

How to Teach Our Children to Shema

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What Does the Hebrew word *shema* mean?

Shema – To listen with the breath.¹

שמע (שמע) **Definition:** A careful hearing of someone or something as well as responding appropriately in obedience or action.

Relationship to Parent: listening with the breath

שמע (common, שמע / sh.m.ah) **Translation:** HEAR (V) **Definition:** To perceive or apprehend by the ear; to listen to with attention. To obey. **KJV Translations:** hear, obey, publish, understand, obedient, diligently, show, sound, declare, discern, noise, perceive, tell, report **Strong's Hebrew #:** h.8085 **Strong's Aramaic #:** a.8086

A “hearer” – One who listens and obeys.

"**Hear**, O Israel: YHVH our God, YHVH is one! You shall love YHVH your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, NKJV).

To Not Listen Is to Rebel

An example of *hearing*: Samuel

An example of *not hearing*: Saul

"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,
And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
He also has rejected you from being king" (1 Samuel 15:23).

Other verses:

"A fool despises his father's instruction,
But he who receives correction is prudent" (Proverbs 15:5).

"He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother
Is a son who causes shame and brings reproach" (Proverbs 19:26).

"Whoever curses his father or his mother,
His lamp will be put out in deep darkness" (Proverbs 20:20).

"There is a generation that curses its father,
And does not bless its mother" (Proverbs 30:11).

"The eye that mocks his father,
And scorns obedience to his mother,
The ravens of the valley will pick it out,
And the young eagles will eat it" (Proverbs 30:17).

¹ <http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/m/ahlb/shin.html#8085>

Two Reasons for Rebellion:

- 1) Pride and Stubbornness
- 2) Frustration

Examples:

Adam & Eve
Cain
Nimrod (Tower of Babel)
American Revolution

"Children, obey your parents in YHVH, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 'that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.' And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of YHVH" (Ephesians 6:1-4, NKJV).

An Idea:

The "Interrupt Rule" (hand on someone's shoulder)

Think About It:

What is Scripture's authority structure?

French Revolution
Communism (Marxism)

How to Help Our Children Learn to Listen:

What does YHVH consider normal?

- to *shema!*

What is your goal for your children?

- peace, happiness, goodness (Hebrew, *tov*: to function as it should)

Why start teaching your children to *shema* when they are young?

- It's easier, and your home can be more peaceful from the very beginning. There is no need to retrain bad habits. Retraining is *always* much more difficult!

Resource Suggestion:

The Four Foundations of Lifelong Learning, by Anne Elliott

- free to all conference attendees at:
<https://homeschoolingtorah.com/2019doorkeepers/category/conference-sessions/day-2>

An Idea:

- 1) Look at parent in the eye.
- 2) Acknowledge ("Yes, Mommy").
- 3) Obey.

"What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish" (Matthew 18:12-14).

Don't teach rules. Teach procedures.

Following procedures gives children a chance to show that they are listening!

Example:

The 10 Commandments are the rules.
The rest of the Torah illustrates *how* to obey the 10 Commandments.