

GUIDING YOUNG HEARTS TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE



Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left. (Isaiah 30:21).

God is not silent, and He desires even the youngest hearts to know His voice. Children are never too young to encounter the living God. He longs to guide, comfort and speak to them personally. Just think of the small Samuel! In the New Testament, Jesus welcomed little children into His presence, showing us that spiritual sensitivity is not limited by age. Teaching children to hear God's voice will lay a foundation for a life of intimacy with Him, rooted in truth, trust and love. As we train them to listen, we prepare them to walk in God's purpose with confidence and clarity.

What does hearing God's voice mean?

Hearing God does not always mean hearing an audible voice. God can speak in many ways, including:

- A thought or inner sense.
- A Bible verse that stands out.
- A picture or a dream.
- A feeling of peace or conviction.
- Words of encouragement from others.

God's voice always aligns with Scripture and His nature, loving, kind, just and holy. Helping children to hear God's voice about seeking emotional experiences or spiritual superiority is about forming a relationship with the living God. When children learn to recognise His voice, they:

- Grow in faith and trust.
- Learn to make wise, Spirit-led decisions.
- Understand God's personal involvement in their lives.
- Build a spiritual foundation that lasts a lifetime.

Teaching children to hear God's voice is a priceless gift parents can give their children. It will nurture their relationship with the Lord and help ground them in His love and truth as a personal experience. Early childhood is an ideal time to teach them to speak to the Lord themselves, as children are naturally receptive to learning that God also desires to speak to them and guide their lives every day.

Understanding that God speaks

..."Speak, for Your servant hears." (1 Samuel 3:1-10).

The first step is teaching children that God truly speaks to His people. The Bible has many examples of God speaking to young people, e.g. Genesis 37, 1 Samuel 16:11-13, Luke 1:26-38.

Practical tip: Create a bedtime routine with a moment of silence where children sit quietly and say, *"Speak, for Your servant hears."* Afterwards, ask if they sensed any words, pictures, feelings, or thoughts that might be from God.

Simple prayer for children: *Dear God, like Samuel, I want to hear You. Speak to me and help me listen with my heart.*

Pray for children to answer like Samuel, "Speak, Lord," with tender hearts and attentive spirits. Ask for divine encounters to mark their childhood and ignite lifelong intimacy with God.

Knowing God's voice through his Word

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105).

God's primary way of speaking is through the Bible. Help children develop a habit of reading or listening to Scripture daily.

Practical tip: Read a short Bible passage together and ask questions such as:

- "What do you think God is saying here?"
- "How does this passage or verse make you feel?"
- "Is there something God wants us to do after reading this?"

Simple prayer for children: *God, thank You for the Bible. Help me understand it and follow Your way daily.*

Pray for Scripture to become their daily bread, lighting their path and anchoring their hearts in truth. Ask the Lord to open their eyes to see, their ears to hear and their hearts to understand.

Creating a quiet heart

Be still, and know that I am God. (Psalm 46:10).

Children need a calm, focused environment to tune their hearts to God. Help them find a special 'God space', a quiet corner with a Bible, journal and crayons or markers.

Practical tip: Teach children to sit quietly for a few minutes, starting with one minute and gradually increasing the time. Encourage them to ask Jesus what He wants to say. Soft worship music can help children listen, not just with their ears, but also with their hearts.

Simple prayer for children: *Jesus, help me be still and quiet. Calm my heart and speak to me.*

Pray for God to create tender, attentive hearts within them, hearts that long for Him. Pray that the Father would teach them to dwell in His rest.

God Speaks in Many Ways

For God may speak in one way, or in another... (Job 33:14).

God can speak through Scripture, other people, feelings of peace or conviction, dreams and creation.

Practical tip: Set aside 'God Moments' each week for children to share anything inspiring or unusual that made them feel God was speaking to them. Use these moments to affirm them and teach discernment.

Simple prayer for children: *Lord, help me to notice when You speak. Open my ears and heart to hear You.*

Pray for every whisper of the Holy Spirit to become clear, familiar and trusted. Pray that children will grow in discernment and faith as they learn to listen for His voice.

Discerning God's voice

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:27).

Help children learn to distinguish between their own thoughts, God's voice and other influences. Teach them that God's voice is always loving, kind, truthful and aligned with the Bible. It never causes fear, shame, or confusion.

Practical tip: Role-play simple scenarios:

- "If you heard a voice telling you to share your lunch, does that sound like God?"
- "What if the voice told you to be mean, would that be God?"
- Help them evaluate and reflect on these questions.

Simple prayer for children: *Jesus, thank You for knowing me. Help me know Your voice and follow You daily.*

Pray for His truth to rise above all the daily noise they might experience. Ask the Lord to help them recognise that His love aligns with His Word, and for them to be shepherded into deep, daily discernment through His Spirit.

Obedience is Part of Hearing

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only..." (James 1:22).

Hearing God's voice is only the beginning; obeying what He says is naturally the next step. When children are taught how to respond to God's leading, they experience the joy of walking in His will from a young age!

Practical tip: When a child senses they have heard from God, ask:

- "What do you think God wants you to do?"

Praise small acts of obedience, such as sharing, kindness and prayer and encourage children to continue following God's voice.

Simple prayer for children: *Dear God, help me hear and obey You. I want to follow You wholeheartedly.*

Pray for the Lord to raise up a generation that delights in doing His will, walking in truth and reflecting His love. Pray that obedience becomes their act of worship and their path to blessing.

Making it a lifestyle

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14).

Make hearing God's voice a normal part of daily life. Pray together before school, ask God to speak during family devotions and celebrate when your child hears something from the Lord.

Practical tip: Create a 'God's Voice' journal where children can draw or write what they sense God is saying. Revisit these entries regularly to reflect and give thanks.

Worship also helps children become aware of God's presence. A 'God thank-you jar', where children place notes of gratitude, helps them stay open to hearing God's voice.

Simple prayer for children: *Jesus, thank You for loving me. Help me come to You daily and stay close to You.*

Pray for children to be raised in homes where His presence is treasured. Pray for these homes to be altars of communion, where young hearts are trained to walk with Him continually, joyfully and faithfully.

Conclusion

Children can learn to hear God's voice. With nurturing guidance, Scripture and consistent practise, they will develop a personal and life-giving relationship with Him. By helping them understand and respond to God's voice, we equip them to live confident, Spirit-led lives rooted firmly in His love and truth.

Pray for His voice to become familiar and cherished by them from a young age. Ask the Lord for young lives to be rooted in His truth, bearing fruit that honours Him.