

One Day Monthly

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Yo, Mr. S... Clueless

Following is the second installment of "Yo, Mr. S." Many of you will recognize that phrase either from David Swarbrick's license plate or by having heard it from the lips of one of Mr. Swarbrick's students. This month Mr. Swarbrick offers some wisdom on the topic of authority.

-Editor

Scriptures are full of interesting questions. "Who made you ruler over us?" "Where are they--has no one condemned you?" "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" I love to study questions in the Scriptures be-

cause they usually are followed by some very insightful dialogue. The Gospels contain one question which I have not always understood: "By whose authority do you do these things?" This question appears often in the Gospels, normally when Jesus was doing something which did not fit into the boxes of the Pharisees. Understanding this question implies understanding what authority is, and how to function under the authority of another.

As a young man, authority was not a big part of my life. With a father who passed away when I was young, and a mother who did

not like to confront or challenge me, I never really was forced to deal with the whole issue of will versus authority and heart obedience. I made it through my teenage years walking on the tightrope of trying to be good enough to not annoy my mother. Even becoming a Christian in college and going through five years of seminary training did not force me to deal with the issue of authority. Somehow, throughout all my early years of seminary training, ministry, and mentoring from older Christian men, I never had a conversation or heard a teaching

(Continued on page 3)

Special points of interest:

- David Swarbrick column
- 2011 Regional VASE results
- Students win blue ribbon at regional science fair
- Homeschool Handyman
- Summer classes at ODA
- ODA Spelling Bee winner places 2nd at Houston event

ODA Student Headed to State VASE

One Day Academy student Samantha Jorden is headed to the state Visual Arts Scholastic Event on April 9.

Samantha and nine other ODA students ventured with their works of art to San Marcos in February for the 2011 Visual Arts Scholastic Event, where they all presented well to the judges.



Samantha Jorden is taking two paintings to state VASE. She is pictured here with "Heaven's Gem." Photo courtesy of Kate Trent

Each student went before two judges with up to two works of art. Projects varied from painting to mixed media to photography.

It took three semesters to complete the two paintings Samantha is bringing to state VASE. Both are inspired by her worship

of the Lord. "God is the Master Artist: without His works, certainly we would have nothing to paint."

ODA art teacher Kelly Gallaher, who sponsored the students at regional VASE, said, "I think as a group of students, they all conducted themselves in a very lovely way, had some very excellent quality work, and made a big impression on the establishment."

-Susan Peisker

Inside this issue:

- Homeschool Handyman 2
- Summer Classes 3
- Announcements 4
- Spelling Bee Champ 4

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Threesome Garners Blue Ribbon at Austin Fair

One Day Academy students Emma Cole, Alyssa Mortensen and Olivia Huff received a first place blue ribbon for their joint project at the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival in February.

Four other students, Jonah Brown, Remy Manasco, Aidan Williams, and Miranda Zapata also brought projects to the fair.

The topic of the girls' project was "Do Kids Prefer Healthy Drinks or Sugary Drinks?"

Testing was a challenge, said Alyssa. "People would walk by and sneak a drink from our testing table."

Why that topic? "We wanted to do something that no one had done," said Olivia. "We also wanted to do a blind taste test."

Both girls enjoyed working on the project as a team. "[It was] lots of fun," said Olivia.

-Susan Peisker



Emma Cole, Alyssa Mortenson, and Olivia Huff earned blue ribbons at the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival. Photo courtesy of Melissa Huff

Homeschool Handyman's Corner

Teaching Your Children Basic Homeowner Skills

This Month: Lawnmower Maintenance

"It is best to take care of some basic maintenance on your mower now, just before the grass needs mowing."

Unless you live in an apartment or pay for a lawn service, most of you have a lawnmower and care for your own grass. While not nearly as complicated as a car, a gas-powered mower still requires maintenance. Unfortunately, many people neglect mower service until the machine doesn't behave properly. It is best to take care of some basic maintenance on your mower now, just before the grass needs mowing. A spring tune-up is the topic of this month's Handyman Corner and it's a practical task that can include your older kids.

Mower maintenance varies by model and manufacturer. The operator and/or service manuals for your mower should always be consulted for recommended intervals and directions. Electric mowers need no real maintenance beyond basic cleaning and blade service. This article will address the more common internal combustion engine (gasoline) types.

