

Can your family hear GOD'S voice?

by Dawn Magee

The most important lesson you will ever teach your children is how to hear God. You can't be with your children 24/7. *God is!* You DONT have all the right answers. *God does!* Just as you helped teach your child to speak, you must also teach them to listen. Children want to hear God. They're just not sure how.

Start with these simple steps. (I say "simple" because that's exactly what the activity is, though the discipline to do it isn't.) Grab a calendar and schedule a family listening-to-God time once a week for the next month. It's up to you to get your whole family on board. If dad, mom or the older kids don't participate, the younger ones who are still pliable will not engage.



Schedule's done. Now what?

Begin the day by announcing to your family, "Today is our listening-to-God time!" Take a moment and pray: "God, please soften our hearts and prepare us to hear you today. We are excited for what you are going to share."

Generate some excitement during the day. Call, text, or leave notes in lunches. Express anticipation for what God might say.

When it comes time for your listening-to-God time, choose a place to gather that has as few distractions as possible. Before you start, play some worship music, provide some visual tools (maybe a picture of Jesus), or—even better—read a scripture.

To begin, *sit very quietly* together as a family. Remember, the focus has to be on hearing God. At first, five minutes is more than enough. After five minutes, encourage everyone to share what they heard. Remember NOT to give feedback. No matter how silly it may seem, it could be God.

Make it fun. Debrief around a table of your favorite treats. Share what you heard with art, music, or even a "guess what God told me" game.

Dawn Magee is an author, coach and speaker who provides practical tools for Christian living using God's Word as her guide. For more from Dawn and other resources, please visit her ministry website, www.RightToWearWhite.com.