
Durenda Wilson

Author | Speaker | Podcaster



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Durenda Wilson

Speaker Description:

Durenda Wilson is the author of *The Four Hour School Day* (Zondervan), *The Unhurried Homeschooler*, and *Unhurried Grace for a Mom's Heart*. She is the host of *The Durenda Wilson Podcast* and writes for *Homeschooling Today* and *Epoch Times*.

In her newest book, *The Four-Hour School Day*, Durenda gives parents a fresh perspective to help them see how doable home education is!

Packed with encouragement and practical advice, this resource equips parents with what they need to see more clearly that homeschooling does not have to take all day!

Durenda has been a wife to Darryl for 33 years and a homeschooling mom to 8 kids, 7 of whom have graduated so far. She homeschooled all of her children from the beginning. Durenda brings 28 years of homeschooling experience in a gracious, practical, and gentle way. Her words and voice bring a sense of calm to the hearts of parents and help them realize that they really can do this!

Durenda believes that because the parental role is God-given, He will be faithful to equip parents with exactly what they need so they can effectively disciple and enjoy these years with their kids...and it often starts with slowing down. *The Unhurried Homeschooler* continues to sell well, reflecting the positive response to Durenda's message. Her podcast averages 100K downloads per month and she has an active and engaged social media audience on IG with over 12K followers and on Facebook with 13K followers.

Durenda has been a featured speaker at NCHE (North Carolina), HEAV (Virginia), FPEA (Florida), AFHE (Arizona), APACHE (Illinois), ICHE (Illinois), CHCSD (South Dakota), NICHE (Iowa), MPE (Missouri) as well as other homeschooling conferences. In addition, Durenda also speaks at women's events.

She would consider it a privilege to bring encouragement to the families who attend your conference!

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Durenda Wilson

Bio:

With more than twenty-eight years of home education experience, Durenda Wilson is a trusted voice and resource at homeschooling conventions and on The Durenda Wilson Podcast.

Durenda and her husband, Darryl, have eight kids (7 graduated so far) and ten grandchildren. As an author, speaker, and podcaster her greatest joy is reminding parents how doable and effective homeschooling is and that they are, in fact, qualified for the job! Her books include *The Four Hour School Day*, *The Unhurried Homeschooler*, and *Unhurried Grace for a Mom's Heart*.

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Topics and Descriptions

The Four-Hour School Day

Often parents who are considering homeschooling are hesitant because they think that home-educating their children will take 7 hours a day, but that simply isn't the case. In this workshop, Durenda shares the reasons why home education doesn't have to be an all-day event! This session is loaded with encouragement for parents and will help them begin to see how they and their kids can thrive in the homeschool life!

Chores: Why They are Essential in Homeschooling

Most of us agree that chores are important, but often moms and kids are frustrated, angry, and resentful when it comes to how and when to implement them. Having 8 kids in 13 years has the potential to bring a mom to her knees and her home into disarray, but God taught our family SO much through working together. The benefits of having our kids do chores are countless! Investing in this area not only lightens our loads as moms but is an essential part of our kids' education! (This topic is another very popular workshop)

Unhurried Homeschooling: Why We Need to Slow Down

In a world that is moving at warp speed, it's easy to forget that kids are still kids. Their needs haven't changed: they need time to explore and experiment with the real world around them, to absorb life through all their senses, and to process their thoughts at their own pace. All of these are crucial in laying a firm foundation for higher learning, but this TAKES TIME. Learn why this is so important and how to protect and defend your kids' childhood.



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Topics and Descriptions

Nurturing Sibling Relationships

This is THE most popular topic I speak on! Most of us didn't factor into the equation just how much sibling conflict would be part of our homeschooling days!

It can be exhausting! As homeschooling parents, we have a unique opportunity to nurture sibling relationships among our children. Find out practical ways to do this and what an IMPORTANT part of our homeschooling it really is!

Instilling a Strong Work Ethic in Our Kids

Benjamin Franklin said, "It is the working man who is the happy man. It is the idle man who is the miserable man." In the midst of home education, we can sometimes overlook the importance of instilling a strong work ethic in our kids, but it's a willingness to work that will be the most helpful in getting our kids where they want to go!

In this session, Durenda Wilson shares the why and how of building a strong work ethic in our kids!

Homeschooling Boys: What Do They Really Need?

Out of our eight kids, five are boys. We have graduated 4 of them so far. As

homeschooling moms, we can find teaching our boys extra challenging

because...well...they can be VERY different from us.

However, God knew what He was doing when He knit them together AND when He chose

to make us their moms. Find out some of the most

effective tools to engage your boys in their education and enjoy these years with them

to the fullest!

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Topics and Descriptions

My Kids are Driving me Crazy: Why Boundaries are Essential in Homeschooling

We have all been there: our kids are driving us crazy and we are beginning to question our decision to homeschool. Durenda Wilson explains why setting healthy boundaries in the home is not only key to having a positive homeschooling experience but also to creating an environment that encourages learning.

Back to the Basics: Cultivating a Close Family Through Homeschooling

At the outset of creation, God established the family as a pillar of both the church and society. It has the potential to change the course of a nation. Unfortunately, the culture is working hard to diminish the importance of family. As homeschooling parents, we have the opportunity of a lifetime to establish strong, cohesive families that will eventually change the culture for the better. In this session, Durenda shares what it looks like to cultivate a close family as we walk out our homeschooling days!

