Listen to the Children

Lee Bee Teik



A collection of conversations to help adults understand children

e-Book Edition Published by Cornerstone Corporation Sdn Bhd

Listen to the Children

A collection of conversations to help adults understand children

by Lee Bee Teik

First Print Edition information:

LISTEN TO THE CHILDREN

Copyright © 1996 by Lee Bee Teik.

Publisher & Distributor: REST Ministries

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the author, nor be otherwise circulated in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Lee, Bee Teik

Listen to the children / Lee Bee Teik ISBN 983-9398-04-0 1. Children of God. 2. Children and adults. 3. Confession of children. 4. Children (Christian theology). I. Title. 248.82

Cover Design & Layout : Esther Mui Cover Photograph : Teresa Wong © Copyright Reserved Illustrations : Oh Chin Ee Printer : Printmate Sdn. Bhd.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE: NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House.

The "NIV" and "New International Version" trademarks are registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by International Bible Society.

e-Book Edition 2012 published by Cornerstone Corporation Sdn Bhd For enquiries, contact: Cornerstone at <u>http://www.cornerstone.my</u> Author via <u>http://www.reconre.org</u>

Simple Life

Big Sister	(9): Pat, this 2 share with youthat, I don't
	share.
Pat (7)	: AiyahShare everythinglah! Why are
	you so complicated?

NoPrediction

Mum	: Lee Ean, when you are of Ko-ko's age
	(13), will you behave like him?
Lee Ean (7)	: I don't knowI can't tell what will
	happen in the future.

Acknowledgement

The Author thanks the following brother and sisters in Christ who have expended their time and effort in editing and proofreading this manuscript:

Julianne Chew, Leong Sat Sing, Lim Ai Lian, Grace Mui and Wong Ming Yook.

Contents

Pre	face	7
1	Growing Up Takes Too Long	10
2	Pens Don't Talk	12
3	Decorating The Lawn	14
4	Looking For Baby Bird	16
5	Uncaring Mum	18
6	Fair Exchange	20
7	I Want To Do As Pa Does	22
8	Let Me Help Dad, Mum	24
9	I Know Your Trick!	26
10	Confused Over Hairstyle	28
11	It's All Right, Mum	30
12	Please Don't Laugh At Me	32
13	I Want To Go With You, Mum	34
14	I Prayed	36
15	You Prayed	38
16	Glad To Be A Man (Human)	40
17	Don't Hurry Me, Dad!	42
18	If Mum Can Go Through This, So Can I	44
19	Too Much Of Cinderella	46

20	Losing Weight	48
21	My Wedding Dress	50
22	What Else Did He Say?	52
23	Mum Knows Best	54
24	Not On My BirthdayBut I Love Ko-ko	56
25	Trusting God And Man	58
26	One Rule For All	60
27	Rejecting Yet Yearning	62
28	Marriage Is Not For Me!	64
29	You Just Don't Understand, Mum.	66
30	I Only Want To Please You	68
31	Manipulation Or Need?	70
32	Broken Communication	72
33	Trapped	74
A Parent's Prayer 76		
Suggested Reading 77		77
Intr	oducing the Vision and Ministry of REST	78

Preface

Jesus said, "...I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of God. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3,4

JESUS LOVES ME

 \cdots

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
 Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, As He loved so long ago, Taking children on His knee, Saying, "Let them come to Me."

Jesus loves me still today, Walking with me on my way, Wanting as a Friend to give Light and love to all who live.

> Anna B. Warner & David Rutherford McGuire

Since Jesus said that we have to become like little children in order to enter the kingdom of God, I thought that it would be a good idea to listen to what some of them say and, maybe, learn from them. This book on listening to children is a collection of actual everyday conversations between children and those whom they know well in the security of their homes or schools. Names have been changed to protect their identities.

The purpose of this book is threefold:

Firstly, it is to illustrate the fact that God makes each child with a simple yet deep understanding of His creation which has been made for them to enjoy. Further, children who are taught that God loves them, hears their prayers and speaks to them through His Word and creation readily live a life of faith in God unless hindered by others, especially those placed in authority over them.

