

Your Guidebook. *to Growing* a Family Economy *Manual*

By Dana Susan Beasley



A Creative Arts Agency
& Publishing House

Colorado Springs, Colorado



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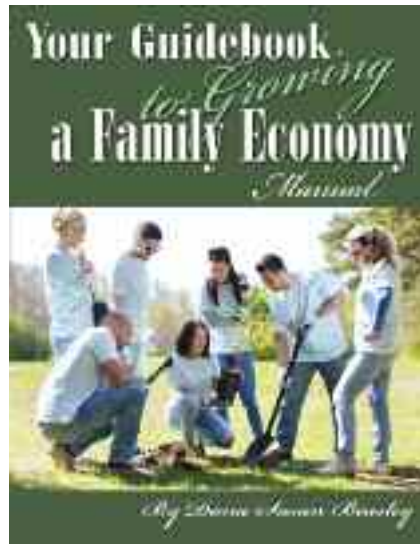
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Welcome and Instructions

How to Use this Family Economy Curriculum



AngelARTS

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Welcome!

Congratulations on taking a big step for you and your family! I am excited to bring you this curriculum. May God use it to transform your lives!

This curriculum is divided into the manual and a workbook. The lessons are divided into manageable chunks that can be absorbed on a regular basis, whether several times a week or weekly. The lessons proceed in a sequence, each building upon the one before.

I have included many Website links in this program. You can always identify them because they are underlined.

If you do the lessons on a weekly basis, you should be able to complete the curriculum in about 17 weeks.

Who is this curriculum written for? ***It is written for your whole family!*** Teens, college students, young adults, and both Mom and Dad will greatly benefit from the material contained herein. It's information you can use again and again, for each family member and for however many entrepreneurial ventures you can imagine creating.

How young a age can use this curriculum? It's up to your discretion. If you see that your child is skilled in computer software manipulation and you think they're ready, then go for it!

And not just for each business. This information applies to each product and service you create. You have truly invested in your future and the future of your children!

So how do you use it?

You can start by reading the manual lessons together or separately. Then after you have read the section, go to the corresponding lesson in the workbook and complete the assignments listed.

If you have the ebook workbook version, you can type directly in the workbook document. Be sure to do a "Save as." You might want to save it under the name of that particular family member who is typing in the document. You can also click on the checkmarks to indicate that you have finished each task.

If you have the ebook workbook version, I highly recommend printing the workbook pages and collecting it into a notebook. You can do this before your student completes the assignment and provide blank worksheets or print them after the information is entered. I have also included an editable notebook cover so you can have it for

each family member or business/product/service.

Write directly in the workbook if you have the printed version.

Some of the assignments require sketching. If you have the ebook version, you will definitely want to print the pages out and then either sketch directly on the pages or cut and paste computer illustrations/art-work onto the pages. You have my permission to copy the pages in the printed workbook if this makes sketching easier.

Do you want to use this in a group setting? I offer volume discounts. Go to GrowMyEconomy.com to find out more. This curriculum, both the manual and workbook, is licensed for one family only. If you want to do this course in a class setting, you will need to order in bulk to get a price break.

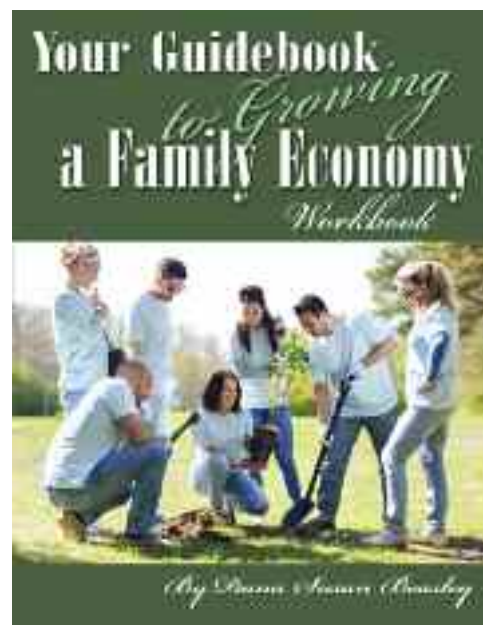
How do you grade assignments for high school students? Of course, art is a very subjective topic, but grade on completing assignments, quality, creativity, innovation, and using the elements and principles that I share in the manual.

