

# Rooted in Faith, Raised in Love

**A Christian Parent's Guide to Loving,  
Correcting, and Spiritually Leading Their Children**



**INLEV - Productions**

# Introduction

**"Perhaps your child doesn't know how much they are loved..."**

How many times have you thought: "But I give everything for this boy..." "She is my life, I do everything for her..."

And yet, you noticed your child emotionally distanced themselves, acted coldly, or even said: "You don't love me"?

If this has happened, this e-book is for you. And if it hasn't happened yet, this e-book is also for you.

Because loving is not enough—love must be perceived.

As Christian parents, we are called to live love as Jesus did: with gestures, words, time, and sacrifice.

But often, the rush, fatigue, and even the way we were raised prevent us from demonstrating that love as we should.

This is not a book about guilt—it's about awakening. It's not about pointing out mistakes—it's about forging a new path.

Before any practical instruction, we want to extend an invitation:

## **Make a Commitment with God**

Take a moment alone. In prayer, ask the Holy Spirit:

"Lord, I ask for discernment. Show me where my love is not being felt. Teach me to love as You love. Renew in me the desire to raise my children with tenderness, firmness, and grace."

# The 3 Barriers That Block Love

1

Assuming "they already know" Just as God constantly reminds us of His love (**Psalm 136**), our children also need to hear, see, and feel our affection.

2

Lack of intentional time Jesus, even when busy, stopped to be with the children (**Mark 10:13-16**). Love requires real presence.

3

Incompatible love languages Perhaps your child needs words of affirmation, but you show love by serving—like preparing snacks. They may not understand this as a demonstration of love.

## The Challenge of Our Generation

Many of our parents weren't taught to say "I love you." And often, neither were we.

But Jesus shows us a different path—full of tenderness, care, and intention.

# Biblical Examples of Paternal Love

## ***The father of the prodigal son – Luke 15:20***

"And when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him."

This father didn't wait for his son to ask for forgiveness. He ran, embraced, kissed. He expressed love with gesture, emotion, and initiative.

## ***Noah and his sons – Genesis 9:20-27***

After the flood, they worked together to rebuild their lives. This shows us that love is also expressed through partnership, cooperation, and shared mission. Developing activities together with your children can improve your relationship and create unique and deep bonds.

# What Can We Learn?

God calls us to love with clarity. With visible gestures. With attitudes and words that make it clear: "You are loved, not just in thought, but in action."

## Practical Reflection

- When was the last time you said "I love you" while looking into your child's eyes?
- What do you think they would understand as true proof of love?
- Have you ever asked them what makes them feel loved?

## Practical Reflection

Write a letter to God about your children. Talk about how you love them. Ask the Lord to show you new ways to demonstrate that love in ways they can understand.

Example prayer: "Lord, teach me to love as You love. Show me where my love has remained invisible and give me divine creativity to express it. In Jesus' name, amen."

# Chapter 2

## The Role of Love in Christian Correction

**"Correcting in love is forming character with tenderness and firmness."**

Many Christian parents face a dilemma: How to discipline without causing emotional harm? How to correct without pushing away?

The answer lies in the balance that God shows us: True correction is born from love—and aims to form, not to hurt.

### **Correction is Biblical—and Loving**

The Bible is clear: "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." (**Hebrews 12:6**)

God doesn't correct out of anger, but out of love. This should be our model.

## When Correction Loses Love

Unfortunately, in many Christian homes, correction comes with:

- Shouting, threats, and contempt;
- Impulsive punishments, given in the heat of anger;
- Cold silence or indifference as a form of punishment.

This type of "correction" disconnects rather than educates. Correcting without love teaches fear. Correcting with love teaches direction.

## Jesus Corrected with Love

Christ corrected firmly, but with tenderness:

- With Peter, He rebuked with harsh words, but later restored him with affection (**John 21:15-17**).
- With the adulterous woman, He showed mercy before saying: "Go, and sin no more" (**John 8:11**).
- With the disciples, He corrected behaviors, but always reaffirmed their love and purpose.

Christian correction is not meant to punish—it aims to transform.



# Common Mistakes in Christian Discipline

1

## Delayed Correction

- "Let it slide so many times that now you explode."
- Solution: "Prevention is better than cure" (**Proverbs 13:24**).

2

## Inconsistent Discipline

- "Today I punish, tomorrow I ignore."
- Principle: Security comes from predictability.

