



Dear Friend,

Thank you for agreeing to appear as a guest on The Art of Home Podcast! I would like to take this opportunity to give you a little background information on the what, why and how of this project.

Historically, homemaking skills were passed down in the home from older generations to younger—and sometimes that still occurs. But with dual income households and transient modern life, traditional training in homemaking is the exception rather than the rule. We often find ourselves newly married and living far away from our mothers, sisters, grandmothers and aunts who could model and teach the art of home.

Fortunately, if we know where to look and we are willing to ask for help, there are always people around us from whom we can gain wisdom and encouragement for our homemaking.

Ideally we would love to spend hours at the tables of these more seasoned homemakers and learn from them. But busy, overwhelming schedules can keep us from these valuable apprenticeships. And while there are many excellent resources in print to tutor and encourage homemakers, the demands of running a home do not leave much time for reading. Listening is another matter. I spent many hours in my kitchen as a young mom listening to encouraging teaching and preaching on Moody Radio. I could listen while making dinner and washing dishes with the added benefit that my children were hearing the same teaching.

Today we carry around a world of information in our pocket. Podcasts can be an excellent resource for busy homemakers who are able to squeeze in an episode or two rather than a book or lengthy article. There are many podcasts focusing on the how-to of cleaning, cooking, budgeting and other household tasks. But there are few highlighting the stories of individual homemakers.

With The Art of Home Podcast I hope to create a virtual community of homemakers sharing stories and experiences in order to lift up, encourage, challenge and teach one another. Homemaking is necessary. The work is hard, but can be infused with meaning and eternal value. It is an outlet for personal creativity and growth as well as an occupation that adds value, stability and beauty to individual homes and to society as a whole. With so much riding on this occupation let's take every opportunity to develop our skills, establish our purpose and celebrate our victories together.

I thank you, my friend, for adding your voice to this community. I look forward to hearing your story.

With Much Love and Gratitude,

Allison

**Podcast Guest Release**

Take some time to look over this guest release which will allow me to legally use your voice in the production of The Art of Home podcast. By signing this release you are giving me permission to use all or parts of your interview in future compilation episodes, printed material, social media promotions and on the podcast's website.

I will bring a copy for you to sign before the interview, or you may print it yourself and either email me a signed copy or I can collect it from you at the time of your interview.

**PODCAST GUEST RELEASE**

**GUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_ (hereinafter "Guest")

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPEARANCE DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

The above named Guest does hereby irrevocably consent to the recording and distribution of reproduction(s) of the Guest's voice and performance as part of the media program entitled The Art of Home Podcast (herein referred to as the "Program").

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Guest's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Podcaster's Signature

## **Podcast Interview Questions**

Below is an outline of questions from which we will work to conduct the interview. I may not ask all of these questions, but these are the ideas and topics I would like to explore in our conversation.

### **Welcome** *(to be added in post-production)*

Allison will give brief welcome and introduce guest.

### **Guest Intro**

Tell us a little about who you are today, then we will go back and trace your homemaking story from the beginning.

(Here you can include things such as family info, career info, hobbies, etc. Your reply should be just about a minute or so).

## **Beginnings and Homemaking 101**

- When did you first become a homemaker?
- Were you thrown head-first into the deep end or did you have some training in the art of home? Who did you learn from (people and resources)?
- For which skill did you have the steepest learning curve? examples...cooking, cleaning, organization, nursing, time management, budgeting, last-minute science projects

## **Homemaking Balance: Resource Management, Special Challenges, and Expectations**

- Did you work outside the home? What challenges did that present? Benefits?
- How did you get it all done? (Schedules, lists, goals and priorities)
- How well did the day-to-day reality of homemaking match your expectations?
- What is a special challenge you faced in your homemaking journey and how did you working through that challenge to adapt and grow? What is one thing you are thankful for about that challenge? (Some examples of challenges: financial struggles, infertility, having to work part or full time, special needs child, caring for an aging parent, health issues, etc.)

## **Homemaking Hospitality: Cultivating an Atmosphere of Welcome and Belonging**

- What is one practical way you showed hospitality in your homemaking? (To your family and to others)
- How does homemaking help build healthy community?

## **Homemaking Seasons**

- What was your most difficult transition from one season to another and how did you cope? For example; moving, first baby, parenting teens, empty nest, retirement, etc.
- What does your homemaking look like in this season you are in right now? How are you still challenging yourself to grow and learn as a homemaker?

## **\*Homemaking Tasks: rapid fire/quick answer just for fun**

- One you love
- One you hate
- One you grew to love
- Worst homemaking fail
- One memorable homemaking achievement
- Your Top 3 Homemaking Tips  
Your best tip re: cleaning, laundry, organizing, scheduling, budgeting, cooking, baking, grocery shopping, nursing, family vacations, parenting teens, parenting toddlers, homeschooling...the possibilities are endless. And it doesn't have to be long or complicated.  
EXAMPLE: "Here's one my favorite baking tips. If your recipe calls for honey or molasses, to keep it from sticking to the measuring cup, coat the cup with non-stick spray before putting the sticky liquid in and it will slide right out."

## **The Art of Home:**

- How do you see homemaking as an art?
- How do you find beauty in the midst of work that can feel mundane and monotonous?
- Why is gratitude important in the home and how have you seen it improve your experience as a homemaker?

## **Homemaking Support:**

- Women need one another. What are some ways you were able to foster community and support as a homemaker over the years? (ie, playgroups, book clubs, sewing circle, Bible study, etc.)
- What word of advice or encouragement would you give to younger homemakers? (A mistake to avoid, an opportunity to seize, etc.)

## **Bonus Content: Christmas**

The final season of the year will be a mini-season all about Christmas. The episodes will release, 1 per week, every Wednesday in December before Christmas. These episodes will be a compilation of short holiday segments from each of the women I interviewed during the year.

After the main interview, we will record a brief holiday segment using the following questions as guidelines.

- What does a typical Christmas Day look like at your home? (Who is there, what are you eating, etc?) And do you have a special recipe that you always make at Christmas?
- Did you and your household have special holiday traditions? (Caroling, gingerbread house competition, working at a soup kitchen, cutting your own tree, sending Christmas cards...etc.)
- Holidays are hectic. How did you maintain balance in this busy season?