



HomeMakers
Fall 2010

**Building Your Home on
Holy Ground**



We've Moved!

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Notes from Donna...



Dear Lori

Hope the following articles will encourage you and inspire you in your work as a wife, mother and HomeMaker. It is our deep desire to shout BRAVO for all you are doing, every day of your lives.

Welcome to October!

When October arrives we begin our mental gymnastics that sound like:

10 Weeks Until Christmas

6 Weeks Until Thanksgiving

4 Weeks Until Halloween...Do we celebrate Halloween? What about costumes? How will I get any of these things done?

I want you to take a deep breath, drag out a yellow pad (or equivalent).

Write each of thee celebrations on the top of a page and ask yourself the following questions:

Is my schedule current and not rushed?

How are our finances?

What would bless my husband and children?

Next make a simple plan for each of the three celebrations. Consider how much time it takes, how much money it costs and how you husband and children will feel when the celebrations are over.

You are a blessing to me.

God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply.



Donna

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Building Your Home on Holy Ground

from "Finding Your Purpose as a Mom"
by Donna Otto

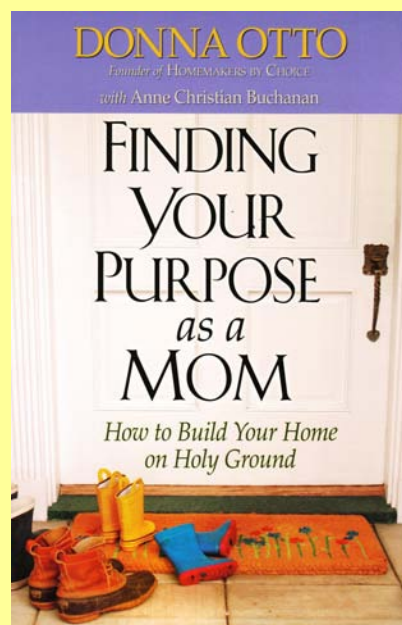
Remember the story of Moses at the burning bush? The young man was in exile from Egypt, the land of his birth, the land where he had learned a painful truth: The people who raised him had enslaved and mistreated the people who gave him life. One day, while alone in the wilderness tending his father-in-law's sheep, Moses came upon an amazing sight: a burning bush. And as he stared at the bush in wonder, he actually heard God speak:

"Remove your sandals from your feet for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

- Exodus 3:5

God wasn't just telling Moses to get comfortable! He was telling him that something very important was going on, reminding him to show respect and humility in the presence of something sacred. And telling him plainly that the Lord had important work for him to do.

I believe the Lord is speaking a similar word to women today who have the joy and responsibility of tending a home and caring for a family. *Take off your shoes*, he is saying. *The*



Order Donna's book online for the SPECIAL Newsletter price of \$10 (regularly \$12). Click [here](#) to order.

Study Group Updates!

Butterfly Angels Small Group...

Meeting Thursdays, 9am.
Although the group is closed,

place where you are cooking, cleaning, and raising the next generation is indeed holy ground because you are mine, and your home is part of my plan for changing the world.

Regardless of who you are, whether you've made the choice to be a stay-at-home mom or work outside the home, whether you are married or single, whether your house is a double-wide in a desert or a mansion on a hillside...I believe this word is for you. Your home really is holy ground because it's a place where God has chosen to live and do his work.

Take off your shoes, because your home can be a gift of safety and comfort and freedom for you and your family. Because something sacred can happen there - in fact, it's supposed to happen there. Your precious Savior wants to use your life and your work and your role as a mom to change the world.

feel free to visit and get ideas on starting your own group. Contact Stefanie Brown, 480.650.0743 or home 602.923.7350, smbs205@yahoo.com.

West & Central Groups...

Two new study groups will be starting soon (one on the west side of town and one central)! Look for details to be posted on our website within the next two weeks.

26 Ways to Build Your Marriage on Holy Ground

ABC's to live by

Always kiss each other upon departing. **B**e there for your spouse. Always. **C**reate an environment of love. **D**o it. Now. **E**scape from the kids. **F**ight fair. **G**ive of your time. **H**andle with care. **I**nspire your spouse with your love. **J**udge not. **K**ee your good memories alive. **L**isten to your spouse. **M**ake love with your spouse's needs foremost. **N**ever go to bed mad. **O**ffer to handle an unpleasant chore. **P**raise your spouse. **Q**uality Time isn't just for kids. **R**espect your spouse's feelings. **S**ay what you feel when you feel it. **T**ell your spouse you love him or her every day. Every day. Every day. Every day. **U**nderstand your differences. **V**alentine's Day is every day. Walk together. Talk together. **E**xcite your spouse as only you know how. **Y**ou can never say "I love you" too often. **Z**ero in on your spouse's little passions.