3

## Character Judgment

- "You are lazy!" vs. "Your room is disorganized."
- Reminder: Differentiate the act (wrong) from the person (loved).

# Principles of Correction in Love

1

Correct at the right time "A time to keep silence, and a time to speak..." (**Ecclesiastes 3:7**) Wait for anger to pass. Correct with a cool mind and a clean heart.

2

Explain the reason for correction Punishment without understanding generates rebellion. Say: "I'm correcting you because I love you too much to let you continue down this path."

3

Reaffirm love after correcting A hug after correction is worth more than a thousand words. Show that the bond remains intact.

# Practical Tools for Loving Correction

## 1

### The 3 Steps of Admonition

1. Describe the behavior (without judgment).
2. Explain the impact (on others, on themselves).
3. Teach the alternative (the desired behavior).

## 2

### Language that Builds Up

- ✗ "You never do anything right!"
- ✓ "I noticed the homework had several errors. How about we review it together?"

## 3

### The Time of Restoration After the consequence:

- Embrace
- Reaffirm your love
- Pray together

# The Final Touch: Forgiveness and New Beginnings

## How to Teach Repentance:

1. Recognize the error
2. Ask forgiveness (from God and those offended)
3. Make restitution (when possible)

The Power of Modeling Forgiveness: "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." (**Colossians 3:13**)

**Exercise:** Share with your children real stories where you yourself needed to ask for forgiveness.

## What Can We Learn?

- Love without correction is omission.
- Correction without love is aggression.
- But love with correction is formation.

Our role as Christian parents is to educate firmly, but without hurting the child's heart. We should be God's instruments to guide character, not to crush the soul.

# Final Reflection: What Remains in the Heart?

- **Do my children leave correction:**

Feeling rejected or loved?

With fear or with understanding?

- **When I fail in discipline, do I ask them for forgiveness?**

- **How can I better balance truth and grace?**

## Spiritual Proposal

Pray before correcting. Give the situation to God and ask for wisdom.

### Example prayer:

"Lord, I want to correct with the same love that You use with me. Give me patience, clarity, and self-control. May my children see Your care in me—even when correction is necessary. In Jesus' name, amen."

# Chapter 3

## The Importance of Active Listening in Children's Spiritual Formation

**"Listening is loving with your ears."**

How many parents talk about God to their children—but rarely listen to them with attention?

Active listening is not just a communication skill. It's a bridge of affection. It is through listening that a child's soul opens—and can be reached with truth.

## God Always Listens to His Children

The Bible reveals a Father who listens:

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee..."

**(Jeremiah 33:3)**

God does not interrupt us. He listens to us with patience, even when we repeat ourselves, make mistakes, or cry without knowing what to say. As parents, we are called to reflect this model.

# What Is Active Listening?

Listening actively is more than "hearing what was said." It demonstrates that the heart is present, not just the ears.

## Key elements:

- Eye contact (demonstrates attention);
- Empathetic reaction (shows that you care);
- Response based on what was said (not changing the subject or correcting without listening);
- Open posture, without immediate judgments.

"Children who are not heard stop talking. And parents who don't listen lose access to the heart."

## When Children Stop Talking

### Some signs that listening has been lost:

- Dry or evasive answers;
- Fear of telling something in anticipation of scolding;
- Lack of openness even for simple topics.

Children and adolescents need to feel that their words have value—even if what they say seems silly, wrong, or confusing.

# Jesus Practiced Active Listening

- With children: Jesus welcomed them and valued their presence (**Matthew 19:14**);
- With disciples: He asked questions and listened before teaching (**Luke 24:17-19**);
- With the wounded: He heard their pain before healing them (**John 11:33-35**).

Listening is, many times, the healing before the healing.



# Common Mistakes of Christian Parents

1

## Responding before listening:

- "I already know where this is going..."
- **Proverbs 18:13** – "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."

2

## Using talk time as a teaching moment:

- The child speaks, the parent responds with preaching, reprimand, or contempt.
- Effect: the child closes up.

3

## Validating only what is "right":

- Reactions like: "That's nonsense," "You have no reason to cry."
- This blocks healthy relationship and emotional expression.

# Practical Tools for Spiritual Listening

1

## Questions that deepen

- "How did you feel about that?"
- "What did you think at the time?"
- "Do you want advice or do you just want to be heard right now?"

