



**WEEK TWO**

**ESTHER 2:2-8:17**

God is with Esther.

**SAY  
THIS**

**WHO IS ALWAYS WITH YOU?  
GOD IS ALWAYS WITH ME.**

**DO  
THIS**



**DRIVE TIME**

As you put your child in his/her car seat, name the things that are with him/her as you point to them. For example: "Your favorite toy is with you. Your bag is with you. And God is ALWAYS with you!"

**REMEMBER THIS**

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid...for the Lord your God goes with you."  
Deuteronomy 31:6, NIV

**BASIC  
TRUTH**

**GOD LOVES ME**

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## YOUR FAMILY VOICE

by Carey Nieuwhof

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There's this thing that I believe every family has. I don't actually know what to call it. If we were having a conversation, I wouldn't be able to imitate it.

But I know it when I hear it. I hear it in shopping malls, in crowds, , at restaurants, and when I'm a guest in someone's home. I've heard it for years in my home. And I have one, too.

What is it? This isn't the scientific name for it at all, but in my head I call it family voice. You know what I'm talking about. It's the tone of voice you would never use except around the people closest to you. It contains hints of expectation, exasperation, frustration, and quiet fatigue. Add in tones of command, whining and a touch of rudeness, and you've got family voice. Sometimes it's strong. Sometimes it's subtle. But all the time it's reserved for the people you live with.

And ultimately, it's disrespectful. That's why you would never use it on other people. But somehow on the people we love most we feel free to pull it out regularly. I don't know why. We just do.

So if you want to increase the level of respect you show for each other at home, try this: eliminate your family voice. I know—it's hard. Because I'm convinced we don't even hear it in ourselves after a period of years.

When I catch myself, this is what I do: I pretend my wife and kids are perfect strangers, someone from work, or a friend I haven't seen in a while. Why? Because then I would be kind, courteous, charming, and engaged. Which is what they deserve. Every day.

Try it today. Speak to your family as if they weren't your family. You might be amazed at what happens to the levels of respect and delight in your home.

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