## Why Tapestry?

The *Tapestry of Grace* curriculum provides detailed lesson and/or discussion plans for studying the histories of the world, the church, art, technology, science, government, and America. Correlated readings in world and American literature, and weekly vocabulary development, hands-on projects, group projects for co-ops, geography studies, and time line work solidify comprehension of each time period by providing interwoven content, context, and depth to the human experience. Because studying by this method is interesting to students, they begin to “own” their work, and they remember what they’ve learned. *Tapestry of Grace* offers an additional way for the student to interact with each week’s topic—a writing curriculum that is tied into the historical studies and builds skills cumulatively over 12 years. *Tapestry* is developing a reading plan for Science (but not detailed lesson plans) for grades K-8 that correlates with the 4 major subjects typically studied in High School: General Science,

Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. You will need to supplement *Tapestry of Grace* with the Math curricula of your choice, a simple phonics program for beginning readers, foreign language study, Science texts and a formal grammar curriculum. Latin and Logic are highly recommended for Jr. High students.

The *Tapestry* plans guide you in teaching literature (and, in High School, philosophy) while studying the history of the period it was penned or, with historical fiction, in the period it portrays, so your student can more easily remember both the literature and its historical setting. In discussing art, alternate religions, and philosophies, we try to understand why the worldviews of those who created and viewed these works were affected as they were. Through writing assignments, map work, time lines, character analyses, and hands-on projects, each week we interact with different strands of a single section of God’s tapestry of time, seeking to understand its intricacies and beauties, and always asking the question: what was God doing? And, how have these things affected us?

Ideally, you follow the 4-Year program through three times with each child. Each time students return to an era in history, they are 4 years older, and dig deeper into the meaning of the events they are studying until, finally, on the third pass, we help our children build solid worldviews of their own, based on a deep understanding of where their views come from and how the Bible relates to all of history. Interwoven with the strong beliefs they develop are the skills to communicate those beliefs effectively through writing and speaking. As your children grow, so will you! Preparing thoroughly only one topic per week for all of your children will free you to enjoy studying right along with them, and as you return to subjects in the rotation, your confidence and depth of knowledge will increase as well! Of course, not all children will get the chance to utilize all three rotations. That’s just fine! Without God guiding our efforts, none of them will please Him. Just one rotation, especially in High School, will thoroughly acquaint your child with his place in God’s tapestry of grace.

As 1 Thess. 5:24 reminds us:

The one who calls you is faithful and He will do it.

## How do I teach all this?

*Tapestry of Grace* was written by a busy mom of six children for all moms who want to give their children a quality, classical liberal arts education from a Christian perspective at home but lack confidence or knowledge of what to teach!

- ☑ EASY Planning: 4 steps weekly.
- ☑ All students study the same subject at their level each week. You prepare *once* for all lessons on all levels!
- ☑ Hold *meaty* discussions with all your students, most importantly your High Schoolers, using detailed Teacher's Notes that summarize, highlight, and bring biblical interpretation to the important information your child will learn in his independent reading. For High School level discussions, fully scripted questions and answers for literature, history, and church history are provided weekly.
- ☑ Teaches you how to encourage independent learning in your children, and from very young ages.
- ☑ LOTS of independent work (NOT busy work!) for students. You check their progress a few times weekly through discussion. This leaves *a lot of time* for moms to work one-on-one with youngest students!
- ☑ Record keeping is streamlined, complete, and mostly done by students. Creating High School transcripts is made simpler by this program.
- ☑ *Tapestry of Grace* plans are flexible: they provide 4 levels of study for each weekly topic-- Lower Grammar, Upper Grammar, Dialectic, and Rhetoric. If your child is a slow reader, have him read younger child assignments. If he's advanced, assign higher-level reading. You can vary his level week to week!
- ☑ The *Tapestry of Grace* High School selections are challenging enough for the brightest students; assignments include much material that is usually taught at the college level. The great news is that most High School home schoolers *enjoy* and benefit from this rigorous reading list. But, if your child's not up to reading, for example, Homer's *Odyssey*, alternate materials are suggested, such as audio tapes of this work, or simplified versions, such as *A Children's Homer*.
- ☑ *Tapestry of Grace* has proven successful in, and highly recommends, co-op settings. Meeting regularly with a few other families, you can share the teaching load, gifts, and talents. Plus, your older child can enjoy discussions and relationships usually found only in traditional classroom settings.

*Dear Reader,*

*As with all human endeavors, this work is the result of personal history. It is, more or less, the product of my journey with the Lord for over 20 years. All of us are in history; we are all making it this moment. History is HIS story of our lives, and the lives of many other people, all of whom He has created, called by name, and inter-woven over the centuries for His own purposes, to give Him glory. Truly, His work is a tapestry of grace!*

*My own history has included six children to raise and educate, three boys and three girls. It has included over a dozen years of home schooling. It has included running a home business while home schooling. It has seen involvement with, and a love for, the home schooling movement itself, with leadership and service to it. My struggles with the work that the Lord has asked of our family, and of me in particular, have all contributed to this program. My sins and His victories over those sins are reflected here, that I might comfort others with the comfort that I have been comforted with.*

*I see in all the above the wonderful out-working of His mighty hand, and am more convinced than ever that HISStory should be the central "rack" on which we "hang" our other home school subjects. I am thankful for it all: my history and everyone else's. I pray that the lessons I have learned may enable your walk to be richer, more satisfying, and yes, even a little easier! May God bless your home school days, and their fruit, as much as He has ours!*

*Thankfully, in Jesus,  
Marcia Somerville*

For more information, including release dates:

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Print samples from our informative web site!  
[www.TapestryOfGrace.com](http://www.TapestryOfGrace.com)

# TAPESTRY OF GRACE

An integrated curriculum  
arranged in 4 Year-Plans.

Each Year-Plan includes:

- ◆ Historical Readings
- ◆ Literature
- ◆ Writing Instruction
- ◆ Vocabulary
- ◆ Time Line
- ◆ Hands On Projects
- ◆ Group Activities
- ◆ Geography
- ◆ Government Studies
- ◆ Fine Arts Studies
- ◆ Church History
- ◆ Discussion Scripts
- ◆ Grades K-12

The Four Year-Plans Cover:

- ◆ Year 1: The Ancient World
- ◆ Year 2: Fall of Rome—  
Adoption of the US  
Constitution
- ◆ Year 3: The 1800s
- ◆ Year 4: The 1900s