2

## Word mirror

- Repeat in other words what the child said, to validate and demonstrate understanding:  
"So, you felt sad because you felt left out by your friends?"

3

## Exclusive time

- Create daily moments to be 100% present.
- Example: a conversation at the end of the day, without cell phone, just to listen.

# Spiritual Reflection:

## Listening Is Also Discipleship

Listening is the beginning of discipleship. Children who are heard become more sensitive to God's voice. Parents who listen reflect a heavenly Father who welcomes.

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak..." (**James 1:19**)

## What Can We Learn?

- Does my child feel truly heard by me?
- When was the last time I let them speak without interrupting, correcting, or rushing?
- How can I develop more sensitivity to what my child says—and to what they cannot say?

## Spiritual Proposal

Before conversing, pray. Ask the Holy Spirit for attentive ears, a teachable heart, and wisdom to guide with love.

### Example prayer:

"Lord, may I learn to listen with patience. May my ears be like Yours: always open to welcome, comfort, and teach. May my children see in me the reflection of Your care, not only in the words I say, but in the attentive silence I offer. In Jesus' name, amen."

# Chapter 4

## How to Teach Biblical Truths in Everyday Conversations

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way..."

### **Deuteronomy 6:6-7**

It's not just church services, devotionals, and Bible studies that spiritually form a child. It's what is said on the way to school, it's the conversation about a mistake made, it's dinner, outings, bath time, it's the ordinary day being consecrated.

## Spirituality Along the Way

God taught us to disciple our children "when thou walkest by the way" (**Deut. 6:7**).

This reveals something profound: Faith is taught in the natural flow of life. It is not limited to sacred moments. Life is the altar.

# How Truths Take Root

Children learn through repetition, context, and experience. They associate values with people, moments, and feelings.

## **Example:**

- If a father speaks of forgiveness at the moment he forgives his child, this engraves the truth with emotional depth.
- Talking about trusting God when facing a family challenge reinforces faith as reality, not theory.

## **The Power of Micro-Conversations**

Evangelizing your children doesn't require long sermons. In fact, the most formative moments happen in small talks:

- During correction: "Do you know why it's important to tell the truth? God loves truth."
- In traffic: "Look how beautiful the sky is! God puts care into every detail."
- In an apology: "Did you know that Jesus also taught us to forgive like this?"
- Before bedtime: "Shall we thank God for what we experienced today?"

These are seeds that, together, form a tree of faith.

# **The Danger of "Disconnected Religion"**

**Some parents talk about God only when it's convenient for them—or to correct.**

**Be careful with phrases like:**

- "God will punish you!"
- "You sinned again, that's why God doesn't like this."

**This creates children who fear God, not who have intimacy with Him.**

Jesus said: "Suffer the little children to come unto me..."—He doesn't push away, He draws near.

# How to Teach Naturally

Here are simple and effective strategies:

1

## **Associate biblical principles with real events**

- Helped a friend? Talk about the Good Samaritan.
- Are they afraid? Tell how David faced Goliath.

2

## **Use everyday language**

- You don't need to use difficult words.
- Speak of Jesus as a present friend.

3

## **Always bring the spiritual "why"**

- Example: "Why do we pray before eating?"  
"Because everything comes from God and we want to thank Him."

4

## **Create visual or symbolic triggers**

- A post-it on the refrigerator with a verse.
- A drawing of the armor of God in the child's room.
- A keychain, bracelet, or t-shirt with biblical words.

# The Bible Gives the Example

- **Deuteronomy 6:7** – "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children..."
- **Proverbs 22:6** – "Train up a child in the way he should go..."
- **2 Timothy 3:15** – "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures..."

Paul recognizes that Timothy learned from an early age, through his grandmother and mother (**2 Tim 1:5**). This is everyday discipleship!

## Making the Everyday Sacred

- The home is the first temple.
- The father and mother are the first preachers.
- The routine is the first discipleship.

"We don't need to transform the home into a church... We need to remember that the home is already an altar."



# What Can We Reflect On?

- How have I been speaking about God in simple conversations?
- Which everyday topics can I start connecting with biblical truths?
- Does my child see me as someone who lives what I teach?

## Spiritual Proposal

Make a commitment to naturally incorporate God into your routine.

### Example Prayer:

"Lord, teach me to speak of You with lightness and truth. May my words reveal You, not only in church services, but at the table, in the car, at the park, at home.