However, as will be also shown in the conversations, original sin is as real in children as it is in adults who have often learnt to hide it from God, others and even self. Therefore, though children may be simple in faith, they are by no means completely innocent in God's eyes. They too need the Saviour's saving grace. The difference between a child's faith and that of an adult is that a child seldom rationalises away his need for love and forgiveness when he meets God. He seems to recognise and trust Him more readily.

Secondly, it is to encourage parents and adults, who take care of them directly or indirectly, so that they may understand them better and thus meet their emotional and spiritual needs in ways that are relevant to them at each stage of their growth.

Thirdly, it is my hope that as we ponder over the children's words and perceptions of God and His world, we may be encouraged to become more child-like in our trust in God but not remain childish in our relationship with Him. To be child-like is to trust and follow Him even when we cannot understand everything that happens to us or others; whereas to be childish is to persist in remaining in self-indulgence, to insist on enjoying privileges without responsibilities.

Hence, let us lend them our ears ...

[The sentences after each asterisk (*) are the author's interpretation of each child's perception of the preceding situation, while the the child's age is in brackets. Please note that children may not strictly follow the rules of grammar in their daily conversations. Hence, for the dialogue to be real, the author has left most of the actual conversations unedited.]

This page intentionally left blank

l Growing uptakes too long

Mum was scrubbing the floor while Ting stood watching her.

Mum : Ting, you can help me when you grow up. Ting (4) : Mmmm...I'd like to do it...[pause]... Can I help you now even though I am young?

* Mum, I would really like to play with the brush and water... why won't you let me do it now? I don't want to wait so long...



2 Pens don't talk

Papa could not find his pen after an extensive search of the house. At dinner table that evening, he asked...

Papa	: Did anyone see my black pen?
Kate(3)	: I think it ran away by itself[without
	blinking an eyelidand was thus caught
	redhanded].

* I hid it for myself because I liked it ... but I'm not going to tell... I cannot blame Ko- ko (Big brother) and Che-che (Bigsister) either, for they will tell Dad that they didn't do it. So, blame the pen... it can't talk!



3 Decorating the lawn

A neighbour who lived below Siew Lee's apartment was sweeping dry leaves in her lawn.

SiewLee(4) : Aunty, if you sweep up all the leaves, how are you going to decorate the grass??

Aunty was dumbfounded but felt relieved that she wouldn't need to feel so guilty the next time she couldn't sweep the leaves often enough!

* The lawn looks really pretty with those brown leaves dotted on it... I wonder how Aunty is going to redecorate such a large space again. She sure will have a difficult time... how foolish of her to sweep them all away! I had better remind her before it is too late...



4 Lookingforbabybird

A sparrow made a beautiful nest in an old shoe box. The children found four lovely eggs in it. Mum delightedly told her three children that each egg had a baby bird inside. However, a few hours later, she was upset to discover that one egg had been broken and so enquired...

Mum	: How did the egg break?
Mee Ree (5)	: [Coolly] There's no baby sparrow
	inside
Mum	: How do you know?
Mee Ree	: I poked it with my fingerand only the yolk came out!

* Mum, what you said wasn't true...there is no bird inside...but I know that you would not lie to me. Mum, I'm confused and need an explanation...please don't be upset, Mum, just tellme why the baby bird is not there.



5 Uncaringmum

A few days passed...

- Mum : The mother sparrow still hasn't returned to sit on her eggs!
- Mee Ree (4) : [In a matter of fact way while walking away] Must be a dodo bird.

* Silly mother bird...she doesn't care for her babies...Mum wouldn't do that to us!

P.S. A dodo is an extinct Mauratian bird which is often used as a symbol of a stupid or foolish person.





Papa was overseas. The children took turns to sleep with Mumat night. It was Big Sister's turn.

Little Sister (4) : [With a grin]...Che-Che, want to trade? Big Sister (6) : No way!

