



*from the desk of*  
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## **Talk about them when you sit at home.... (Part One)**

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NIV) 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. **Talk about them when you sit at home** and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Research by Search Institute found that:  
*[in a] nationwide study of 11,000 teenagers from 561 congregations across six denominations, 12 percent of youth have a regular dialogue with their mom on faith or life issues. . . . It's far lower for dads. One out of twenty kids, or 5 percent, has regular faith or life conversations with their dad.*

The authors go on to say that students whose parents talk about faith have more “sticky faith” -- their faith tends to last after they leave home. They also point out that “Christian parents tend to avoid tricky subjects. “

Why are matters of faith a tricky subject?

There can be a variety of reasons.

Do we feel unsure of what we're talking about? Maybe our own religious education stopped at Confirmation, and we

don't want to be asked questions that we can't answer with any confidence.

Perhaps our own schedules are so busy that we just can't find the time. Maybe we've allowed our children's schedules to some dominate our family time that everything else is just crowded out.

Or maybe, just maybe, it's not a priority with us - that we just haven't given it any thought.

If the research tells us anything it's that the religious dialogue you have with your children simply *is important*. Can you honestly say that efforts for your child's eternal welfare is trumped by uneasiness about questions or scheduling conflicts for things that have only temporary importance?

Next week, some possible ways to get at "talking about it when you are home."

DCE Randy