

Biblical Encouragement for Moms

October 28, 2012



Topic Eight- She is a good listener.

Each one of us knows the feeling of not being heard. Sometimes this happens by accident, perhaps because someone is busy to leave, or in a rush to get something done.

For whatever reason, we know how discouraging it is to be ignored.

How can we prevent this from happening in our home? Are you taking time to listen to your children, even when you have much to do?

If you are a busy mother, maybe you can schedule a “Talk Time” with your children. I have done this and each one of them just love this time all alone with Mom! We talk at other times, but this is a relaxed time, one-on-one. Read on for examples of our talk time.

Joshua calls us once a week to talk, from college. He loves to share what is happening in his college, Church, & job experiences. I love to listen & comment and encourage him. He talks about serving God in various capacities. He loves to talk with his Dad and the rest of the family. Joshua asks our opinion on big decisions.

Heidi has so much to share about her future goals and walk with God. We talk about books and sermons and marriage and sewing, and on and on. She had a specific time we talked, from 2 yrs old, clear through the teen years. As a teen, she would talk for an hour, and the interaction was great! We still love to discuss life’s issues and goals & her future marriage.

Amber is eleven. She prepares things she wants to talk about at night, with great enthusiasm!

She tells me about her fun times and goals and asks many questions, and talks about what she is learning in school, music, friendships, etc. She loves to have my ear. I love hearing what is on her mind. She and I serve God together, praying for one another.

A mother who is a good listener will have a greater bond with her children. They know very early in life, if you want to hear what they have to say. Be careful with your wording. Be considerate, even when you disagree. Give them enough time to share their hearts.

Your children need wisdom. Let them ask you questions, without it stirring you up. They need to learn from you. [Read James 1:5](#) We, as parents also need to ask God for wisdom. Our children have had some very important questions through the years. I was always glad they were not afraid to ask me the tough questions. Make sure you never laugh at a question. Take them seriously.

There is a word in this verse that we need to look at, and study. It is the word “upbraid.” It means to correct or criticize someone in a harsh manner. Do not be harsh with your children, this is not God’s way. Jesus does not upbraid us, as He tells us in this verse. To be harsh with your children is to be rude.

James, chapter one, verse 19 says:

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be [swift to hear](#), [slow to speak](#), [slow to wrath](#).”

1. Be a good listener
2. Do not speak too quickly.
3. Do not have a quick temper.

The next verse says: “For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.” Wrath is a heated anger. This is not part of God’s plan. There is a time for being firm, but not yelling and becoming out of control with words that are belittling or rude in some way.

The Bible says that your religion is vain and empty if you do not have tongue control.

“If any man among you seem to be religious, and **bridleth not his tongue**, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain (empty.) James 1:26
A critical, unbridled tongue can do a lot of damage, and proves your heart is not right with God. Mom, you need to be a good listener to your God.

[Read I Peter 3:10](#). This reminds us that if we want to have good days, we need to be careful what we say. Your words reveal something about you. Your children take them very seriously.

The word “guile” is used in this verse. It means to be dishonest or deceitful.
The Bible is telling us not to be dishonest with our words. Jesus says that to have good days, you must be honest. This is important with your children.

Take time to patiently listen to the thoughts of your children. You can do some of your housework & laundry later, when they are sleeping, if need be.

But your children are growing up, and forming opinions. They need to be led in the right way...by your good example. **of your children.**

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Children can be taught to ask questions, but if you are not there to listen, they will quit talking. Turn your music or TV off if it is distracting to them. Give them some attention. You will be able to save yourself from many heartaches down the road.

Some results of children being ignored:

1. Rebellion, frustration
2. Depression
3. Hiding their anger in some sinful habit

I have seen these patterns many times. You can prevent this type of behavior. Listen and pray for your children. Pay attention to their needs.

You will be able to talk less, if you pray more. Then, if you pray more, you will be more willing to listen when your children need you. A godly mother is a praying mother. She is praying constantly, and God naturally blesses her in these ways.

One word of caution: There will be occasions when your children need to respect your time. You will have to teach them when it is appropriate to talk in detail. There are times they need to listen too.

Some **behavioral problems** with children are solved when Dad or Mother will stop and listen. Children tend to act up more when they need attention. Be there for your children...with a listening ear and they will be more willing to hear what you have to say.

“The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them.”
Proverbs 20:12

Listen, Mom.