



20 WAYS YOU
CAN CLAIM A
Good
MOMENT
WITH YOUR FAMILY

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### About the author

Pastor Daron Pratt is the Family and Children's Ministries Director for the North New South Wales Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia. He is married to Lisa and has two children; Andrew and Maddison. Daron is passionate about the importance of bringing churches and homes together with a strategic focus and, with intentionality to raise our children to know and love the Lord.

# WHAT IS A GOD MOMENT?

A God moment is a spoken word, an event, a meal, a prayer or an experience that powerfully shapes the faith trajectory of our children's lives. They can be as short as a sentence or two, or as long as a week or more. What is important is that we as adults create these moments or seize the divine opportunities that a moment creates as they arrive.

You don't have to have a PhD in child psychology, be a pastor or have it all together. You just need to be there, be present and seize each moment for Him. Here is the good news: parents and grandparents are the best equipped and in the best position to be the God moment warriors for their children.



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*“As they began to speak you could have heard a pin drop.”*

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Recently my daughter and another young Gateway church adolescent stood up before the congregation and shared their testimony... As they began to speak, you could have heard a pin drop. There is something magical about hearing our younger members of the congregation testify. Suddenly the Kingdom of God is very raw, real and present!

My daughter shared how God had become real to her and how she clung to Him especially through some rather difficult challenges in her adolescent life. As I listened to her with tears in my eyes, two things dawned on me as being crucial faith motivators in the lives of our children for their spiritual growth.





# 1 SIGNIFICANT GOD MOMENTS

For my daughter, one of those significant moments was as a five year old when her talking, crying doll stopped working and was full of corrosion from the batteries. I told her the doll was broken and would never work again. My daughter insisted that I put new batteries in and try again. Of course the doll didn't work. My daughter told me that we needed to pray. I proceeded to tell her that there was more to miracles than little girl's dolls, but she was having none of it. She closed her eyes determinedly and prayed a simple childlike prayer. "Dear Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross and loving me and please make my doll work again." Halfway through the prayer, the impossible happened and the doll started working again. I did not realise the significance of this God moment, but it was this moment, this miracle, this God moment when the faith of a child and the divine intersected, and this provided my daughter with a bedrock of faith that helped her into her teenage years.

The question for us as adults is: are we sometimes too busy to help our children identify the God moments? Every child needs them to grow in faith and to anchor their faith through the tumultuous teenage years.

# 2 THE POWER OF TESTIMONY

Our children need to be able to articulate their faith. There was not a dry eye in the house as my daughter shared her journey. Children and teens need to have moments when they can speak of their story, their journey, their faith and be affirmed in their journey and testimony in front of the assembled congregation. As Amanda Hontz Drury contends, “Saying is Believing.” Drury says, “I want teenagers to be able to articulate their faith not in order to determine whether or not they are orthodox Christians, but because I understand this kind of articulation as formative for the spiritual identity of the teenager. An articulate faith has the potential for a positive effect on one’s spiritual identity. Articulation nurtures faith and holds pedagogical value in the spiritual formation of adolescents.”

When are we as parents/churches providing opportunities for our children to articulate the God moments, to identify how God is working in their lives and to surround them as a “cloud of witnesses” spurring them on in their faith? Drury says, “My community helps train my eyes to see where God is at work in my life. My community helps supply my mouth with language to narrate these experiences. And my community provides me with a framework in which I might interpret these experiences.” Are we as a parent/churches providing our children with such an intergenerational community when they can articulate their faith story?

These two faith motivators are catalysts in our children’s spiritual journey. The question is are we as a parents/church prepared to motivate, mentor and encourage our children in our

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*“Are we prepared to help them identify and experience these moments, and articulate their faith along the way?”*

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midst? Are we prepared to help them identify and experience these moments and articulate their faith along the way?



We need to always remember that faith is more caught than taught. Deuteronomy 6:4-12 instructs us as parents and the church to “Impress these things on our children.” We are instructed to talk about them when we sit at home, when we walk along the way, when we lie down and when we get up. God wants to make a difference in our 24/7 living. He wants us to take our mundane daily living rituals and habits and turn them into God moments. He wants to make the ordinary extraordinary for Him. Which moment can you claim for God in your 24/7 living?

Claiming this moment is of eternal significance.

Billy Graham says that, “The greatest legacy one can pass on to one’s children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one’s life, but rather a legacy of character and faith.” Reggie Joiner says that, “100 years from now, the only thing that will matter is someone’s relationship with God.”

### A teachable moment requires three ingredients.

1

The first is a good open relationship between the parent and child. This develops only when significant time is invested on a regular basis. We earn the right to speak into our children’s lives at the age of 16 when we have invested significant time in their lives on a regular basis in the years before the child turns 16.

2

Second, you need to create/claim a moment/milestone for a spiritual event/conversation to occur (look below for some great ideas).

3

Third, a biblical truth/conversation/prayer. Debrief or claim the event moment for God.

### Remember, you don’t have to be perfect or a Bible expert

You as a mum or dad are the perfect person and in the best position to create teachable God moments in the lives of your children. In fact, one teachable God moment at home that connects the heart of your child with the divine is far more powerful than anything that is preached from the pulpit on Sabbath.



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# 20 GOD MOMENTS SUGGESTIONS

*How many can you do?*



1

Say grace with your child before each meal.

2

Call the family together for morning or evening worship (keep it simple and age relevant).

4

Spend a Sabbath in the bush with your family.

3

On your way to school or pre-school, sing and pray in the car with your children.

5

Read a story to your children at bed time.





6

Spend a few minutes reviewing the day and praying with your child — especially during challenging moments.

7

Visit a retirement home together and take flowers/biscuits/sweets or similar.

8

Volunteer at a soup kitchen together.

9

Take your son or daughter on a “date” (something they like to do).

10

Purchase some mealtime conversation starters (*Table Talk* is a great resource) and at the evening meal spend some time discussing one or two questions.

11

Read to your children. A chapter of Arthur Maxwell’s *My Bible Story* is excellent.

Celebrate significant milestones like school years, birthdays and other life events. Claim them for God.

12



13

Declare one night a week family night in which you do something as a family. Board games, movie night, special meal, etc.

14

Watch a sunrise or sunset together.

15

Go on an overnight camp with your family. Watch the stars and read Psalm 19 together.



16

Develop special Friday evening rituals as you welcome in the Sabbath. Light candles, special meal, etc.

17

Open and close Sabbath together.

18

Develop significant rituals/memories around Christmas and Easter.

19

Go on a family holiday together.

Do a service activity together.  
(Back yard blitz, STORM Co, Fly and Build, Open Heart International, another ADRA event).

20

Remember keep it simple, keep it natural, be yourself and above all just try and do one thing to make a difference. **Which one will you do?**



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*“If you knew that you could make a positive difference to a child’s lifelong discipleship journey and it would only take a trivial amount of time on your part, would you do it? That is what the power of a God moment can do — and you can do it!”*

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We invest in others.