May my children see You in my actions, in my corrections, in my affections. May Your name be familiar in our home, and Your love be visible in our conversations. In Jesus' name, amen."

# Chapter 5

## More than Words: Parents' Example as Living Discipleship

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." **1 Corinthians 11:1**

You can teach your child about patience... but if they see you exploding over a simple mistake, they will learn that patience is just theory.

You can talk about faith... but if they see you desperate in the face of any crisis, they will learn that faith doesn't work in practice.

Children are emotional and spiritual mirrors of their parents.

### The Child Not Only Hears—They Observe

- They notice your posture when something goes wrong.
- They see how you treat your wife, your husband.
- They feel the sincerity of your worship.
- They observe if your faith changes on Sunday... or is real on Monday.

Parents don't teach only with their mouths. Parents teach with their tone of voice, with their posture, with their reactions, with their gaze.

## **The Child's Brain Learns by Imitation**

- According to neuroscience, young children develop values and beliefs mainly by observing models, especially parents.
- What they see repeatedly, they record as right. And what they hear, but don't see practiced, they discard.
- This means: If you say you trust God, but live anxiously, your child will trust your fear more than your faith.

## **The Danger of Inconsistency**

Children raised in homes where Christian discourse doesn't match practice...

- Tend to develop spiritual cynicism.
- Feel confused about what real faith is.
- May even distance themselves from church as adults.

This happens because Christianity was presented as a moral burden, and not as a lifestyle with meaning, peace, and truth.

## **Example as Life Direction**

- Your child learns to ask for forgiveness... when they see you asking for forgiveness.
- They learn about respect... when they see how you treat their mother.
- They learn to read the Bible... when they see you opening yours.
- They learn to pray... when they hear your prayer.
- They learn to deal with frustrations... when they see how you deal with yours.

### **These are not just lessons.**

- They are eternal marks, tattooed by daily living together.

# How to Be a Real Example

1

## **Admit your mistakes in front of them.**

- This teaches humility and restores trust.
- Example: "Son, daddy was wrong when he yelled. Forgive me?"

2

## **Be transparent, but with wisdom.**

- Talk about challenges with faith and hope.
- Show that the Christian life is real, but full of trust in God.

3

## **Live the Bible before preaching it.**

- The child needs to see the impact of the Word on the parents.
- Your values are more powerful than your memorized verses.

4

## **Take care of your spiritual health.**

- Don't try to teach a faith that you don't live yourself.
- Invest in your walk with God, and your child will reap the benefits.

## **Biblical Example: Jesus and the Father**

Jesus said: "The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do." (**John 5:19**)

- This is profound! Jesus teaches us that we learn by observation. And He, being the Son, imitated the Father.
- So it is with our children: They will do what they see us do.

## **For Reflection**

- Is my lifestyle today consistent with the faith I teach my children?
- Do my reactions and decisions point to Christ or to the world?
- Am I willing to change first, before expecting change in them?

## **Spiritual Proposal**

Today, decide to be a more truthful example—not perfect, but sincere and aligned with the gospel.

### **Example Prayer:**

"Father, help me to live what I preach. May my home see in me more than words: see faith, forgiveness, humility, joy, and trust in You. May my children find in me a reflection of Your love. Where I fail, may Your grace transform me. In Jesus' name, amen."

# Chapter 6

## **An Altar in the Home: Building a Spiritual Routine as a Family**

"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

### **Acts 5:42**

In the Old Testament, altars were places of sacrifice and encounter with God. Today, our homes need a living spiritual altar, not made of stones, but of constancy, surrender, and worship. A child who grows up in a home with a solid spiritual routine grows with deeper roots that resist the storms of the world.

### **Why does spiritual routine matter?**

- It establishes the Christian identity of the family.
- It strengthens the family and spiritual bond.
- It shows children that God is part of everyday life.
- It prepares the heart for future decisions.
- It plants eternal seeds — even if invisible for a time.

It is in daily repetition, not isolated events, that spiritual values are consolidated.

## **What is a spiritual routine?**

It is not something rigid or religious, but rather a family rhythm of faith, with simple and constant practices, such as:

- Praying together
- Reading the Bible as a family
- Worship in the home environment
- Spontaneous spiritual conversations
- Gratitude before meals
- Testimonies of God's work in daily life

This is not about religiosity. It's about living with God's presence every day.

