

# The Source

I can do [everything] through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)

Catalogs surrounded me as I sat on the floor of our family room. ABeka, Sonlight, *Five in a Row*. Which curriculum should I buy? Though I had taught graduate and undergraduate journalism courses, being responsible for my daughter Lisa's education overwhelmed me. What did I know about teaching a five-year-old?

Yet my husband, Jim, and I had prayed, explored schools, and weighed the pros and cons of homeschooling an only child. It took more than a year before we were certain of God's leading.

The more I thought about homeschooling, the more I lay awake at night. What if I messed up her foundational years?

"Lord, I have no idea how to homeschool. Please help me," became my daily prayer.

Weeks later at church a sentence grasped my heart: "God *always* empowers you for the task he gives you." It reminded me of Philippians 4:13.

On our first day of school, Lisa slid her tiny hand into mine as we bowed in prayer. I knew then that Jesus would walk with us on this journey.

On our last day of school that year, as Lisa read aloud from her little Bible, I blinked back tears. Successfully homeschooling her hadn't rested on my academic qualifications and abilities, but on Jesus, my source.

That evening Lisa gasped when Jim handed her a certificate for completing kindergarten. Eyes sparkling, she refused to let it go until we promised to frame it. That certificate still has a place of pride in our home.

Every year since then, we've made our last school day special. It's a celebration of the end of a school year. And it's a celebration of God manifesting his strength through my weakness.

**Digging deeper:** What reassurance does Philippians 4:13 offer you?