* Actually, Che-Che, I know you will not give me your turn to sleep with Mum... but I was hoping that by being fair to you, you won't mind sleeping alone tonight. Tomorrow night will be my turn but I can't wait to get mine now!



7 I want to do as Papa does

A father had just resigned from his job and so was able to sleep in over the last few mornings. At the same time, his 5-year-old daughter was finding greater difficulty in having to get up in the morning for pre- school.

Mum	: Jose, you just have to get used to waking
	up earlier
Jose	: Mum, I am going to resign from school!

* O Mum, if Dad can stop going to work and sleep in, why can't I stop attending school and join him too!



8 Let me help Dad, Mum

Late one afternoon, after spending hours preparing his lectures, Dad sighed...

- Dad : I am tired!! [and walked away from his computer]
- Markie (4) : You work too much, Pa!

After a few seconds, Markie yelled out to Mum ...

Markie	: Mum, I turned off his computer!!
Mum	: Oh no, Markie, what have you done
	has Dad saved the information yet?
	If not, you'll get into hot soup!

* Parents...I don't understand them. So difficult to please. What does my helping Pato stop work and rest have anything to do with the saving of information? What is information anyway!?



9 I know your trick!

Mum	: En Ling, if you don't come for your cup
	of milk now, I'll give you 2 cups!
En Ling (3)	: Tomorrow it will be 3 cups!

* Don't bluff me, Mum, I know your trick...you won't do that to me...you know my little tummy can't hold that much milk at one go. Also, you won't like cleaning up the mess if I bring it up again...you went mad when I vomitted the last time...



10 Confused over hairstyle

Teacher Ali : Ern Ern, your hair is too long in front! Have it cut by tomorrow.

So it was done.

- Teacher Boey : Ern Ern, your hair is too long at the back! Have it cut by today.
- Ern Ern (7) : Sir, I am confused... Teacher Ali ordered me to cut the front of my hair and now you ask me to cut the back of it. If this keeps going I will soon be bald!
- * Aiyaaa...youteachers had better agree with each other before you tell us off!



ll It's allright, Mum

Papa has been away for two months.

- Mum : Jane, eat up your food...or else when Papa sees you, he may not recognize you and call you a scrawny lion. Jane (5) : [Pulling up her T-shirt and thumping
 - on her tummy] See...I am still chubby... [grinning to Mum]!

* Don't worry, Mum, I am as chubby as when Papa last saw me...he won't complain...and so I do not need to eat up my food.



12 Please do not laugh at me

Betsy's 17-year-old eldest brother, Norman, had just left home for England. Mum was crying in her bedroom.

Betsy (2)	: Why are you crying, Mum?
Mum	: I miss Norman.
Betsy	: Don't cry, Mum, you still have John, Ruby and me!

After a while, Mum found Betsy sobbing quietly.

Mum	: Why are you crying, Betsy?
Betsy	: I miss my big Ko-ko

* Mum, I think I know how you feel about Norman now. I amsorry that I didn't just now... please don't laugh at me...



13 I want to go with you, Mum

After family prayers, one evening ...

Ping(7)	: I wish Jesus would come before I become an adult
Mum	: Why?
Ping	: Because I don't like adult work.
Mum	 Well, when I was a child, I wanted to become an adultand when I became an adult, I wanted to be a child again. So, you'd better enjoy yourself now since all you need to worry about is your homework.
Ping	: [Smiles] I hope Jesus comes before I go to college
Mum	: Why?
Ping	: Because I don't want to leave you!

[Mum smiles]

* It's not really work that I'm worried about, Mum.It's being left without you if Jesus takes you first when you grow old...But if He comes when you are still young, we can go together!I know that Jesus loves me and will take care of me, but I still need you!


14 I prayed

Mei Mei's school bus was cooler than the van that was sometimes used to pick up her kindergarten school mates. Not liking the van, she secretly prayed to Jesus that her bus would come the next day, after having travelled in the van in hot and steamy weather for two days in a row. Mum was in the bathroom when her bus arrived.