## **Routine teaches more than events**

Your child may remember an impactful church service... But they will never forget the simple prayers before bedtime. Nor the way you began the day surrendering to God.

What is done as a family, with love, is marked on the child's soul.



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# How to establish a spiritual routine without forcing

1

**Choose a viable time for everyone (even if it's just 10 minutes).**

- Before bed? Upon waking? After dinner?

2

**Start small and realistic.**

- Don't try to preach sermons. Read 1 verse and pray sincerely.

3

**Create an environment of participation.**

- Let your child choose a song.
- Ask what they would like to pray for.
- Invite them to take part, not just listen.

## 4

**Use visual, playful, and creative resources (especially with younger children).**

- Illustrated Bibles
- Biblical drawings
- Christian apps and videos for children

## 5

**Treat the routine as a sacred, non-negotiable moment.**

- If there's time for phones and Netflix, there's time for God.

## **Biblical Example: Timothy's home**

Paul said to Timothy: "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice." **2 Timothy 1:5**

Timothy was not disciplined only in church — but at home. His faith was born from a home that cultivated spirituality as a routine.

## **To Reflect Upon**

- How much space does God really occupy in my home routine?
- Does my child see God only on Sunday, or also on Monday?
- What simple practice can I start today with my family?

## **Spiritual Proposal**

**Start today with a family "altar moment."**

- 5 to 10 minutes.
- A simple prayer.
- One verse.
- One thanksgiving.

A short and constant routine is better than a grand attempt that doesn't last.

## **Example Prayer:**

"Lord, help me build an altar within my home.  
May my family take pleasure in seeking You.  
May our children grow knowing that You are  
welcome in our home. Give us constancy and joy  
in this commitment. In Jesus' name, amen."

# Chapter 7

## How to Deal with Children's Doubts and Faith Crises

"And of some have compassion, making a difference."

### Jude 1:22

Not every child raised in faith will grow with a firm and unshakable faith — and that's okay. Doubt is part of growth. Crisis can be the beginning of a deeper faith, as long as parents are prepared to deal with it with love, patience, and wisdom. Doubt is not the end of faith — it's an invitation to build a personal, living, and true faith.

### Faith crises are not a sign of failure

Many parents feel guilty when their child questions biblical truths, feels distant from God, or even declares they no longer believe.

#### **But it's important to understand:**

- Doubts can arise in adolescence, youth, or in moments of pain.
- Questioning is not the same as rebelling.
- Even the great men of the Bible went through crises: David, Elijah, John the Baptist, Thomas.

Your role as a father or mother is not to erase the crisis, but to accompany with compassion and firmness.

## **What causes doubts and crises in children?**

1. Exposure to contrary ideologies at school, on the internet, or from friends.
2. Religion lived out in a cold or hypocritical way at home.
3. Disappointments with leaders or churches.
4. Experiences of suffering that are not understood (such as loss or illness).
5. Lack of a safe space to ask questions, make mistakes, and seek answers.

A child who doesn't have the freedom to express doubts at home will seek answers elsewhere.

# How should parents respond?

1

## **Listen without judging.**

- Let your child speak.
- Don't react with shock, anger, or contempt.
- Show that they can trust you, even in crisis.

2

## **Don't rush to give ready-made answers.**

- "You're just confused" or "This is the enemy's work" don't help.
- Show willingness to walk together in the search for understanding.

3

## **Share your own struggles.**

- Tell them when you also had doubts and how God strengthened you.



## 4

### **Direct them to the Word and prayer, with kindness.**

- Don't impose. Invite.
- Send a verse. Pray together.
- Show that God also listens to those with troubled hearts.

## 5

### **Be patient.**

- Faith is a construction. And sometimes, the foundation needs to be broken for something stronger to be built.

## **Biblical example: Thomas**

Thomas did not believe that Jesus had risen until he saw with his own eyes.

Jesus could have rebuked him.

But no. He appeared and said: "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands... and be not faithless, but believing." (**John 20:27**)

He responded to doubt with presence and love. This should be the model for parents.

## **Transforming crisis into discipleship**

Crisis can be the best opportunity for deep discipleship.

- It involves listening, dialogue, biblical research, joint prayer.
- It is not a phase to avoid — it is one to dive into with them.

What is confusion today may be testimony tomorrow.

## **To reflect upon**

- Does my child feel free to express spiritual doubts with me?
- What if they said today that they don't believe in God? How would I react?
- Am I prepared to disciple with love, even in pain?

