



# Homeschool CEO Podcast Episode 39 - How "A Christmas Carol" ...

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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## SPEAKERS

Jen Myers

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00:01

So often, we're always moving so fast that we may not take the time to listen. But that's where learning and change really starts.

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Welcome to the Homeschool CEO Podcast, the podcast dedicated to entrepreneurs who want to successfully homeschool their kids while running a profitable business. In this podcast, we'll reveal the truth of what it really looks like behind the scenes of an entrepreneur who homeschools and how to make it all work. If you're an entrepreneur who currently homeschools or you want to start, you are in the right place my friend. With 16 years experience combining entrepreneurship with homeschooling. I'm your host, Jen Myers. And this is the Homeschool CEO Podcast.

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Merry Christmas. Happy Hanukkah. Happy holidays. Whatever you are celebrating, let's just celebrate. 2020 has been a ride and I don't know about you, but I need a party. Today I want to take you behind the scenes and share with you one holiday tradition that changed how I saw business and life. But before we get started, I want to give a quick shout out to one of our

incredible listeners.

01:30

Sarasmile81 says, "Homeschool CEO is one passionate Mama". She goes on to say that "Jen is so passionate about supporting moms through homeschooling and entrepreneurship and it's been a pleasure to participate in the Homeschool CEO Community." Sara, thank you so much for the incredible review, as well as being part of our Homeschool CEO Society, and the free Homeschool CEO Community. And if you're wondering what we're talking about, or what Sara is talking about in the review, come join us at the Homeschool CEO Community over on Facebook. We would love to have you. All right back to the episode.

02:14

So sometimes in life, we celebrate traditions or celebrations that really affect how we see the world. And growing up one of the things that my family did every single year was to go to a local church and watch a musical production of the old traditional Christmas book story by Charles Dickens called "A Christmas Carol". Now, if you're unfamiliar with the story - one, I totally think you should watch it or read it, whatever you prefer - and two, I'll give you a super, super quick explanation of it.

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So the story is about Scrooge. He basically was a greedy businessman who you know is where we get the term Scrooge from - Actually, I'm not sure if the term Scrooge came from the story or if the story was based on that. Either way, it's whenever we talk about somebody being a Scrooge or stingy, it really comes from this particular story. So he goes to sleep and the Ghost of Christmas Past comes and shows him all of the horrible things that he's done and how he's been mean and stingy and just a horror, generally a horrible person, right? Then the Ghost of Christmas Present shows up and then the Ghost of Christmas Future shows up and they basically take him on a journey of all of the mistakes in his life and where it's going to lead him if he doesn't change, okay. And then he comes back to the present day. And after he seemed like all of the mistakes that he's made and where it's going to lead him to, he has a lot of regret, changes his ways and becomes an incredible person. Okay, that's the nutshell of what the story is about. But today, I want to share with you the seven big lessons that I learned from Charles Dickens' story and how it impacted my business, and even how I live life in general.

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One thing that I learned from the character, Scrooge, is that learning begins with listening. It

wasn't enough for him to accompany the ghost on his journey. Scrooge actually had to take the time to listen to what they were saying. He had to listen to the people that he impacted. And he had to listen to what was going on around him. So often, we're always moving so fast that we may not take the time to listen, but that's where learning and change really starts. Okay, that's lesson one.

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Lesson two is, humility makes us better leaders. When Scrooge humbled himself and felt sorrow about his past memories, when he felt remorse about having treated people badly and unfairly, he really had to humble himself and pledged to do better. You know, he could have been arrogant. But that's not the way that Charles Dickens wrote the story. Instead, when he was able to face his own regret, he humbled himself, and that allowed him really to admit his mistakes. Humility even allows us to really self reflect, right? It gives us the pathway to acknowledge how our decisions and actions affect others.

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And I feel like humbleness so often is looked at as like a weakness. But I would argue that humility really just makes us better leaders, because it makes us more empathetic even. And so that's one thing that I really learned from Scrooge.

