

My mother homeschooled my siblings and I K-12th for religious reasons.

Because of her deeply held religious beliefs, she was afraid of public schools teaching us the “wrong things,” which might make us not religious.

Because of her interpretation of the Bible, she believed that the Bible alone should be used as the source of instruction for all subjects. Because of this, she refused to teach us English or reading comprehension. Instead, we were made to memorize entire chapters of the Bible.

I learned only up to multiplication tables in math, since there was nothing in the Bible that could be used for math education. I never read any world history. Refusing to teach us science, my mother told us to read the book of Genesis.

After eighth grade, my mom gave up on teaching me anything. Even though I was not receiving an education, she allowed me to “skip” a year in high school, because she no longer wanted to pretend she was homeschooling me. She refused to put me in public school, even when I begged.

I would also like to add that my older sister almost died because of my mother’s religious beliefs. My sister was sick and had blood in her stool for a few years, along with many other worrying symptoms. My mom just said she would pray about it everyday, and she knew God would take care of it. Two years later, my sister is 14 yrs old and 90 lbs, is exhausted all the time, and is basically on the verge of dying. When they finally decided God allowed them to seek medical doctor’s intervention—the doctors couldn’t understand why they hadn’t brought her into the emergency room two years prior. My sister was so close to dying as a result of my ultra religious Mom, and the fact that we never saw any other adults.

During this time, I was subjected to severe social isolation, which further prevented me from learning about the world. I never saw any other adults but my mom, my dad, and my grandmother. My two older siblings lack the basic skills to be adults, as to many of the ultra-religious homeschool kids I grew up with. I thought my life was normal until I was 22 yrs old when I went to therapy, and my therapist immediately informed me I was neglected and abused. I am an adult, who has been diagnosed with ADHD and ASD. I’ve been told multiple times by different psychologists that I have religious CPTSD as a result of the trauma I experienced as a child.

Signed,
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