## **Spiritual Proposal**

Pray for discernment to see your children's crises as opportunities for drawing closer. Ask God to give you gentleness, wisdom, and patience.

### **Suggested prayer:**

"Lord, give me a patient heart to deal with my children's doubts. Teach me not to respond with fear, but with faith. May my home be a safe place to seek answers and know You more. May Your Holy Spirit illuminate their mind and heart. And even in crises, may they be drawn closer to You. In Jesus' name, amen."

# Chapter 8

## The Importance of Parents Who Continue to Grow Spiritually

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." **1 Corinthians 11:1**

Parents who want children firm in faith must first be firm in their own walk with God. There is no effective Christian upbringing without parents who allow themselves to be shaped by Christ daily. Your child may not listen to all your advice... But they will carefully observe how you live.

### Parents are also in process

Being a father or mother doesn't mean being "spiritually ready." On the contrary — the challenge of raising children in faith compels us to seek the Lord even more. It's important to understand that:

- You don't disciple your children from a place of perfection,
- But from a place of dependence and humility before God.

Growing spiritually is the best gift you can give your children.

## **The danger of parents' spiritual stagnation**

When parents stop growing in faith, the spirituality of the home goes into automatic mode:

- The Bible becomes decoration, not direction.
- Prayer becomes a rare event.
- Christian discourse loses strength, because there's no life behind it.

✚ Children notice when their parents' faith is lukewarm, apathetic, or inconsistent. And the result is serious:

- They grow up with the impression that faith is just ritual or tradition,
- And not something living, transformative, and necessary.

## **Faith is transmitted more by repetition than by instruction**

Children learn more from repeated daily attitudes than from sporadic sermons.

Therefore, parents who continue to grow in Christ:

- Read the Bible frequently.
- Pray with sincerity.
- Ask for forgiveness when they err.
- Talk about God naturally.
- Constantly seek character change.

A home full of repentance, prayer, and silent transformation is a school of discipleship.

## **Biblical example: Timothy and his spiritual heritage**

Paul says that Timothy's faith came from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (**2 Tim 1:5**). They didn't just raise Timothy in the faith — they lived the faith. Because of this, he became a young leader full of the Spirit. The spiritual growth of mothers and grandmothers was the fuel for the son's faith.

## **How to continue growing spiritually as a father/mother**

- Have daily moments with God (even if brief).  
o Word, prayer, and listening.
- Read good books or devotionals. o  
Strengthen your mind with solid content.
- Have an active life in the Christian community. o Church, discipleship, fellowship.
- Seek corrections with humility. o Let God address your shortcomings — this will make you more compassionate.
- Pray for specific wisdom for fatherhood/motherhood. o God wants to form you while you form your children.

## **To reflect upon**

- Can my children see that I have been seeking to grow in God?
- Or have I stopped in time, spiritually speaking?
- How can I resume my journey of growth today?

## **Spiritual Proposal**

Take time today to reconsecrate your spiritual life to the Lord. Ask Him to rekindle the fire of first love. Ask to grow not only as a parent, but as a faithful servant.

### **Suggested prayer:**

"Lord, I recognize that I am still under construction. I want to be an example of living, sincere, and growing faith for my children. May my home be a place where Your name is honored not only in speeches, But in attitudes, in repentance, in daily choices. Help me to grow more in You each day. In Jesus' name, amen."

# Chapter 9

## Teaching Children to Hear God's Voice: Discernment, Direction, and Spiritual Sensitivity

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

Hearing God's voice is one of the greatest privileges of the Christian life. However, this is a spiritual skill that needs to be developed and nurtured, especially from an early age. Teaching children to recognize and follow the Lord's voice is to prepare their hearts for a guided, protected, and fruitful life.

This chapter is a call for parents to not only teach doctrine, rules, or good behaviors, but to help their children cultivate a real friendship with God, where they can hear, discern, and respond to His direction.



## What does it mean to "hear God's voice"?

Many confuse hearing God's voice with mystical experiences or extraordinary manifestations. But, most of the time, God speaks in a simple, intimate, and progressive way. He reveals Himself:

- Through His Word (the Bible);
- Through impressions in the spirit (peace, restlessness, conviction);
- By the voice of the Holy Spirit within us;
- In dreams, visions, or prophecies (with moderation and biblical confirmation);
- Through wise counsel from spiritually mature people;
- Through circumstances, when we are sensitive to His movement.