- Mum : Is it the van or the schoolbus today, Mei?
- Mei Mei (5) : [Loudly from the corridor...] BUS, Mu-um! [Reached the door and shyly and smilingly said...] I prayed what...

* Remember, Mum, you taught me to call to Jesus anytime I needed Him? Well, I did...and He answered me! I am so happy!!



15 Youprayed

Mei Mei would not speak to her music teacher during the first piano lesson she had. The teacher was unsure whether Mei Mei should continue the class with her. That night, during family prayers:

Mum : Lord Jesus, please help Mei Mei not to be shy with Miss Ho so that both of them will enjoy the piano lesson.

After the second piano lesson a week later:

Miss Ho : Mei Mei plays very well and has a natural sense of rhythm...we'll carry on!

Outside the classroom:

Mum	: Mei, how was it? Did you answer when
	Miss Ho spoke to you?
Mei Mei(5)	: You know
Mum	: How do I know! I wasn't inside the room!
Mei Mei	: Well, of course I answered her! You prayed for me!

* O Mu-um, how could you be so absentminded! After you prayed for me last night, of course, Jesus helped me not to be shy any more with Miss Ho!



16 Gladtobeaman(human)

Little Ning overheard Mum chatting to Jerng.

- Mum : God created man in His image, like Him. But a few hundred years ago, some people taught that living things came by chance, like one piece of dust knocks into another piece...then came a big bang when small animals were made, which later became bigger and more complicated...and then became man...that is why some people believe that man comes from the ape family. But it is not so...God made us in His likeness right from the beginning by breathing His Spirit into us...
- Jerng (10) : Yes, and it does not matter if the scientist wants to talk about our being made through the evolutionary process. We are still different from animals.

A few hours later, during family prayers ...

Ning (5) : Lord, thank You that You made me a man. Amen.

* Really, I like animals...but I'm glad that I am not one!! I am happy just as I am!



17 Don't hurry me, Dad!

In the middle of the night, Mary (5 years and 8 months old), lost her first milk tooth, showed it to Papa and asked for a drink. The next day, Papa spoke to her at dinner time...

Papa	: Mary, you are no longer a baby, right?
Mary	: But my adult tooth hasn't come out
	yetwhen it comes out, then I will not
	be a baby!

* Papa, I still enjoy being the baby at home... so don't hurry me to grow up, Papa!



18 If Mum can go through this, so can I!

Little Su Ling, being the youngest child in her family, plays by herself more than her elder brother and sister.

Su Ling (5)	: Mum[soberly]
Mum	: Yes, Su Ling
SuLing	: When you were little, did you play by yourself a lot?
Mum	: Yes, my dear, I did, because I was the youngest of 7 childrenmy brothers and sister were older and had their own things to do when I was small like you.

Su Ling continued playing without any more questions.

* She was comforted and felt good that Mum also had felt the same loneliness as she had, though she did not really like the feeling very much.



19 Toomuch of Cinderella

Dad wanted to understand how Pam felt about having a step-parent.

Dad	: Pam, if the Lord takes me to heaven first, would you like Mum to marry another man so that he can help take care of you?
Pam(7)	: I don't knowI'm scared
Dad	: Why?
Pam	: I've read so much about Cinderella

* I don't mind having astep-father, Dad, but I would rather not have a father than suffer under a cruelone.



20 Losingweight

Ruth often hears Dad saying that at middleage, to keep himself fit, he should try to keep a constant weight by exercising and not overeating. He sometimes added that one sign of his weight increasing was a tightening of his pants at the waist. In the bathtub one evening...

Ruth (5)	: [Looking down at her tummy] Mum, I want to lose weight!
Mum Ruth	: Why? : Look [rubbing her tummy while protruding it forward], I am too fat!

* I really want to be strong like Dad, Mum. Since mytummy is so big, I'd better lose weight to keep my weight down too, so I won't fall sick.



