



## George and Awn in Thailand

I was chatting with some friends. I told them the story about my friends who complemented the kids. The people I was talking to, several of them, have kids in their late teens early 20s. They asked "What did you do? My kids are driving me crazy, they just will not listen to me."

Well that led us into an in-depth discussion.

We do not do Bible Study in the conventional sense with our community at large, we tell stories. These stories elicit comments that lead us to deeper discussion.

First I asked them, "Why did I learn Thai?" Of course they, like you, thought, what has this to do with anything? But, patience.

Their answer was much the same as most of us, "So you could talk to us." I said, "Well, no not exactly, the true reason I learned Thai, the real reason I really worked at my Thai was so I could understand what my Boss at the university was telling me to do."

Most of us want to learn so badly so we can talk, but the real reason to learn is so we can listen, understand and then engage.

I told them it is the same with your kids. Perhaps they do not listen to what you are telling them, but are you listening to what they are telling you?

We went back to look at the 10 Commandments. And I saw something that caught me, we are not commanded to tell the truth. Of course I think we should always pursue the truth, that is not what I am saying. Having only a partial understanding of truth can result in erroneous conclusions. We could jump to judgment.

What we are commanded, in the 10 Commandments, to do is not to lie. And it says things like You shall not lie. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not deceive your neighbor. Stuff like that.

Then we had kind of a group epiphany. It is tough to tell the truth, why because you can legitimately ask, Do I even know the truth, understand the whole story, comprehend every facet that is the whole truth. But I do know when I am lying. I even know when I am leveraging the truth to manipulate or deceive another.

So listening brings us closer to an understanding, it respects all parties, it deepens our relationships and when we've been listened to, instead of rolling our eyes at Dad's unsolicited counsel we actually ask him for his advice.

It was a fun "Bible Study"? Is that what it was? No one in this discussion was a believer, but everyone is experiencing "His Kingdom Come."

For the King and the Kingdom,  
George and Awn  
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