

THE EPOCH TIMES

LIFE &

TRADITION

Through modeling and discussions, parents can pass on the love of liberty and country to their children.



10FOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK

Saving Liberty One Child at a Time

Teaching our children and grandchildren to embrace good values begins at home

JEFF MINICK

Aesop long ago told the story of the wolf and the dog.

The wolf is starving, thin as a rail, when he meets a well-fed, strong dog. When the dog learns the wolf is barely surviving, he invites him to come and live with him on the farm. "You'll get plenty of food and treats of all kinds," the dog says. "And all you have to do is bark at strangers and make a fuss over the farm's owners and children. It's an easy life."

The wolf is salivating at this prospect when he notices the dog's collar. "What's that around your neck?"

"Oh, that," the dog replies. "It's nothing. It's just used when they chain me up."

"You have to wear a chain? You aren't free to do what you want or go where you please?"

"Not all the time," the dog says. "But who cares?"

"Thank you very much," the wolf says, "but I'll keep my freedom!"

And with that, he turns and runs off into the forest.

The Battlefield Today

Aesop's fable serves as an excellent metaphor for the turmoil in today's body politic. Some Americans want to preserve their traditional liberties and to live as much as possible without government interference in their affairs. Others, like Aesop's dog, are willing to wear a collar if their masters care for them. This difference in values is at the core of today's political battles.

That collectivism has gained favor among 21st-century Americans cannot be doubted. A 2019 Gallup poll, for example, shows an increase in those who have positive views of socialism, but reports as well that American views on socialism are "complex" and "nuanced and multifaceted."

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Teaching Children History

A conversation with John De Gree, founder of The Classical Historian

BARBARA DANZA

Ensuring our children are given a solid education in history is becoming an ever-pressing issue. I recently asked John De Gree, founder of the history curriculum company, The Classical Historian, about his thoughts on and tips for teaching history. Here's what he said.

The Epoch Times: What inspired you to dedicate yourself to teaching history?
John De Gree: I received an apprentice-



John De Gree,
founder of The
Classical Historian.

COURTESY OF JOHN DE GREE

ship in teaching history to young people from a master, and I did not realize this until I was in my mid-20s. My dad taught middle school history and then was an assistant principal for a total of 30 years. He and my mom had 11 children, and I was their 10th.

As a youngster, I remember my dad telling interesting and funny stories about his students in the classroom and about education, in general. As the family shared our mom's meals, there were always discussions, sometimes heated, on politics, religion, and current events.

My dad was a master at asking questions and challenging others to think for themselves. Sometimes, it was difficult to figure out exactly what he thought. Because I was one of the youngest kids, I mainly listened. Both my dad and mom had a sincere care for all children, and my dad had a sound understanding of communism.

From 1990 to 1996, I studied and lived in Germany, Austria, Turkey, and Czechoslovakia.

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