

Seen & Heard

Question ►

We've seen too many cases where adults raised in Christian homes want nothing to do with God. We realize there are no guarantees, but can you suggest how we might have a significant impact on the spiritual lives of our kids?



We're encouraged to talk about God as we walk, as we lie down, and when we rise up.

when we rise up. That means letting our kids see the difference Christ is making in our ordinary, everyday lives.

A powerful starting place is to tell your own faith story to your kids.

- How and when did you give your life to Christ and what difference did it make? What were some of the questions you struggled with?

- Do they know how you've seen and are currently seeing God actively at work in your life?

- Do they know about some of the dry, difficult, and discouraging valleys you've walked through and how your faith made a difference?

- Have they heard you talk about specific prayers you've seen God answer in your life, your marriage, and in those you know?

- Do they know how you experience the Holy Spirit leading you?

- How are some of the specific ways you've learned to be still and listen to the Holy Spirit? When, where, and why do you do that? Has it been difficult?

- How often do you share Scripture that has encouraged you?

When our kids see and hear about the day-in-day-out difference Christ is making in our lives, they'll have examples of our living Lord they'll never forget. □

Gary J. Oliver, PhD, is the executive director of The Center for Healthy Relationships, a university and seminary professor, and the author of more than 20 books including *Mad About Us: Moving From Anger to Intimacy* and *Raising Sons and Loving It!* Learn more at liferelationships.com.

Answer ▼

As a young Christian, I was amazed by the passage in the Book of Judges telling us that after Joshua and those who had taken the promised land died, "another generation rose up who did not know the LORD or the works he had done for Israel" (2:10).

Have you looked at the Book of Joshua and the powerful ways God showed up? And still, in just one

generation, they forgot. *Really? One generation?*

The standard answers to your question include taking your children to church with you, reading the Bible in the home, having family prayer times, and sending them to Christian camps. All of these are great. However, here's a simple suggestion I don't hear many people talk about. In Deuteronomy 6:5-9, we're encouraged to talk about God as we walk, as we lie down, and