You can have your students create a completely fictional business or one based on reality that they plan on instituting. It could be something they plan on doing now, like jewelry-making, or an endeavor they want to pursue in the future when they become adults.

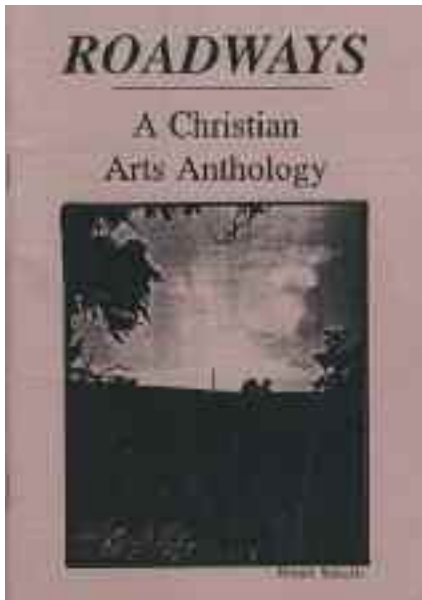
You might have your students create a business plan and then have a stakeholder meeting where they give an oral presentation about the business they are developing. The grade could be based on the amount of investment “money” that your student gets from his presentation.

This investment presentation idea works great in a group setting. In fact, one of my college professors had our journalism class do this. We created a business plan and editorial plan for a magazine for parents of special needs kids and then we had to give an oral presentation. Our grade was based on the amount of “money” we collected.

It was one of the most memorable moments of my college career and also one of the most valuable lessons I ever learned. And ironically, I would later become a parent of a special needs child!



The interactive workbook.



My first publication!

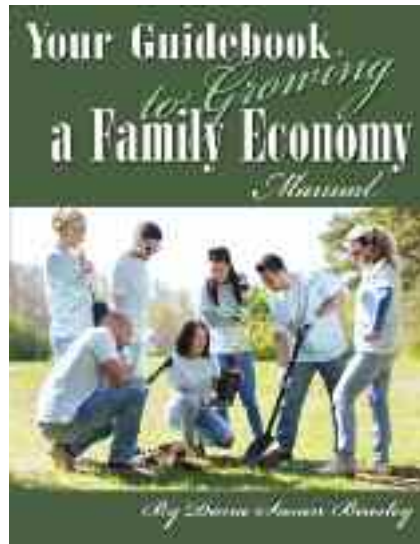
This is a complete course, but if you want even more in-depth help, I have other options as well.

I have a three month membership program that covers these concepts to a much greater scope. You can find that course at BrandIdentityQuest.com.

Also, I am in the process of developing a two semester class called "***Becoming a Kingdom Entrepreneur in the Internet Age.***" This will take an even more in-depth look at entrepreneurialism with a focus on "business as mission," as well as essential media skills needed to be successful in today's Internet-driven world.

Want extra support? Join my Facebook group, Christian Homeschool Family Entrepreneurs! We are over a thousand members strong as of the writing of this book!

Enjoy the curriculum! And when you get some finished work, please email it to me at communications@angelarts.biz and I will feature you in my blog and social media sites! I would be glad to let my followers know about your business. That is what the whole family economy concept is all about.



Introduction

Why a Family Economy and What is it?



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It's Never Been a Better Time!

*N*ow is the time to start your business, to follow your dreams. Because when you do what you love, as the saying goes, the money will follow. And when more than one family member pursues a business, then you have a powerful weapon against recession and against the unexpected.

I'm sure you know, like us, what it's like to have more month than money. To worry

about paying the mortgage or an insurance bill that has increased significantly due to the government policies of the last decade. To be drowning in debt. Or to realize that you need to call a food bank or have your parents or church help you. Or standing at the grocery counter, watching the bill pile up, knowing in your gut that the cost is higher than it was a few months ago.