21 My wedding dress

Mum likes to tell family tales to the children. One night, she mentioned that her wedding gown was not bought or hired but borrowed from her sister-in-law. Her 6-year-old Kim, who likes dressing up, often flips through the family photo albums.

Kim(6)	: Mum, I want to get married!
Mum	: Well, you'll have to grow up and know
	how to take care of yourself first.

[Silence for 5 seconds]

Kim : [Seriously] Can I borrow your sisterin-law's wedding dress?

* Well, what I really want is that beautiful wedding gown to try on...I don't really care whetherI get married or not!



22 Whatelse did Hesay?

Johnny's behaviour had been negative for a few days. One day, Mum was driven to tears as she struggled before the Lord and asked Him to teach her what to do. The Lord spoke to her and so she conveyed a message to Johnny.

Mum : Johnny, Heavenly Father asked me to tell you that He loves you very much! Johnny (10) : [Immediately...with a look of joy and expectancy on his face...] What else did He say?

* I know that God often speaks to you, Mum; but it's even greater that He asked you to pass me a message! He really must love me!

[Johnny's attitude and behaviour became more positive after that incident.]



23 Murn knows best

Daisy (6)	: Mum, after I get married, can I still
	live with you?
Mum	: Depends on your future husband.
Daisy	: You choose for me!

* If that's the case, you'd better choose because the man you choose for me will certainly obey you.So, please help me, Mum... I want to get married but I also want to be with you always!





24 Not on my birthday... but I love Ko-ko

May 8 1994...Amy turned 6. Her family celebrated with a cake and an outing at Taman Titiwangsa, Kuala Lumpur. While playing hide-and-seek, Philip, the eldest of three children, had a serious fall and the family had to rush home before taking Ko-ko [Big Brother] to the emergency clinic at Tawakal Hospital. Just before they left the house, Amy sadly said to Mum:

Amy(6) : I don't like this happening on my birthday...[almost in tears].

* I know it's an accident, but my birthday is special to me and I don't like the funtime to be cut off suddenly like that at all! Actually, I love Ko-ko...I might as well pack something to do while waiting at the hospital...(She did, and spent the next two hours happily colouring a picture and watching the crowd at the emergency clinic.)



25 TrustingGod and Man

In exasperation, Aunty Lilian made a spontaneous remark about her husband, Uncle Tom, while Peng Soon was playing in the same room...

Aunty Lilian : My husband does not trust anyone!!

Later, after Aunty Lilian had left ...

Peng Soon (6): Mum, does Uncle Tom know Jesus?		
Mum	: Yes, he does. Why do you ask that?	
Peng Soon	: Because if he knows Jesus and Jesus is	
	God, then he must trust God.	
Mum	: What exactly is your question?	
Peng Soon	: Well, if Uncle Tom trusts God, then	
	why doesn't he trust people?	

* I am puzzled, Mum, because if Uncle Tom trusts God, then he must trust people because God is in charge of everybody! He does not have anything to fear from people, does he??? (Mum had to sort out her theology after that...)





Dr.and Mrs. Hunt once stayed at our home for a few days. To help me tide over my chores, the wife welcomed our two daughters into their room to play. They were thrilled and started to scream in delight as they messed around inside. As I popped my head in to enquire about the rowdiness, I heard Mrs. Hunt say,

Mrs.Hunt	: O.K., we have agreed that whoever
	screams will have to leave the room!
Both Girls	: Yes! (Shouting)
Ning (5)	: You too, Aunty!

Aunty had to nod in agreement as the two adults looked at each other...

* Aunty, since you are inside this room too, you have to obey the same rules. I think it's only fair. Don't you think so?



27 Rejectingyet yearning

Sarah, a 13-year-old girl, stayed for a few days at a 13 year old boy's home while on vacation with her family in Sibu.