Hearing God's voice is perceiving His direction in the spirit, and responding with obedience and faith.

# How to cultivate this from childhood?

1

Teach that God is personal

God is not an idea, nor a distant concept. He is a Father who speaks, cares, corrects, and communicates. Tell your children: "God wants to talk with you. He cares about what you think, feel, and dream."

2

**Show how to listen to the Bible The Bible is not just a book of rules. It's a living letter from a loving Father. Encourage your child to ask, after reading:**

- "What is God trying to show me here?"
- "Does this reveal something about who God is?"
- "Does this word apply to something I'm experiencing?"

## **Teach them to pray relationally**

Many children learn to pray only by asking. Teach them also to be silent, listen, wait, and ask:

"Lord, what do You want me to know?"

"Holy Spirit, is there something I need to correct?"

This type of prayer creates space for God's voice to echo in their hearts.

## **Practicing spiritual discernment**

### **a) Explain that not every voice is God's voice**

**Help your child distinguish between:**

- God's voice (which generates peace, faith, correction with love, clarity);
- Their own voice (our desires, emotions, and impulses);
- The enemy's voice (accusation, confusion, fear, lies).

## **Give simple and concrete examples, such as:**

"If you feel you should lie to avoid punishment, that's not God's voice."

"If you feel peace when deciding something even without apparent logic, perhaps God is guiding you."

## **b) Teach them to seek biblical confirmation**

Every impression or inner voice should be tested by Scripture. Teach your child:

"If God is speaking, He will never contradict the Bible."

## **Creating opportunities for them to practice**

- Ask after a devotional: ➤ "What do you think God wanted to say to you today?"
- Encourage them to write in a notebook: ➤ "What did I feel during worship?" "Did anything come to mind during prayer?"
- When making decisions (school, friendships, conflicts), teach them to pray for direction first.

These moments help the child gain confidence in perceiving the Spirit's voice.

## **Being careful with manipulation and dependency**

Christian parents need to be careful not to use "God's voice" as a form of emotional control over their children. Phrases like:

- "God told me that you can't do this."
- "If you don't obey me, you'll be disobeying God." ...can generate guilt, fear, or spiritual confusion. Use wisdom. Teach children to seek for themselves.

## **The importance of seeing parents listening to God**

If you want your children to hear God's voice, they need to see you doing it first.

- Share your experiences with God.
- Tell how you made decisions based on prayer.
- Admit when you made mistakes by not listening to divine direction.
- Show joy when God spoke and you obeyed.

This living testimony is the most powerful school.

## **Hearing God is a process, not an instant gift**

Help your child understand that no one "hears God perfectly" from the beginning. Just as one learns to play an instrument or recognize their mother's voice in a crowd, one also learns to recognize the Heavenly Father's voice.

The secret is to continue seeking, with a humble heart.

## **Conclusion: A child who hears God walks securely**

Teaching children to hear God's voice is equipping them for the moments when you won't be around. It's giving them the greatest possible gift: a life guided by the Creator.

May you, as a father or mother, be the one who:

- Points to the Bible with reverence,
- Cultivates prayer as a dialogue,
- Celebrates each small spiritual perception of your children,
- And accompanies them until they clearly hear the gracious sound of the Shepherd calling them by name.

## Protecting Children from Today's Culture Without Creating a Religious Bubble

"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." **(John 17:15)**

We live in an era marked by relativism, distractions, hypersexualization, ideologies contrary to God's Kingdom, and an avalanche of information that tries to shape the hearts and minds of new generations. Faced with this scenario, many Christian parents face a tension:

How to protect children without isolating them from the real world?

How to create discernment without generating fear or fanaticism?

This chapter is a guide to help you raise children who live in the world without being shaped by it, developing spiritual critical thinking, rather than hiding in a fragile and artificial bubble.

## **The difference between protecting and isolating**

Protecting is preparing, filtering, accompanying, discipling. Isolating is distancing, controlling with fear, omitting reality.

Isolating may seem safer, but it creates unprepared, naive children who are vulnerable to their first confrontation with reality.

Protecting with wisdom trains them to face the world with maturity, firmness, and light.

Jesus never took the disciples out of the world, but filled them with truth, identity, and spiritual power.