Salaries become stagnant. Jobs end up being an experience of imprisonment and all joy is taken out of work.

I hear stories on a daily basis of families who are faced with horrible choices, such as the wife having to go back to work to make ends meet, killing the dream of home-schooling. Or at least making it very difficult and stressful. Or husbands experiencing long unemployment or becoming disabled.

Or the worst, most heartbreaking story of all—when a spouse dies or files for divorce, leaving the future very uncertain indeed!

And then there's the uncertainty that our children face. Just because your child goes to college does not guarantee her a job! Your college graduate may be one of the many who are left with enormous debt. She may not even end up working in her field of study!



Is this the way you feel sometimes? I know I do!

We have two choices in life: to live in fear or to step out in faith. Stepping out in this faith does not mean we won't feel the fear, it means we move forward despite our fear!

And today is the best day to not only dream for your future, but to take a step to make it happen!

Also, we can react to hard times or we can plan for them, to be proactive. That is what a family economy does. I pray, as I write this, that the economy experiences an upswing. But who knows what is to come, except for God?

One of the most life-changing statements I've ever heard was from one of my favorite Internet coaches, Ali Brown. She said,

“Don't make decisions from where you are, make decisions from where you want to be.”

At the time, my husband and I were running a vacation rental. It was the wrong fit for us and we knew it. We took steps to close the business and move on to what we really wanted in life, and that was to become successful entrepreneurs where we followed our God-given passions.



Where do you want to be?

Becoming an entrepreneur has tremendous value. It is a journey of faith. It is about becoming who God made you to be and using those gifts to serve others, to further His Kingdom. It is a very important undertaking, not one to be taken lightly.

Success as an entrepreneur means freedom. And it's not just in a monetary sense. It's freedom to pursue what you love in order to fulfill the dreams and visions that God has given for your life. It's freedom to live out His callings for your life and to live your life to the fullest. To pursue what's important to you, like homeschooling your children.

This is how I define success—doing what God has called me to do and becoming more like Him. ***Throughout this manual, I talk about having a dazzling future. This is not obtained by following anyone's advice, especially mine. This dazzling future, which is promised to us as believers (Jeremiah 29:11), is obtained by discovering the callings God has given you, pursuing them courageously, and becoming closer to Him in the process. That is true success. I hope that through this manual and workbook I can help you and your family a little bit on this journey.***

You are an original and, I believe, uniquely gifted by God. Husband, wife, children... no matter what role you play in life, God has given you talents, dreams, skills, knowledge.

The question becomes, how will you use these gifts? Will you bury them like the servant did in Jesus' parable about the talents or will you invest them into the Kingdom? Will you encourage your children to play it small or safe, or will you teach them to live a bigger game, to model faith and believe God for big things?



What are your talents?

What is it that you really want out of life? What do your children want out of life? What is it that you want God to say to you when you finally meet Him face to face?

We only have this one life to live. So how can we make the most of it?

One very significant way we can make the most of life is to create a family economy, empowering each member to grow into the person God designed them to be. And that is what this guidebook is all about. That to me is

this dazzling future I like to talk about.

Another reason creating a family economy is so valuable is because it will bring your family together like never before. Your family will become integrated. Think about this: most families spend their time apart from one another. Dad goes off to work, Mom goes off to work—or perhaps stays home—and the children go off to school. Everyone is scattered in different places. There is no cohesiveness, and families are so busy they don't even eat dinner together. Not very often, at least.

This was not always the case. Before the Industrial Revolution, families worked together in cottage industries, like a farm. Everyone had a job to do, even the youngest. It seems to me that times were a lot simpler and a lot happier! Maybe it was challenging and the families worked hard, but there was joy in that!

In fact, that is what God created men and women to do—to work. For husbands to lead by working hard, wives to help their husbands and contribute like the Proverbs 31 woman. For the family to be a unit. To experience productivity. To blossom and bear fruit.

How does that look like for your family? Everyone is different! Like God makes the snowflake, He designs and calls us individually and corporately. It's a beautiful thing when families are on the same page, following God's direction for their lives.

