

Teach Your Children to Hear from God in Daily Life Decision Making Process

A. (15 minutes) Everyone (all believers) can hear God (Hebrews)

Galatians 2:6 But from those who seemed to be something--whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man--for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me.

- a. Man is spirit soul and body (scriptures) made in God's image Gen 1:26-27
 - i. There is a difference between soul and spirit Hebrews 4:12
- b. Salvation is when our spirit, which is dead due to sin, becomes alive through faith in Jesus Christ.
- c. The very same spirit of Him that raised Christ from the dead is alive and well in you.

Romans 8:11; 1 Peter 1:21; Acts 2:24; 1 Cor 3:16; James 4:5

I will send you the Helper (Holy Spirit) to lead you into all truth John 14:16, 17; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7

John 14:15 -18; John 14:26 John 16:5-11
- d. Christ was born, lived and died, was buried, and is resurrected Romans 10:8-11
- e. Hearing God is an "inward witness"

- i. Romans 8:14, Romans 8:16; Proverbs 20:27 Gal 3:28, 29²⁸
- f. We can believe that God wants to communicate with us since we know that He desires to walk with us through life as He walked with Adam in the garden.
- g. You can grow in training and developing your spirit's sensitivity to the Holy Spirit by:
 - (Prov, 20:27)
 - i. Meditating in the Word, Josh. 1:8
 - ii. Practicing the Word, James 1:22
 - iii. Giving the Word first place, Prov. 4:20-22
 - iv. Instantly obeying the voice of your spirit (conscience)

B. More is caught than taught

- a. Lead/teach by example
 - Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- b. Our children saw us praying.
- c. We told our children when our prayers were answered
- d. We keep personal journals (at different frequency) of our interaction with the Lord.
- e. Every day we start our day with an individual "quiet" time.
- f. You must keep your priorities straight,

- i. Relationship with God; relationship with spouse; relationship with your children;
your calling; your work.
- g. If you make a mistake in your relationship with your children, ask forgiveness
- h. You do not have to be perfect to be a good parent (We certainly weren't.)

C. Family Practices

- a. Not as often as we would have liked: Family worship
 - i. Songs
 - ii. Includes asking each child what they are hearing from God. This could be just a Bible verse that spoke to them, a situation in which they saw God at work, something they felt God said to them.
 - iii. Communion
 - iv. Prayer together as a family. Have them participate in praying for each other.
- b. Pray for each child at night (bedtime).
- c. Reaffirm God's love for them.
- d. Harriet and I pray together at the beginning and end of each day as well as other times.
- e. We gave them each a Bible after they learned how to read and let them know that we expected them to read it every day, first thing in the morning.

- f. When they had conflicts with one another, we often would send them off to pray, read their Bible, and then come back and tell us what they thought God was saying about the situation.
 - g. When our children came to us saying that they felt that they had heard God asking them to do something, we supported them in it.
- D. We raised our children to be hearers of God; we were training them to be adults.
- a. See children as a gift entrusted from the Lord
 - i. Everything you put into them continues for the long term.
 - ii. They are with you for a short time. Make the important things, i.e. their relationship with God the priority.
 - b. We home schooled, this is not necessary to teach your children to hear God, but it helps.
 - c. As they grew older we expected more and more of them (age appropriate) (Ages listed are approximate.)
 - i. When they were very young (conception to 3) we made all the decisions for them. We were beginning to train them in such things as obeying us, learning to pick up what they could, but they carried really no responsibility.

- ii. Age 4-7: They became responsible for helping around the house. This still was in small areas, such as picking up, and clearing dishes. By age 7-8 they could do their own laundry, fold clothes, clear the table.
- iii. Age 10 (For at least one of them it was 8.) & up: They were paid for chores (no allowance) completed jobs.
- iv. Age 8-10 (?): They became responsible for keeping rooms neat
- v. About age 13, they became responsible for hearing from God on their education. The goal is to turn over responsibility for making decisions to the children. (Some day you may need them to help make decisions for you. You want to do this job well, certainly by high school they should be actively involved in these decisions.)
- vi. In high school we shifted more weight of the decisions to them. We would expect them to first pray and come to us with what they thought the Lord wanted them to do, before we would give them our advice. We still retained the last say in matters.
- vii. Toward the end of high school and during college age, we became counselors; our “no” was only for life and death or irreplaceable injury (Dobson, FOTF). As they pursued things we asked them to pray and discuss, we gave them our

perspective but did not tell them what to do. This means that some mistakes were made, but this is part of the growing process (no one learns to walk without falling down or being unsteady on their feet)

d. We kept our children with us as much as possible in church. We rarely put them in children's church or youth groups.

i. We expected them to pay attention to the sermon

ii. We discussed it at home,

1. What did you hear?

2. How did the Lord speak to you?

3. How does this align with the Word?

Psalm 127

^{TNK} Psalm 127:1 A song of ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain on it; unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman keeps vigil in vain.

² In vain do you rise early and stay up late, you who toil for the bread you eat; He provides as much for His loved ones while they sleep.

³ Sons are the provision of the LORD; the fruit of the womb, His reward.

⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are sons born to a man in his youth.

⁵ Happy is the man who fills his quiver with them; they shall not be put to shame when they contend with the enemy in the gate.