Air filters are a common problem, especially if you have a lot of dust or dry grass in your yard. Filters become clogged up easily, resulting in limited air flow. If your mower runs poorly or won't start, try replacing the air filter. Any time you remove the air filter, it's a good idea to spray a few shots of carburetor cleaner into the air intake and then run the engine for a minute. That helps clear out any dirt left behind and also cleans fuel deposits. You should probably change the air filter more than once a season, or at least remove it and clean it with compressed air.

Spring tune-up is also the time to clean or replace your spark plug. This requires a spark plug socket wrench (common to many tool sets) and a gap gauge. Make sure to clean oil, dirt and debris from around the cylinder head before you reinstall the plug.

If your mower has a fuel filter, this is the time to change it before putting fresh gasoline in the tank. The important engine maintenance items are fresh fuel into a clean carburetor, a new/clean spark plug, and a new/clean air filter.

Most problems with hard starts or rough operation are solved with these conditions.

The oil should be drained and re-filled with the recommended type to the proper level. Keep an eye on oil level

throughout the year as many mowers leak or burn oil.

For any type of mower, the cutting blade needs to be sharpened or replaced at least once a year. A sharp blade cuts more smoothly and inflicts less damage to the grass. Whether you sharpen the blade yourself, pay someone to do it, or replace it with a new one, the blade always has to be removed and reinstalled. This typically requires a long wrench for better leverage on the fixing nut. Details will be found in the manual for your mower.

Spring is also a good time to clean out any major debris under the mower deck around the blade. General cleaning with a broom, compressed air, or water hose is also appropriate and recommended after each use.

If you have any other small engine equipment such as trimmers, blowers, tillers, or power washers, they also need similar maintenance in spring before they experience heavy use. Take care of your tools and they should keep running for years to come.

More information on home repair topics can be found at my website:

www.handyhomeowner.us.

-Jim Peisker

jim@handyhomeowner.us

Jim is a homeschool dad who has worked 29 years as an electrical engineer; he has been fixing stuff all of his life.



Lawnmower air filters become clogged easily, particularly if you have a lot of dust or dry grass in your yard. Spark plugs (to the right in the photo) should be cleaned or replaced, too.
Photo by Susan Peisker

Clueless

(Continued from page 1)

about authority.

Then it happened: I had a long, in-depth conversation about parenting, authority and maturity with an older man I greatly respected. By the end of the conversation I was a little embarrassed.

How could I have made it to 35 years of age in full-time ministry and never have had a thought about authority? As we were raising three boys, two of whom were approaching teenage years, I thought for hours about authority. I poured over the scriptures. I listened to sermons. I pestered my friends with questions. And I talked about authority with Laura constantly. How embarrassing to have gotten this far and be so completely clueless.

Authority: it's not just another doctrine of the Christian life. It is

a vital foundation of the abundant life Jesus teaches about. Parents live under the authority of Jesus, His Spirit and His Word. Children live under the authority of their parents. Authority does not have to be mean, strict, or confrontational. It just has to be clear, consistent, and motivated



One Day Academy Executive Director David Swarbrick. Photo courtesy of Wayne Solum

by love. Children find peace and safety when they are prevented from being free agents, doing whatever they please. Life makes sense when everybody knows who is in charge and to whom they are accountable.

When authority relationships are out of balance, life is frustrating and full of constant battles over who is in charge of whom. When authority relationships are in place, the Holy Spirit is free to roam about a family and work freely.

Accepting authority is always a choice to be made. The Scriptures

are abundantly clear and consistent: choices have consequences. When we choose to accept the Lordship of Jesus, we do so knowing that we will be a part of God's family, with all the protection and safety and sense of belonging and purpose which comes from being submitted to His direction. And when children choose to accept the authority of their parents knowing that it is instituted by God, they live in the peace and safety and covering of loving parents who can help them launch successfully into adulthood.

As homeschool families, we live with the reality of authority as a daily issue. We do not send our children away 40-50 hours per week, glad to have a few minutes with them when they get home. We are with our children for hours every day. And having worked through the issue of authority, will and heart obedience is vital. If we do not accept the authority of Jesus through His Spirit and His Word, our kids pick up on it. If we are mean, random, or self-

serving with our authority, our children will begin to resist or rebel against it. And if our children have not accepted our authority, we certainly see the evidence every day.

I hope parents discuss authority, not because they want to dominate their children, but because they want their children to grow up with the ability to function within the parameters God has laid out for life. We need to impart to our children the ability to function under the authority of another. Employers expect it. Law enforcement expects it. And, most importantly, God desires it. Any time our children ask us "By whose authority do you...?" we should be prepared to give an account. If we can impart to our children the ability to prosper functioning under God's authority, we will leave them a legacy which will bless them and their children for generations to come.

