

## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

In Deuteronomy 6:5-9, God reminds us to love God with everything that we have and commands us to tell our children about God when we sit at home, when we walk along the road, when we lie down and when we get up.

But how do we do that. Parents often ask me, "How do I teach my children about God? What is the best way to approach talking with them?" My answer always is, "Watch for the teachable moments!" Teachable moments come when you are with your children at home, at the playground, in the car (where a lot of your time is spent I am sure!), waiting in line at the grocery or at a department store (a more contemporary interpretation of what God said).

Recognizing teachable moments comes from listening well. When your child says, "Hey, mom look at this neat bug!" there is an opportunity for you to talk about creation, how God created everything, even the neat bugs! Not only did God create everything, but God made so many kinds of everything! Beetles and bees, caterpillars and katydids. Isn't it amazing how great and wonderful the world God created is?

Before you can count to ten you're in a full blown discussion about God as creator. You are a theologian and you didn't even know it!

Another occasion might be when your child disobeys and you remind them that although they've done something wrong you still love him or her very much and nothing will ever change that. You can remind them that God loves us in the very same way. We may do things that disappoint God, but God's love is constant just like your love for him or her.

In the car, play Christian CD's for children. The lyrics often bring up questions for discussion. In line at the grocery talk about all the wonderful foods God has made for us to eat. When you are reading with your child or having prayer time around the dining table or at night before bedtime are other wonderful teachable moments.

Keep your eyes and ears open and the very God you want to talk about will provide the opportunities you need to share your great love for God with your children. Teachable moments are everywhere!

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