

Listening to God

A conversation involves 2 or more people exchanging ideas, feelings, stories, thoughts and information through speaking **AND listening**.

- A **conversation is a dialogue** not a monologue
 - **It is the SAME WITH GOD**
 - We need to spend time with God talking **AND listening** to him

We can *hear God's voice* in many ways and teach our children to *listen for God's voice*:

- Through the words of Scripture
- Through songs of Praise to God
- Through our thoughts
- Through our encounters with others
- Through our experiences of love, kindness, and forgiveness

While not audible, if we create quiet time to spend with God and quiet our minds, *God's voice* will become more familiar over time, and we will better recognize when *God speaks* to us

Steps to help your child hear the voice of God:

1. Find a quiet place.

The voice of God usually will compete with noise. In the Gospels, we often see Jesus going to quiet places to be alone to pray. "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." *Mark 1:35 NIV* If Jesus needed to get alone to be able to have a real conversation with God, so do we!

2. Invite God to speak, asking him to help your hearts be quiet enough to listen.

Help your child get into a comfortable listening position, then pray the following prayer together.

"Jesus, please help me to listen to you today. Help my heart and mind to be quiet so I can hear you. Jesus, what would you like to say to us today?"

3. Wait in expectation.

Remind your children that God's voice is a very quiet voice, and remind them to remain patient while learning to recognize God's voice in whatever way God will speak to them. Remind them that it may take time to hear God speak to them, but to remain aware of that tiny voice that may come to them in a variety of different ways.