Living out the Ephesians passage where family members submit to one another,

husbands love their wives and wives submit to their husbands and children obey their parents. It's called teamwork. It's not about one family member being more important than another, it's about supporting one another and serving one another. To the glory of God. It's about interdependence. This is a dazzling future!

Think about the Proverbs 31 woman. She was invaluable to her husband. She was a business woman. She considered the works of her hands and knew that they were profitable! She was an investor. She ran the household like a well-oiled machine and her children and husband rose up and called her blessed!

The family is meant to be seed planters. But God is the harvester. He is the one who ultimately provides. It's not an employer, it's not a customer, it's not even, dare I say it, a husband. God is the God of the harvest. He brings drought and rain as He wills. He owns cattle on a thousand hills. He is a God of abundance and a God who freely gives us gifts and talents. He longs to give us life so that we can live it to the fullest (John 10:10).

He takes care of the birds of the air and creates incredible clothing in the flowers of the field. How much more will He take care of you and me?

So the question is, what will we do with those gifts? And how will you encourage your children to pursue these gifts, trusting that God is their provider?

Creating a family economy—each individual family member pursuing a business—is a noble, God-honoring way to invest in these gifts. Because in the end you are bringing hope to people and impacting lives. And in the process you will bring Him glory and have a dazzling future.

So why not now?

The Internet has made entrepreneurialism possible like never before. Capitalism is alive and well! It's changing lives all over the world and it can transform your family, too!

Creating businesses based on each family member's individual passions and call-



An integrated family is a happy one!

ings is going to mean freedom. It's going to require clinging to your Heavenly Father, complete dependence on your Savior, and listening hard to the Holy Spirit.

Are you ready to get started on this journey? I am thrilled that you have joined me, because my goal in this curriculum is to help you step by step build a lasting foundation for your family economy.

What I am going to do in this curriculum is to show you how to build this lasting foundation, so that you will leave a legacy for your family and for the generations that come after you. So your children will grow up confident that they can use their talents to the glory of God, making an impact on the world around them and creating opportunity for their families so they can experience the freedom to homeschool and then start this cycle all over again!

At a time when all we are leaving future generations is overwhelming debt, isn't that exciting? When the future of our children is at stake, isn't it exciting to know that you can leave them with options?

Because face it, we're threatened on every side. Common Core Standards, if you know anything about them, may even effect our choices of colleges for our children. If we're not with the program, then some ways may be barred to us as homeschoolers.



God brings the harvest! He takes our talents and makes them fruitful.

Now perhaps these standards will not be an issue anymore with the election of a new administration, but the desire of bureaucrats to run our lives is strong. They won't give up easily!

But really, that's all good. You have a chance to help your children shine as stars in the universe. They will not be part of the crowd, of the drones that are being trained in public education. They will be leaders. They will have a real impact on our nation.

And entrepreneurialism and innovation are incredible ways to contribute to the betterment of society, to indeed lead people back to God!

So educating your child to be an entrepreneur is extremely valuable. Maybe college

isn't the best fit for them. Maybe they don't even know what they want to do! Why spend all that money if that's the case? Why not give them some real-world experience and discover for themselves what it is they want to pursue?

Maybe you have a child who is diagnosed with mental illness or Autism Spectrum Disorder. Their lives don't need to be limited, either! These children have just as many talents as "normal" children. Perhaps they'll never work at McDonalds or the Safeway down the street, but why not help them turn their passions into profits? That will help them escape the inevitable cycle of poverty that relying on welfare services for vulnerable populations unfortunately brings.



God takes care of us!

Your children might be in college or have graduated. Even if they do a job search, they are going to need to know how to market themselves. That is a very hard skill to learn. And on top of it all, there is stiff competition out there, after all!

What if you want to encourage your daughter to become a wife and mother? Preparing her to discover and pursue her callings, gifts, and talents is going to make her a better wife and mother. You will be giving her the option of becoming a Proverbs 31 woman. She will indeed laugh at the hard times to come, because she will have the tools to know how to bring in an income when she is faced with the unexpected.

