



## Homeschool Connections Unit Study Planner Guide

# How To Build a Unit Study

### What is a unit study?

A unit study is one of many names given to a multi-disciplinary approach to learning, often implemented at lower grade levels but helpful at any learning level.

For a more in-depth look at what a unit study is and how homeschoolers benefit from this approach, check out [Episode 166 of Homeschooling Saints](#), where Jaydalia Dunne shares her expertise: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ySiv1WaYY>

At Homeschool Connections, we no longer offer courses that are designed as a unit study for grade school aged students. We found that having a pre-set unit study helped many of our families, but it left out some of our other students who wanted a different range of subjects, grade levels, or schedule options.

Our solution for this is to create a new mix of smaller courses that can be mixed together to create customized unit studies for your family!

We know that mixing and matching courses can be difficult without help, which is why we are committed to providing free resources (like this guide!) to help you homeschool with minimum stress and maximum success.

### How do I create a unit study?

How you choose to select and integrate your subjects is entirely up to you! You can choose how tightly knit you want the subjects to be, whether there are elements that reach across the entire study, or whether you have a single text as the study backbone.

If you are looking for some inspiration selecting texts for grade school students, you may want to check out some of these helpful resources on our blog: [an article on Saint Stories](#), our [Dad Reads Aloud](#) column, and our compendium of [Homeschool Reading Lists](#).

We suggest using a lab book, as our teacher Mrs. Dunne demonstrates on our podcast episode. (This compendium of student work is often called a commonplace book.) You can use this template as an ideas map to help you create a lab or commonplace book alongside your student as you progress throughout the school year.

For those looking to transition out of our former unit study series into our new mix-and-match approach, this template and suggested examples may be helpful.

### How many subjects should I include?



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You can bring in as many subjects as you like, and potentially your entire grade school curriculum can be a unit study so that you are only teaching one giant 'subject'.

However, to keep things manageable for you in your homeschool, it can be helpful to select three or four subjects that mesh together well (such as history, geography/nature studies, art, and church history) and offer an series of regular access points as you go through each week in a familiar, repeatable way. Then, when you reach the end of the week, synthesize via a hands-on project, presentation, or story.



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### How to Use This Template

1. Select your subjects and build your library
  - a. If you are looking to transition away from our previous Unit Study Four Year Cycle, see the list of recommended HSC courses and other resources [here](#).
  - b. Your library refers to the list of resources you will refer back to frequently throughout your unit study. Of course, you can also add as you go!
2. Decide on a weekly rhythm
  - a. You might choose to focus Day 1 on Church or Bible history, Day 2 on secular history and geography, Day 3 on story and art, and Day 4 on a revision and combination project.
  - b. Decide on what will stay the same about each week. Will you use the same lab book format to record your learning? Will you require any regular memorization (of Bible verses, dates, poems, etc.)? Will you read your way through a long story one chapter at a time throughout the year?
3. Decide on a weekly theme
  - a. In order to help you and your student navigate a large group of integrated subjects, it is important to find a common thread in a weekly theme. Feel free to choose whatever theme you like!
  - b. It can help to have a series of themes. For example, you can choose to cover the virtues for all the weeks in a school year. (Check out this [amazing virtue tree](#) from the Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist for theme ideas.) Using this schema, you could choose Justice as the theme of Week 1 and ask questions about whether historical figures or characters in a story exhibit this virtue. You could select a story for read-aloud time of a saint who exemplifies this virtue, and encourage your student to illustrate an act of justice. Another week, you might select Patience or Honesty, etc. Or you could go for a geographic schema and have Egypt as the theme for Week 1 and France as the theme for Week 2. Select something that makes you excited to learn as well!
  - c. Note that the themes are almost entirely flexible and need not necessarily have a 1:1 correlation with the subject matter. (If your theme is Justice, you can still cover Ancient Greece that week. You can assess ancient Sparta by asking whether their system helped or hindered the citizens in the pursuit of justice!)
4. Within each week, select the daily activities you will cover and create your daily checklist
  - a. If you work from big-picture (schema and theme) to small-picture (weekly plans and reading assignments), you will be surprised at how fun creating a learning plan can be!
  - b. We encourage you to print out your list and keep it in a binder so you can easily check off activities and keep notes as you go.



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Subjects:

Library list:

Weekly Rhythm:

Day 1:

Day 2:

Day 3:

Day 4:

Schema and overall notes:



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List of Weekly Themes:

(Note that this form contains 24 weeks, which is the usual length of a full Homeschool Connections course comprising 2 twelve-week semesters. However, you may of course adjust the number of weeks to suit your needs.)

Week 1:

Week 2:

Week 3:

Week 4:

Week 5:

Week 6:

Week 7:

Week 8:

Week 9:

Week 10:

Week 11:

Week 12:

Week 13:

Week 14:

Week 15:

Week 16:

Week 17:

Week 18:

Week 19:



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Week 20:

Week 21:

Week 22:

Week 23:

Week 24:



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Week 1:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 2:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:





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Week 3:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 4:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 5:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 6:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 7:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 8:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 9:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 10:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:





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Week 11:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 12:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 13:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 14:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 15:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 16:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 17:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 18:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:





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Week 19:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 20:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 21:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 22:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 23:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



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Week 24:	
Day 1	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 2	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 3	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:
Day 4	To Read:  To Watch:  To Practice:  Thought Question:



## Homeschool Connections Unit Study Planner Guide

### Works Cited and Referenced

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