## **Developing spiritual critical thinking in children**

Christian critical thinking is the ability to look at the world and identify:

- What is good and beneficial;
- What is deceptive or distorted;
- What should be rejected or combated;
- And what needs light and transformation.



## Teach your children to ask questions like:

- Does this glorify God or harm Kingdom principles?
- What is this series/music/game teaching, even subtly?
- Is this idea in accordance with biblical truth or is it a disguised ideology?

These questions generate spiritual autonomy and make them think as Christians in any environment.

## Filtering what they consume without paranoia

You don't need (nor will be able) to control everything. But you can:

- Monitor what they watch and listen to, commenting, questioning, and teaching;
- Create moments of family reflection about movies, music, or memes;
- Use healthy limits of time and content, with clear explanations;
- Show creative and edifying alternatives, such as channels, music, books, and games with Christian or neutral values.

**Example:** If a movie promotes contrary ideologies, don't just forbid it — explain why, show where the error is, and what the Word says about it. This transforms the moment into learning, not oppression.

## **Teaching how to deal with social pressure**

Friends, school, social media, influencers... everything exerts pressure on children. Teach them to:

- Recognize when they are being manipulated or led by the crowd;
- Value their identity in Christ above group acceptance;
- Be firm with grace, learning to disagree without aggression;
- Move away from toxic environments without fear of "missing out."

Continuously reinforce:

"You don't need to follow the majority. You are called to be light."

## **Filtering what they consume without paranoia**

Parents who only impose rules create children who are obedient on the outside, but rebellious on the inside. Parents who dialogue, listen, and explain create children with conviction, not just correct behavior.

- When your child questions you, don't avoid the conversation.
- When they disagree with something, explain with clarity, not just with fear.
- When you make a mistake, admit it and teach with humility.

An environment of constant dialogue is the best antidote against toxic ideologies.

## **Give depth to their spiritual life**

Many children stray because they only received moralism or rules, but not a relationship with God. Parents need to cultivate:

- A vibrant and real faith at home;
- Moments of prayer and Word that are alive, not religious;
- Testimonies and experiences with God that inspire children;
- Space for doubts, struggles, and spiritual growth.

Children who know God deeply resist the winds of the world better.

## **Teach God's presence as a constant companion**

Rather than creating a fear of the world, teach your children that wherever they are, God is with them.

Teach them to hear the Spirit's voice, to seek direction, to consult the Lord. This makes them confident, secure, and prepared to resist.

"You are not alone at school, on your phone, or in your friend group. The Holy Spirit guides you in everything."

# Conclusion

## **Prepare for the world, without surrendering to it**

You won't be able to shield your children from everything, but you can make them so full of truth and discernment that the world won't have the power to seduce them.

We don't want children hidden in religious bubbles, but ambassadors of the Kingdom, who know who they are, who guides them, and what their purpose is in this generation.

🙌 Thank you for coming this far! Reaching the end of this e-book is not just a sign of discipline — it's a sign of spiritual commitment to your family. If you've read this far, it's because something inside you calls for more: more depth, more direction, more of God in your home.

This book was created with care and prayer by InLev, a Christian company that was born with a purpose: To educate, dress, and entertain Christians with content and products that point to Christ and establish roots in the Word.

## **The meaning of the name INLEV**

"INLEV" is a combination of two ideas:

- "In," meaning inside, interior, intimacy.
- "Lev," a Hebrew word that means "heart."

INLEV literally means: "inside the heart" — and that is the essence of our mission. We want to touch the heart of the modern Christian. We want to bring Jesus into homes, wardrobes, readings, dialogues, and family moments. Everything we do is to honor God and strengthen His people, without ever negotiating Kingdom values.

## What you'll find at InLev

At InLev, you'll find:

- Purposeful clothing: Personalized t-shirts with Hebrew phrases, symbols of faith, and messages that evangelize.
- E-books and educational materials: Like the one you just read, focused on Christian family, emotional, spiritual, and biblical formation.
- Content on social media: Videos, reflections, devotionals, and inspirations for your daily life with God.

All made with excellence, creativity, and — above all — based on the Word.

## **Shall we continue this journey together?**

We want to invite you to learn more about InLev, our store, and our content.

Access our social media, see our products, share with other parents and Christians who also desire to live a real, practical, and full-of-life Gospel.

May God bless your home and your family.

With affection and faith,  
INLEV Team Educating.  
Dressing. Inspiring hearts for God.