The Sky's the Limit: Homeschooling High School

These final years seem full of pressure and can feel intimidating. Every parent wonders if their kids will be prepared for college, if they missed something or if their child will measure up. In this workshop, parents are encouraged to take a step back and think about what education should really look like at this age. Durenda is in her 15th year of homeschooling high schoolers and will share how she turned her children's interests and experiences into high school credits and how combining subjects can help keep your high schooler motivated. She will also share the importance of parents moving away from a dominating role and more toward the role of a coach during this season.

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Topics and Descriptions

Keeping Your Marriage Healthy Throughout the Seasons of Homeschooling

Homeschooling is more than just an educational choice, it's a lifestyle. Each season brings new challenges that can deeply affect the marriage relationship. Parents sometimes sacrifice a healthy marriage on the altar of homeschooling without even realizing it. Darryl and Durenda have been married for 34 years and homeschooled all 8 of their children from the beginning. They purposed to keep their marriage strong and are now enjoying the fruit of those efforts. In this workshop, Darryl and Durenda share what it looked like to make their marriage a priority through each of the seasons of homeschooling.

Sustainable Homeschooling

We all begin our homeschool journey with high hopes, but it often doesn't take long before we realize that some things simply are not working. We find ourselves and/or our kids in burnout mode. At the same time, we are confronted with the fear that we may somehow fail our children if we let go of something. Learn the importance of creating a sustainable homeschooling life unique to your family, bring joy back into your homeschool days, and help equip you to go the distance!

Building Resilience in Your Kids

The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties lends itself to overcoming the countless obstacles that life can bring. As adults, we have all experienced things we never thought we would face, and we know that our children will have their own share of difficulties. Though there is no way to know what those will be, we can prepare our children by helping them build resilience throughout their childhood.



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Topics and Descriptions

The Unhurried Family

In an attempt to be sure we aren't missing anything many homeschooling parents schedule multiple activities and find themselves and their kids running ragged. What started as good intentions turns into stress and burnout. In this session, Durenda Wilson shares the benefits of intentionally creating a less hurried family life

Dealing with Aggression in Boys

God wired boys with a certain amount of aggression. Our culture and even the church frown upon this, causing much unnecessary criticism and stifling what can be a positive and useful trait. As homeschooling moms, even we don't always understand how to best direct this energy because it's somewhat foreign to us as women. Durenda shares how she and her husband raised 5 boys into manhood without raising neanderthals.

Homeschooling with Littles: Why You Can Do It and Ways to Make it Work

Many moms wonder how in the world they can homeschool with little ones in the house. It often seems counterproductive or even impossible. Durenda had 8 kids in 13 years, so she spent many years homeschooling with littles in the house. In this session, she shares both the whys and hows of home educating with a full house!



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Topics and Descriptions

Unhurried Homeschooling: K-2nd Grade

Most people's definition of "education" is a more formal approach, but the truth is that you've been "educating" your child for 5 years already! YOU are the "expert" when it comes to YOUR child and YOU will be able to tell when he/she is ready to start reading, writing, etc. We will talk about simple ways to recognize when your child is ready to experiment with reading, writing, and basic math! Most of all you will be encouraged to RELAX and enjoy this season of early learning and quiet the voices that want to put unnecessary pressure on you and your littles!

Unhurried Homeschooling: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

The pressure starts BEFORE we even hold our babies in our arms: cloth diapering or disposable, store-bought baby food or homemade, nurse or bottle-feed? We even feel pressured to decide our 'style' of parenting before we have a chance to engage in the role. Feeling pushed and pressured is no way to start our parenting journey OR our home education. By taking time in the early years to learn to let God lead us, we begin to create the margin that helps give us the freedom to be the parents and homeschooling family God has called us to be.

Preparing Your Mom Heart for the Post- Homeschool Years

The homeschooling journey becomes such a big part of our lives as moms. Sometimes it seems as though we will never see the finish line but talk to any homeschool mom with grown kids and she will tell you, "The days are long, but the years are short." What feels like a lifelong commitment soon becomes a distant memory and when you've given your all to this worthy task of homeschooling, the next season can bring a conflict of emotions. Durenda has graduated 7 (so far) whom she has homeschooled from the beginning and in this session, she shares some key thoughts to consider as you near the finish line.

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Topics and Descriptions

Kingdom Work: Building and Protecting Our Homes and Families

The family was God's idea. He instituted it at the beginning of creation as one of the pillars of society. As the family goes, so goes the culture and the church, but somewhere along the way, we (society/culture and even the church) have forgotten the significance and influence of this calling. In this session, Durenda reminds moms that building and protecting their homes and families is kingdom work!

Homeschooling: Purpose or Performance?

We all have clear reasons that we decided to homeschool, but as we continue on this journey, the lines can become blurred. It can be so easy to get caught up in how our kids (and we) are (or aren't) performing when it comes to homeschooling. But what if that isn't actually what we are called to? Mastery can be important. God talks about becoming skilled and the importance of diligence. But what if we are giving up purpose and exchanging it for performance?

Homeschooling Through a Crisis

Every family experiences a crisis at one time or another whether they homeschool or not, but for homeschoolers, the question becomes "What does it look like to homeschool through a season of struggle?" Durenda and her family have been through more than one crisis. In this session, she shares her experience of seeing her children learn more than books could teach as they walked through these difficult seasons as a family.



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References

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