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One of the other things - kind of along the same line. For lesson three, I really learned that regret can be the catalyst, and it can lead to renewal, and we really need to feel those feelings in order to process them and let them go and in order to really create change that's lasting. Regret is not meant to be like wallowed in, in my opinion. But I do think that we need to acknowledge it. I think we need to feel it because that is like the catalyst. That's the accelerant that really helps us change. So that we never go back. You know, I feel like regret is one of those things that kind of puts the line in the sand, to say, "No, I'm never going to do that again." And so I think that there's such a place for regret in our lives. And I think that's one of the things that Scrooge taught me. So that was lesson number three, regret can lead to renewal, and we need to feel those things in order to move on to

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Number four, Charles Dickens taught me in this story of the Christmas Carol, is that there is so much joy in starting over. Sometimes starting over in life, in business - I mean, heck, even starting over in choosing a new homeschool curriculum, can bring a lot of shame and fear and regret. But

honestly, there is nothing better than the joy that comes with starting over.

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And Scrooge reminds us that starting over gives us this newness. It gives us like a new energy, that we need to figure out difficult things. And we should celebrate starting over, because it really signifies growth and change.

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Scrooge also shows us that it's never too late to change. I mean, the reality is, I probably wouldn't have bet on Scrooge turning his life around, would you? I mean, he was a pretty old dude. He probably - we would have thought "Nope, he is too far gone." And maybe where you are right now you feel that way about a family member, maybe a child - I had a kid that there was a time when I wondered - whatever that is, know that it's never too late to change whether you're 20, 50 or 105, you totally can change. You know, the story goes that the best time to plant a tree was 50 years ago. But the second best time is right now. And that is a lesson that Ebenezer Scrooge teaches us every single Christmas.

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The other thing that I want to share, is that one of my big lessons, lesson number six, that I learned from Ebenezer Scrooge from Charles Dickens' story, the Christmas Carol, was that change happens in the present moment. One of the most life changing books that I've read this year is the Power of Now from Eckhart Tolle. I think that's how I say his name. And it's really about, you know, so often we are living in the past or in the future. But the only time that we can really control and do anything about is this present moment. I want you to hear that one more time. How often we're thinking about the past, or we're worrying or planning for the future. And I know I've been there too, but Charles Dickens Really uses the story of Ebenezer Scrooge to teach us that change happens in the present moment.

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And even when Scrooge like flings open his door or his window - not his door - when he flings open his window on Christmas morning, he is so present with himself and the people around him. And that is when change starts to happen.

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As we go into this holiday season, I would challenge you to really be present with your family.

Take the time to listen because that's when our learning really begins. Be humble about any of your past mistakes and know that it's okay to regret things. But yet, there is so much joy in starting over. And the only time that you can really change is right now in the present. And it's never too late to change. That is what I learned from the Charles Dickens story, A Christmas Carol, and how Ebenezer Scrooge changed how I viewed life, business, homeschooling.

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Oh, and there's one other thing. Ebenezer Scrooge really just taught me that money is just a tool. It's totally neutral. Money simply amplifies more of who we are. Ebenezer Scrooge wasn't greedy because he was rich. Having a lot of money simply amplified that. So now, I want to know what your favorite holiday Christmas story is. DM me on Instagram and let me know.

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And remember to win a free one on one coaching call with me. It's easy to enter. Simply take a picture of you listening to this episode, share it on your Instagram Stories along with your biggest takeaway. Be sure to tag me @homeschoolCEO and that will automatically get you entered into when we draw one coaching call per month. So we'll be drawing again January 1st. I'm so excited. I hope to connect with you. In the meantime, be sure to head over to our Homeschool CEO Community Facebook group and we'll see you in there. Talk to you next week.

12:34

Hey, friend, I just want to say thank you so much for tuning in today. If you loved what you heard, please be sure to head over to Apple podcasts and leave a review. I really appreciate it. And for more information on connecting with other Homeschool CEOs just like you, be sure to check out our website at [www.homeschoolceo.com](http://www.homeschoolceo.com) and as always team Homeschool CEO, you ladies inspire me. Thank you for always showing others what is possible. You guys are awesome. See you next week.