-David Swarbrick is the Executive Director of One Day Academy.

Have Fun with Summer Classes at ODA

A Relaxed and Enjoyable Way to Build Foundational Skills

Summer school. At first the idea sent shivers down my back. But, then I remembered the study skills class I took with Mrs. Lynn last summer. It was more fun and open than a usual class.

This year's One Day Academy summer classes start on Monday, June 6 and are open to anyone looking for a "relaxed, enjoyable, and helpful [way] for building foundational skills," said ODA Director Swarbrick. These classes offer "some enrichment and some fun activities."

"[I believe that these summer classes are important] because some students need a warm-up

before starting classes at ODA," said Mr. Swarbrick, who teaches some of the summer classes along with Viv Lynn, Kay Crislip, Mark Ramsey, Paul Finley, Sandra Gaiser, Hannah Benoit, and Reina Johnson.

"I like doing fun stuff during the summer because our summer classes are less curriculum focused. [Additionally], some students need some material twice," Mr. Swarbrick said.

To see the summer schedule, go to <http://onedayacademy.com/> and click on Summer Schedules on the left side of the page.

-Justin Movalli

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Announcements

- One Day Academy **2011-12 registration** is underway. Families must re-register each year: cost is \$40. Families with students ages 13 and up must also submit a Teen Student Policy Acceptance Form. For forms, schedules, and teacher information, as well as new family information, visit: <http://onedayacademy.com/> and click on Admission and Tuition in the upper right corner of the page.

- **Find us on Facebook!** "Like" our page so you can receive updates on your home page or mobile device. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/One-Day-Academy/153784234679072?sk=wall>

- The April 11 deadline is quickly approaching for the **regional Junior Visual Arts Scholastic Event**. The purpose of Jr. VASE is to recognize exemplary student achievement in visual art through individual and original expression of ideas, applying the elements and principles of art based upon research of art media and art history. Sixth through 8th grade students may participate in the event, to be held at Walsh Middle School in Round Rock on May 14. Students may submit up to two entries at a cost of \$15 per entry. Send checks payable Kelly Gallaher, 11408 Oak Branch Dr., Austin, Texas 78737 with the registration on or before April 11. For more information and registration forms, contact Mrs. Gallaher: kelly2@quixnet.com.

- **Save the date!** ODA's End of Year party is scheduled for Saturday, May 7 from 10-2 at the Zilker Rock Gardens. Bring a dish to share and be prepared to play catch or visit with friends. For more information: <http://onedayacademy.com/event-calendar/end-of-the-year-party/>.

ODA Spelling Champ Places 2nd at Houston Bee *Houston Bee Was Last Step Before National Bee*

One Day Academy 2011 Spelling Bee Champion Matthew Kroesche placed second at the Houston PBS Spelling Bee on March 26.

After winning the ODA Bee on January 8, Matthew went on to win the Austin regional Bee on February 5. The winner of the Houston PBS Bee will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in June.

While Matthew won't be going to the National Bee, he is still happy about placing so high out of a field of over 50 finalists. Matthew was also thrilled about an answer to prayer during the Houston Bee.

Each speller was introduced with a tidbit of personal information. Matthew prayed that the announcer would read off his favorite Bible verse, Luke 10:27: "Love the Lord your

God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"We were all excited that they read his Bible verse on the air," said Matthew's mom, Tami. "Matthew was happy that God used him at that very moment to bring glory to His name. What a perfect way for Matthew's prayer to be answered!

"The only thing that Matthew is sad about is that he is too old to compete in the bee next year."

This was Matthew's fourth bee in as many years and it was the third time he advanced to the Austin regional bee—finally winning it this year.

Matthew remembered one bee in particular, "Last year, I

got third place at regionals after I misspelled hukilau. I had never heard that word before, but I will never misspell it again," said Matthew. "That is the most difficult word I ever been given in a bee, at least so far!"

Matthew first started spelling competitively when he entered a local homeschool bee four years ago. He won; however it was only a local bee so he could not advance to the regional Scripps bee. The next year, determined to make it to regionals, he entered a Scripps preliminary bee and he's been competing in them ever since.

"I have always enjoyed spelling, so I knew that I would also enjoy spelling bees!"

*-Justin Movalli
(with Susan Peisker)*



At the ODA Bee, runner-up Joshua McNeil (left) and winner Matthew Kroesche spelled off for several rounds. Photo by Susan Peisker