Your Kids Need to See God Working

I. Why is seeing God work so necessary?

- We've all heard it said that "Seeing is believing." In response to that, many have countered with "Believing is seeing." Still, others—especially in the church—have rightly argued that faith requires no seeing. Hebrews 11:1, II Corinthians 5:7,
- But the Scriptures also show us many of the following instances where a person's belief is tied to their seeing something. Exodus 14:31, John 2:11, John 11:45
- You cannot believe what you do not know. For example, your children won't believe in God unless they first come to know He exists. This is why God built His fingerprints into all creation (Psalm 19:1). You cannot look carefully at this world and miss the presence of a Creator. Those who do are self-deluded because they do not want to be accountable to the One Who created all they see.
- However, mature belief doesn't require continuation of sight or even continuity of sight. What I mean by that is a mature belief can weather pain and suffering even when God's hand is not clearly seen. They can also trust God with their children even though they have only seen Him working in their finances.
- For now we're focusing on our children who have immature or nonexistent faith that requires seeing and more of it. They need to see in order to believe, and it's incredibly helpful for them to continue seeing in order to mature in their believing.
- They need to see God at work in your family. They need to see Him at work in your church and community. They need to see Him working through your suffering, in your finances, and even in your confusion and questions.
- The more they see Him present and active, the more their faith will be strengthened—or the more their disbelief will be challenged.

II. How do you help your kids see God work?

- **Show them God in His world**.
  - Your children need a biblically-based Science curriculum taught by Christians. If not, they're being lied to about something that God deliberately manufactured to point to Him. His glory is revealed in the smallest quark and the largest nebula.
  - They also need you pointing out the immensity and creativity and beauty and goodness of your Creator as you encounter nature and weather and sickness and health and animals and bugs and food and plants and everything in between.
  - But it's possible to see this universe and recognize that it takes an all-powerful intelligent being to create it, but its something very different to know that being on a personal level.
- **Show them God in His Word**.
  - We don't see God with our eyes in this day and age, and God Himself teaches us that His Word was given to us—in part—to truly see Him and know Him. John 20:30-31
  - In the Bible we see God's character, desires, actions, we hear His Words, we see His deeds, we know His will. The Scriptures stand as an everlasting testament to His glory. Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 20-25, Ephesians 6:4
  - Our kids cannot believe what they do not know, therefore, we need to teach them about God from His perfect Word. They cannot believe in Christ whom they have not met. They cannot believe God created the Word without Him telling them. They cannot know and understand the importance of purity without it being explained by the Source of purity itself.

- Most of our kids don't really believe in God because they're ignorant of Him. They know more of the half-truths and lies the society says about Him than the eternal truth He communicates about Himself. They're like people dying of starvation because they refuse to eat the copious buffet around them. We have the Scriptures, but we ignore it.
- Please stop for a moment and consider the things you have taken hours and hours to explain to your kids. Maybe it's the lore surrounding a movie franchise or book series. Perhaps it's annual stories and charades about Santa Claus. Maybe we're guilty of teaching our children the lies of evolution or psychiatry.
- Please be careful what you tell your kids. Please be careful putting greater importance on the fantasies in our culture than you do the Scripture.

- **Show them God in His work**.
  - **Show them God in His past work**. Joshua 4:6-7
    - Whether it's the biblical accounts of His working in this world of the more recent historical accounts of His working, we need to familiarize our kids with the acts of God.
    - God has preserved His Word and His people. He has worked miracles. He is orchestrating the very vibrations of the cosmos for His greatest glory and our greatest good as we submit to Him. Help your kids see it.
  - **Show them God in His present work**. Romans 8:28
    - Now, it's once thing to read from the Bible or a missionary biography. Those authors easily show what happened in the past and connect the dots so we can see what God was doing. But that's not the case for your *current* success and trials. One of the biggest reasons your kids don't see God working in your family right now is the fact that you're not showing it to them because you, yourself, can't see it.
    - For the sake of our own maturity and relationship with God, we need to do a better job seeing God at work in our daily lives. This starts with knowing what the Scriptures say about His work in our lives.
      - This is part of how we bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. And this will absolutely involve showing them God in His Word. They will doubt that this current distress could possibly be God's best for them. They may even be tempted to be mad at Him. Give them more than your word. Give them His Word.
      - But that's going to require that you know His Word and understand the doctrines of God's providence, sovereignty, will, and sanctification.
- **Invite others to show them God in His Word and work**.
  - The World is doing an amazing job catechizing us and our kids. We need more people who will come around us and our kids with the truth of God.
  - Your kids need an invested youth pastor, yes, but he's not enough. Your kids need other family and disciples in their lives. They need other people to point to God's work in this World, in His Word, and in their lives and help them see it and truly believe it.
- **Have them show you God in His Word and work**.
  - At some point you need to stop tying your child's shoe and watch them tie it for themselves. At some point they need to be able to see for themselves how God is working in the world, in His word, and in their lives in the past and the present.
  - Teach them, draw out their understanding, invite them to believe the truth, and then when they show they're maturing, ask them to show you what God is doing in their lives.
  - By the Lord's grace, they'll even start offering their observations of their own free will. But if we never invite them to interpret their present situation in light of God's revealed truth, they likely won't. And if we're not teaching them what God is doing in their present situation, they're not just going to come to a right understanding of His work in their lives.