So throughout this curriculum, I am going to emphasize knowing your why. This is foundational. Because when you know your why, you will have clarity. When you have clarity, you become focused. You do the right things, take the right actions. This will prevent you from getting stuck. And when you are exhausted, when you are discouraged, it will keep you going.

If God is truly our provider, then we will trust in Him. Not the government, not credit cards, not even ourselves.

In fact, the further away from the government we can get, the better. Because as homeschoolers, we see that the government is increasingly hostile to us. At least that

has been the case for the last several years. In fact, years ago here in the state in which I live, evangelical Christians were declared a group of people to be put on a watch list! And now we know that the IRS targeted Christians at one point!

We need to completely trust in Jesus, the best business man who ever lived. That is why pursuing a family economy is so important!

But Who Am I?

You may be wondering, at this point, who is this person writing this curriculum making these statements about entrepreneurship? Since this curriculum is not about me but about helping you and your family to achieve your dreams, let me briefly share about myself. I recognize, though, that letting you know about me and my background will lend credibility to what I am going to be sharing. And I also hope our story will help you in whatever situation you find yourself in.

First of all, I am a daughter of the Most High God. He redeemed me, He gave His life for me. He revealed Himself to me and brought me through much darkness and struggle. Without my Savior, I would not be alive. I am nothing and no one without Him! I

firmly believe that.

I am the wife to a talented architect, Travis. He has his own business now and used the lessons I am going to present in this curriculum to launch it.

I am the mother to my son, Sam. He is a talented artist and wants to be a police officer. He is the joy of my life.

I am also a graphic artist, writer, publisher, speaker, musician, and business strategist. I have a Bachelor of Arts in English/Creative Writing from Colorado State University, and a

minor in journalism. In 2016, I earned my certification in digital marketing. I am a regular blogger for Christian Work at Home Ministries (CWAHM.com). Also, I am a teacher at



Our Christmas picture several years ago.

SchoolhouseTeachers.com.

I have always exhibited signs of becoming an entrepreneur, from my earliest memories. I was the kid in class who was selling candy. I was creating lemonade stands in my driveway and discovering the best product ever—chocolate chip cookie dough! (I could never sell that now. Too politically incorrect.)

Also, I was always working on a new project—writing a novel or a play or creating a song on the piano. But I was also an extremely shy child. I suffered from low self-esteem and self-rejection.

But, in the midst of the pain, God reached down in His love through a Christian radio program and I heard for the first time that I could accept Jesus into my heart and it would be like a candle that would never burn out. He became my best friend after that. I know that I would not have survived without Him.

But a few years later, I turned my back on Him. I was lost in the modern educational system of peer pressure. I didn't fully understand what He accomplished for me on the cross. I had not learned to follow Him as Lord.

In college, a friend introduced me to The Navigators, a Christian organization. I became involved and attended every program they offered as I finally understood the gospel. I fell in love with Glen Eyrie, a Christian conference center in Colorado Springs. I fell in love with God all over again and committed my life to Christ.

After that, God blew apart my dreams. He showed me they were small. Once all I thought about was being a magazine editor, but He gave me a desire to be used by Him for His glory. This is the seed that was planted in the Great Hall of the castle of the Glen many, many years ago by a dear man named Donald McGilchrist.

Then, through some providential circumstances, I created my own college magazine, a Christian arts anthology.

I will never forget the “a-ha” moment I had while reviewing submissions for the anthology. I knew that publishing was what I was meant to do in my life. This was my calling!

That experience is what led me to become a graphic artist. I discovered that I loved



I wanted to play the piano since I was a toddler!



Our wedding day, November 28, 1998.

computer layout programs and I excelled in them. I wanted to be a publisher. I thought about going overseas and teaching English as a second language. There were so many possibilities and it was very exciting. I even had a chance to go on a short-term mission trip and it was a transformative experience.

But after college, it was hard. It was like taking a demotion. There were no jobs, so I became a temporary secretary. But I learned so much about running an office that it later proved to be invaluable. God knew what He was doing!