<u>Day 1</u> Samuel	: [Roughly and angrily] Mum! Who's that? What's she doing here?	
Mum	: She's Aunty Bee's friend. She's staying with us for a few days while her parents visit some of their students upstream.	
Day 2		
Mum	: [Whispering to Aunty Bee] Today is the first time I've ever noticed Samuel getting vain. He's been combing his hair and admiring himself in the mirror again and again! Let's see what he will do next	
Day 4		
Samuel	: Mu-um! Dad and I are going to have a swim at the club. You think anyone else might like to come?	
Of course, Sarah was quickly invited for a dip!		
" I don't really like intruders in myterritory. But I just can't resist wanting to talk to her and seeing hersmile!		





28 Marriage is not for me!

One evening, Aik Li discovered 2 cockroaches mating...

Aik Li (8)	: Mum, what are the cockroaches doing? I've never seen them in such a position
	before.
Mum	: Oh, they are reproducing.
AikLi	: How do they do it?
Mum	: The male cockroach places its "sperm"
	in the female's body.
AikLi	: Do humans do the same?
Mum	: Yes.

[Pause]

AikLi	: You mean their bodies have to touch?
Mum	: Yes.
AikLi	: Yuk! I'm never going to get married!

* Oh, no! No way am I going to take off my clothes in front of a girl!



29 Youjust don't understand, Mum!

Gaik Bee listened attentively to the testimony of a former actress who had recently received Christ into her life. She urged her listeners not to watch film shows as they tended to portray unhealthy lifestyles that were not pleasing to the Lord. Many of the stories were either made up or had immoral or violent themes.

Gaik Bee (11) : Mum, I'm not going to enter a cinema hall any more. God would not be pleased if I did. I feel the actors and actresses are only lying to the audience about what they do.

Mum : Don't be hypnotised by that lady speaker! You are getting extreme in your ideas. Who's going to stay home with you if you don't follow us the next time we want to see a show?

Gaik Bee felt deeply hurt and angry that Mum, also a child of God, could say that about God's messenger to her.

* It's not that I wish to be difficult, Mum.I'm just trying to obey God whom you have taught me to trust.I don't think you understand me...you don't even listen to me...I think I am not really important to you.



30 I only want to please you

John changed his school Mathematics grade from an E to a B. Teacher discovered his action and spoke to his Dad. That evening...

Dad : John, how could you do this to your parents? It's bad enough to know that you failed in your Maths test. But it's much worse being called in by your form teacher and told that my son cheated! What a great shame you've brought to us. Bring me the cane!

John (14) : I'm sorry, Dad.

John took his punishment and cried himself to sleep that night.

* Dad, please don't hurt me further. I don't want to bring you shame. I only want to please you. But if I had told you the truth, you would still have caned me. I cannot live up to your expectations. I need help with my Maths. I feel hurt when you don't understand me... but I feel even more hurt when you don't give me a chance to explain things and just punish me. I feelso unfairly rejected and lonely!





31 Manipulation or Need?

A precocious 15-year-old Ai Tin had been brought up by a babysitter till she was seven years old. Her father had died suddenly and her mother was unable to cope with all her children. Ai Tin was then sent to live in an uncle's house where she was sexually harrassed.

Classmates : Look at Ai Tin...she's always trying to appear sexy so that boys will go after her!

Ai Tin heard those nasty comments and prayed:

"Heavenly Father, You gave me a body that grows faster than my classmates'. It's not my fault. I can't help walking the way I walk and getting the attention that comes from my looks. They are so unfair!"

* Actually, I do enjoy all that male attention. Uncle gives me more pocket money and attention when I dress and behave like a sexy woman. I need his attention because I've never had a chance to feel a father's love. Every time I see fathers hugging their daughters, I yearn for my father... but no use... he is gone.



32 Broken Communication

Say See (17) : Mum, God wants me to study at a Bible college after I've done my Form 5 exams. Mum : You don't go till I die!

Say See swallowed her tears in silence and decided never to talk to Mum about God's will for her again. She submitted to her parents' wishes and entered a local university.

After 3 years,

Mum : Say See, you have changed. You used to tell me everything that was on your mind. Now you don't. I don't think you love me as much as you did before.