The Value of a Personal Sabbath

How to grow in grace

"In order to grow in grace we must be much alone. It is not in society that the soul grows most vigorously. In one single quiet hour of prayer it will often make more progress than in days of company with others. It is in the desert that the dew falls freshest and the air is purest."

- Andrew Bonar

Free time isn't free! God calls us to come apart from the world and spend time alone with Him, but this comes with a cost.



Take this quick assessment to help you develop a personal sabbath in your own life; be it an hour, several hours, or an entire day.



The Priority of a Personal Sabbath

1. Do you take a day off regularly?
2. What do you currently do to decompress or regroup?
3. When was the last time you did these activities?
4. What would it take in your life to create a block of 2-4 hours for quiet solitude or rest?
 - 4-8 hours?
 - 24 hours?
 - 3 days?
5. What would keep you from making this priority?

Where Do I Start?

1. Schedule it! Choose a block of time and enter it into your calendar. It can be any day, any time; but be consistent in getting that time set aside and off limits.
2. Prepare. What do you need to do before and after this block of time to be sure it is uninterrupted?
3. Guard it!

What Might a Personal Sabbath Look Like?

No agenda! Remember that your goal is to grow and feed your soul. So begin to explore what that looks like for YOU - and it will be different for everyone. Rest, sleep later than usual, stay in your jammies, go for a hike, read a good book, pray.

Allow your soul to be quiet and rest. This means no computers, cell phones, or other electronic 'noise.' Find a time and a place where you can be confident that everyone can live without you! This might be early morning, late night or a longer time when you let your significant people know you will be unavailable.

Listen. Remember the story of Elijah? He listened for God in the whirlwind but couldn't hear his voice. It was in the quiet that he heard that 'still, small voice' that was God speaking. The same is true for us: It is in the times when our soul is quiet that it is easiest to hear His voice.

Be encouraged that as you wait on Him, He will restore and renew and GROW your soul! "...they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31 ESV

Pray Scripturally For Your Children

Giving your child the gift of prayer

Part of building your home on holy ground is praying for your children. It is both a responsibility and a privilege. You can use the guide below in your prayer time by putting your child's name in the blank. And, as you spend time in God's Word, write down passages that you can later use as prayers specifically for your child.

Help _____ listen to her father's instruction, and not forsake her mother's teaching. (Proverbs 1:8)

Show _____ your ways, O Lord, teach him your paths, guide him in your truth...and may his hope be in you all day long. (Psalm 25:4-5)

Hide _____ in the shelter of your presence from the intrigues of men; keep _____ safe from accusing tongues. (Psalm 31:20)

Help _____ to love righteousness and hate wickedness. (Psalm 45:7)

Guide _____'s feet into the path of peace. (Luke 1:79)

May _____ love the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his mind. (Matthew 22:37)

Protect _____ from the evil one. (John 17:15)

Give _____ strength to obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29)

May _____ be joyful always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances. (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

May _____ have a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith. (1 Timothy 1:5)

Adapted for use by Donna Otto

Comment Corner

...a few comments from our Podcast listeners

Dear Donna,

You and your team at HBC have been an INTEGRAL part of our establishment of Biblical values and priorities in our little home since our marriage in 2007.

My husband and I have one beautiful 18-month old daughter named Olivia, whom I am SO blessed to stay home full time with. God has



worked through you beautifully and very powerfully in my life in many aspects, and I honestly can't stress how much I appreciate your podcast, which I listen to on a regular basis while doing my housework etc.

I have also put many of your suggestions into practice after reading your "Secrets..." book, and am currently reading "Finding Your Purpose as a Mom." All I can say is...WOW and THANK YOU LORD!!!! :-D

Thank you Donna, for allowing Him to work through you and literally make a difference in the 'stay-at-home-Mom' community world-wide.

May He continue to bless your ministry, both Spiritually and Financially, so that you will be able to continue this free podcast for His glory! I will continue to pray for you and HBC...(which reminds me, your prayer chapter was very helpful too! ;) I am learning to actually write it down and PRAY for someone when I tell them I will - so I will!!)

Lots of love, Carly (October 6, 2010)

Thank you for being on iTunes!!! I love listening to your daily podcasts! God Bless you all for what you do and stand for!

Ammy (October 7, 2010)

Donna,

I just wanted to write to thank you for the Homemakers by Choice broadcast. I just started listening yesterday. I listened to a couple of the broadcasts and quickly subscribed to the podcasts on iTunes and started listening to all of them today.

I love God's Word and teaching like this, it has been so encouraging and such a blessing to me. I will continue listening.

I work full time outside of the home, have been married for 18 years and have 4 children and this broadcast is a blessing to me, even though I'm not a stay-at-home mom. I can log on and pop in my earphones and be blessed. I am a fan :)

May God bless you, Michele (September 14, 2010)

PS I was so blessed by Donna's story...whan an awesome God we serve!

We'd love to hear from YOU! Send your questions and comments to homemakers87@cox.net...we'll post them on our website!