

God Uses Many Voices to Call People to Serve

Sometimes Sandy will round the corner and take someone by surprise. Three years and several months ago, she rounded the corner and saw me: "Hello, Connie. How are you doing today? Are you able to help us out in the nursery this hour?" I suppose I really hadn't given a thought to the nursery since I began attending here (17+ years ago now). My children were adults. I was caught off guard. "Oh, yes, I can. Just let me tell Charly where I'll be." Then I spent an hour and fifteen minutes with infants and another adult. It was fun, refreshing. I hadn't been in a church nursery for twenty years! (Now, I haven't been out of it for three!!) Seriously, it's

been a privilege to be here, helping in children's ministry. So, God used Sandy's voice to get my attention. I had paid no attention to the "Voice" in the newsletter, nor the One in the bulletin. But, God kept calling me, and I finally heard. And answered.

How about you? Are you hearing His voice, but trying to ignore it? You say, maybe that's for next year or for someone "more experienced"? Nonsense. If you feel God's call, say "yes." He will bless you with wonderful new relationships and other opportunities to serve Him, whether it be here in the Glory Garden or in any other ministry in our church community.

Birthday Blessings to

Matthew Hamblin

September 18

Newest 'Lil Sprouts

Kevin Michael West 4/29

Isabella Danielle Gobrin 5/9

Catarina Grace Escobedo

6/16

In the two-year-old room with the Daisies

What did God make? Everything!

During the summer months, the children in the Daisy room have been learning that God created the universe and everything in it. The focus has been on the six days of creation as depicted in the Genesis account. Beginning in mid-September, your children will begin to learn about God's provision for Noah and his family before, during, and after the great flood. How can you reinforce what is taught on Sunday? Some ideas:

- ◆ Take a walk in the evening; talk about the plants and animals you see. Include the stars and moon, emphasizing that God made these for us.
- ◆ At bath time, share with your toddler all the "uses" for water. Your child has learned that God provided water for us for cleaning, cooking, swimming, drinking, growing plants, etc.
- ◆ Say short thank-you prayers with your toddler, thanking the Lord for all He's created.
- ◆ Ask your little one how big a boat would be that could hold all the animals you both can think of. He/she can use his/her arms to say "so big!"
- ◆ Sing "Jesus Loves Me" with your child. God made and loves us all.
- ◆ Read to your toddler books about creation and Noah.

In the
beginning,

God.





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Mom: Are you ready for this!?:

A second grader came home from school and said to her mother, "Mommy, guess what? We learned how to make babies today."

Startled, the mom tried to stay calm, not panic, and gather some more information. "That's interesting," she said, "How do you make babies?"

"It's simple," the girl replied. "You change the 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

From the Nursery Coordinator's Desk:

Several of you have asked me if the board has found a replacement for Sandy, our Children's Ministry Director. I can say that the board has narrowed its search to two people. Dave Perry, the chairman of the search committee, has told me that someone should be in place soon. As you may expect, the committee members are searching for God's perfect fit. When that occurs, hopefully by October, the person selected will spend time shadowing Sandy and learning from her. While no one can truly replace Sandy, we do believe that God can bring us His person for this time.

Connie

Christian Parenting

Christian parents face the difficult task of raising children in a world of "correctness." In the past, children grew up in a society that clearly defined what was right and what was wrong. Parents were recognized as the primary authority figures in their children's lives. Now as the world conforms, our children react to the unprecedented immorality, anti-family, and anti-parent concepts in schools and media.

Whenever the application of God's laws is mentioned, a flurry of organizations warn parents not to impose their own values upon their children. But the Christian parent understands the wickedness of exchanging God's truth for a lie. The Bible speaks of the "insolent, arrogant, and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents. . ." (Romans 1:30). Rebellion and disobedience are just as pervasive today as parental authority disintegrates. Today, parents must choose who and what shapes their children's lives. Without a doubt, God still holds parents responsible for instructing and disciplining their children.

Christian Parenting - To Instruct

In the Old Testament, Moses reminds the Israelites of their responsibility to their children and grandchildren. "Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them" (Deuteronomy 4:9-10).

When we instruct our children, we are not simply presenting a list of rules to follow. We are letting our "actions speak" by training them according to God's standards. By living a righteous life, parents provide their children with the understanding of how God's rules govern all our lives. Then, as our children mature, they develop a habit of doing right, serving God by making their own decisions.

It is the goal of every parent to see their children accept responsibility for their decisions. If our children learn from their mistakes and accept godly correction, then we are on the right course. One father tried to take a short-cut in explaining responsibility by saying, "It's not what you do, but whether or not you get caught. And if you get caught. . . be willing to pay the consequences!" Obviously, there's no fast-track for instructing children. Parental instruction is an arduous journey that begins at birth and continues for many years. And there may be countless times when our children make careless decisions and even choose to reject instruction. These are the times when discipline is most necessary.

Christian Parenting - To Discipline

Theories on "correct" discipline change every few years - the Bible never changes. If children do not obey, they must receive correction. The Bible teaches this should be done by using a rod of correction. "The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother" (Proverbs 29:15). Often parents become weary disciplining young children. At times, a typical day seems to consist of nagging and scolding. Parents wonder if they have ruined every chance for a loving relationship with their children. They may even be tempted to give up altogether. "Only God knows what to do with this child," they groan. YES GOD DOES!!

God chooses each parent with great care. "For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just. . ." (Genesis 18:19). God entrusts your children to your specific care. He wants you to know that kind, firm correction will train your children to obey Him. "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord" (Colossians 3:20). Consistent, loving correction helps children learn biblical truths like self-discipline. God knew Abraham would raise godly children and God blessed him. By applying God's standards, we too can receive God's blessings as parents. — allaboutparenting.org