Say See had nothing to say.

* Mum, you don't know how much I really care for you. But since you will not allow me to discuss my life with you, and threaten me into obedience instead, I no longer know how to talk to you. I don't want to hurt you further for I feelso hurt and yetso guilty when you get upset with me. I want to love you as an independent adult, not as a daughter possessed by you. Mum, I hope that one day you will give me a chance to do just that. We will be so happy then.



33 Trapped

Clara grew up watching Dad abuse Mum. She frequently overheard Mum telling her friends...

Mum : I can't get away from home now because Clara still needs me. As soon as she leaves for her studies overseas, I'll be free to visit my other children and see my grandchildren. I won't stay a minute longer with her Dad!

Clara failed to gain entrance into an overseas university. The thought of having to wait one whole year before she could reapply and then await further results shook her tender emotions. Unable to with hold her painful disappointment and fear of the future, she broke down on the day her married sister visited them.

Sister	: Why are you crying like that? You have
	always been a clever and happy girl!
Clara	: I can't go overseas this year.
Sister	: I understand, my darling. Don't crytry
	again next year.

Clara kept quiet and decided not to reveal the real reason for her dire distress.

* Sister, you are so blessed to be out of the house. It's not that I just wish to go overseas! It's because if I don't leave home quickly, Mum will have to stay home and suffer Dad's emotional abuses longer! I feel so terribly helpless and guilty that I am the cause of her prolonged suffering. But I can't tell you because you have never asked about my real feelings before!



A Parent's Prayer

Father of all families on earth, please grant me the patient love that comes from You alone so that I may sincerely listen to my children and other children in my care. Help me understand them so that they may know that You do too.

Please help me be sensitive to their silent cries of confusion and of their need for tender loving care so that I may convey Your comfort and wisdom to them.

Grant, our Father, that I may be so aware of their changes as they grow up that I too will grow up with them, to the end that Your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

> In Your Son's Name I ask, Amen

Suggested Reading

- 1. Counselling And Children by Walter Byrd, M.D.and Paul Warren, M.D. [Word Publishing 1989]
- 2. Christian Child-Rearing And Personality Development by Paul D.Meier, M.D. [Baker Book House Company 1977]
- How To Really Know Your Child by Dr.Ross Campbell, M.D. with Pat Likes [SP Publications, Inc.1987]
- How To Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk by Adele Faber & Elaine Mazlish [1980 A. Faber & E. Mazlish, McClelland & Stewart, Ltd.]

Listen To The Children is a collection of conversations to help adults look at the world from the eyes of a child. Accompanied by cartoon illustrations, it is a heart-warming peek into the innocent and not so innocent minds of children as they try to make sense of the strange adult world that surounds them. The author, Dr Lee Bee Teik, has drawn out the humour and cheekiness of the children in each event she records. But the liveliness of the conversations is original to the children themselves! Listening to them express themselves in the natural surroundings of home and school will surely remind even the crustiest of adult of the forgotten joys of being a child. Dr Lee hopes that her readers will be stirred to re-learn the simple faith of the child in our heavenly Father from this simple book. Furthermore, she prays that the adults reading this book will come to a deeper appreciation of the children under their care, and be encouraged to foster their spiritual and emotional development in an environment of listening acceptance and loving discipline.

DR LEE BEE TEIK is the founding director of Reconre Ministries. She earlier laid down the practice of medicine to be with her children. In 1992, the Lord called her to the writing ministry and then to minister to His fulltime workers through pastoral counselling and quiet retreats. Her other areas of service include the training of lay pastoral counsellors and the faciliating of personal or small group quiet retreats and seminars. Dr Lee is married to Bishop (Dr.) Hwa Yung of the Methodist Church in Malaysia and they have three adult children.

e-Book Edition 2012 published by Cornerstone Corporation Sdn Bhd

For enquiries, contact: Cornerstone at <u>http://www.cornerstone.my</u>

Contact the Author Dr Lee Bee Teik via <u>http://www.reconre.org</u>