After two years, my dream came true: The Navigators hired me as an editorial assistant for their communications department. The art director noticed that I had a gift for graphic design and trained

me, so I eventually grew to become a senior designer.

But even as I eventually—after much struggle—flourished in my career, I knew that God had planted a bigger calling in my life—becoming a wife and mother, joyfully abiding in the home. And God brought that dream about—I met my husband on a blind date at the Glen Eyrie Castle Madrigal Dinner. Three years later we were married.

Our Journey

*P*roverbs 31 has been my inspiration for a number of years. It was my inspiration when I resigned my job with The Navigators a few months before I got married over 18 years ago. I had a vision—to be a work at home mom—to have a 30-second commute. I knew that I never wanted to work outside the home again.

And so I did. With the birth of our son over 16 years ago, I have had the privilege of being at home with him. And when he was about three, I started my business, Angel Arts.

But I treated it as more of a hobby. Everything else took priority. And I did not believe

in myself, nor did I fully trust that God would provide.

Fast forward to 2008—when the economy took a disastrous turn. At the time, my husband and I owned a vacation rental. The business was ruined as a result of the recession and the property eventually foreclosed. This caused mounting debt and incredible stress. At the same time, my husband's paycheck was often delayed, his hours were cut back for a while, and his salary became stagnant.

During these hard times, we realized that our son has Aspergers Syndrome, a high-functioning form of Autism. Since I had been homeschooling him starting at second grade, it became even more important for me to stay at home so I could keep teaching him. We knew that public or even private school was not a good option for him. He was like a round peg in a square hole when he had gone to a Christian private school!

Seemingly insurmountable challenges surrounded us at every turn. I realized that we had to do something more. Relying on my husband's job, his employer, wasn't going to cut it. If we did, we knew that we would have to file for bankruptcy and let go of our house.

Everywhere I turned, there was some dire need and no funds to cover it.

One day in particular, I remembered going out to the front porch and glimpsing the front rails rotting. Something had to be done!

The easy thing to do, as suggested by a family member, would be for me to go out and get a job. But I absolutely could not do that. I had to stay at home to teach my child!

But instead, through the inspiration of the Bible and time with Him, I made a plan. "But the noble man (or woman!) devises noble plans; And by noble plans he (or she!) stands" (Isaiah 32:8 NASB).

That's when my plan of true self-employment began. I realized that my experience in graphic arts had value and could help those experiencing unemployment. I learned everything I could about Internet marketing. That's why I wrote an extensive course to help people start their own businesses by creating excellent brand images (Brand Identity Quest). I



*Sam playing military while doing school.
One of the great blessings of homeschooling!*

built it online so that people everywhere could benefit from it, and so that it would provide automatic income for my family.

That's what started me on my journey to depend on God through entrepreneurialism and He gave me motivation and laser focus to work on my business in a serious manner. My husband, frustrated with his career that was going nowhere, realized that he, too, needed to be self-employed.

He took my branding course and now he works on his architectural business full-time.



*Celebrating Valentine's Day. This fall we will celebrate 19 years together!
Where did the time go?*

We have embraced the idea that God has a future and a hope for us (Jeremiah 29:11) and at the same time, we refused to get into any worldly system. When the government hands out something for free, there is always a catch. We wanted to be completely dependent on God, not dependent on the government. So began our quest together to becoming a work at home **family!**

We want our son to live out His callings, to create his own opportunities and have options as he

grows up. That is another huge reason for us doing what we do. We know that we are modeling this lifestyle for him. What seemed alien and hard to us will be natural for him.

It has been a spiritual journey, one that we have had to rely on God for completely. Every step of the way, He has guided me, inspired me, and changed me from the inside out. The Scripture gives me much wisdom as I draw from stories like Gideon and the Israelites crossing the Jordan.

This is what my husband, Travis, and I are passionate about. Helping families create dazzling futures for themselves regardless of the circumstances of the day and age in which we live! Our goal is to build a family economy and we have made amazing progress thanks to the Lord. Now we want to help others in any way we can as we continue to walk in this journey.