

From: Seeing God's Glory in Your Students  
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Things to keep in mind as you desire to see God's glory in your children

1. These opportunities will not announce themselves in advance... you need to be looking for them.
2. Know that this is war. Know that the war is against our hearts and the hearts of your children. These are universal principles it is reflected in nearly every story we know... so know your child needs to hear you (and others) acknowledge his or her unique image bearing.
3. It takes a spirit of humility. Correction is easy and that's our job. Reacting is different than responding. We correct behavior, we correct attitudes. We correct people. Encouraging others as image bearers isn't correction.
4. Avoid the trap of wanting your children to be a certain way because of how you perceive it might reflect on you. I could have taken my son's lack of interest in sports personally and made him feel poorly about his interest in spec sheets.
5. Speaking God's glory into others takes the attention off of you. You wouldn't think that would be a problem for adults, would you? Don't let yourself be fooled, we may hesitate to give our children this blessing because of our own pride, our own wounds, our own story.
6. One of my biggest surprises and greatest shames I found as a teacher was that I just didn't like some of the kids I taught or coached. No chemistry. They rubbed me the wrong way. They were arrogant or just didn't seem to care. Wouldn't ever try... I didn't get the results I wanted. God's glory in them? Someone else will have to find it... We'd like to think we like all our children the same... we love them all the same, but some are harder to get along with than others.  
*Forgive me, Jesus and thank you for pursuing me when there was no chemistry, when I didn't try and when I rubbed you the wrong way, rubbed you the wrong way all the way to the cross.*
7. Ask God to allow you to see in your children what He sees in them. Ask to join him in healing the wounds, to restore what was lost, to reveal what is hidden and to give hope. Ask him to reveal to you His name for your child.
8. See through the haze. Context is everything. Ever have a child break curfew? You are chewing them out when they tell you they were in a car accident... everything changes, doesn't it. Your children have a lot going on. God's glory may be hanging on by only a thread. You see only the symptom and may not take the time to hear what else might be going on... or at least consider it.

9. This is not a program, it is not part of a 3 or 5 step child rearing for success video series, it does not happen on a schedule, it does not become part of “your plan.” It needs to be organic and you need to be open and available to the Holy Spirit.
10. Ask others what unique gifts they see in your child. Often it is easier for others to see some things you don’t... or cannot.
11. Say you are sorry if you haven’t and be prepared to say it to them for the rest of their lives.
12. Where does your child come alive? What do they do naturally? What seems to bring them to life or energize them? Reserved and quiet may be God’s glory, too. What are the tendencies you see and experience? It may be passion displayed in ways that aren’t always helpful... but it is passion and passion can be a VERY good thing.
13. Speak into the heart of your child words of deep encouragement. When you are reading a book and one of the characters displays sensitivity and caring, or notices something others don’t, or jumps into the fray to protect or save... imagine this:  
*“Billy, do you see where the white knight protects the princess. Oh Billy, that’s what you would do! Why, when you grow up, you may be be the best protector ever!”*

*“Georgia, what do you think about Esmeralda standing up for the truth even when it was hard. Sweetheart, that’s the sort of thing you do so well! Georgia, thank you for knowing that telling the truth is important.”*

*“Reggie, do you see how brave Frodo was even when there was danger ahead? Reggie, I believe you would respond the exact same way. Reggie, you are a brave young man.”*

Do you hear just how deep that goes. Do you feel the anchor being set to hold fast against the storms ahead? Can you see arrows being removed or deflected.