

Dealing with a Lost Child
Biblical Parenting – Part 8
Life Church St. Louis – September 17, 2017
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

James 5:19-20 (ESV) My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

1. Understand the stages of a _____ child

Luke 15:11 (ESV) And he said, "There was a man who had two sons.

A. The child _____ against parents

Luke 15:12 (ESV) And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them.

B. The child _____ God's Word

Luke 15:13 (ESV) Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

C. The child _____ the consequences

Luke 15:14-16 (ESV) And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

2. _____ for the child to change

A. The child _____ his parent's teaching

Luke 15:17 (ESV) "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!

B. The child _____ to God

Luke 15:18-19 (ESV) I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."

C. The child _____ to his parents

Luke 15:20a (ESV) And he arose and came to his father.

3. Have a godly _____ toward the lost child

A. Have _____ as a parent

Luke 15:20b (ESV) But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

B. _____ as a parent

Luke 15:21 (ESV) And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

C. _____ as a parent

Luke 15:22-24 (ESV) But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

Action Plan for This Week

- Have a daily quiet time of Bible reading, prayer & writing.
 Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

- How will I obey God's Word this week? _____

Dealing with a Lost Child Study Guide
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Intro. Why do you think that only 30% of youth raised in Christian homes will maintain their faith and church involvement into their twenties?

What is the responsibility of parents and church for those who wander from the faith (James 5:19-20)?

Why do you think the problem of youth leaving churches has increased in the past decade?

- 1A. Why do you think the father's two sons turned out differently (Luke 15:11)?
- 1B. Why did the younger son insist on receiving his inheritance early (Luke 15:12)?
- 1C. How are rebellion against parents and against God related (Luke 15:13)?
- 1D. What are the consequences of sin in a lost child's life (Luke 15:14-16)?
- 1E. What should a parent do if they sense rebellion in a child?

- 2A. What does Luke 15:17 mean when it says the son "came to himself"?
- 2B. Why did the son resolve to repent to God and his father (Luke 15:18-19)?
- 2C. What does the son returning to his father tell you about the father's parenting (Luke 15:20a)?
- 2D. When a parent loses contact with a lost child, how should they pray?
- 3A. What does the father's reception of his son tell you about his heart (Luke 15:20b)?
- 3B. Why must a parent always be ready to forgive their repentant children (Luke 15:21)?
- 3C. Why is the return of the lost son a cause for celebration (Luke 15:22-24)?
- 3D. How does the salvation of a spiritually lost person parallel the return of the prodigal son (Luke 15:10)?
- 3E. How should a parent relate to an unrepentant child who they have contact with?
- 3F. How can this story and the promise of Proverbs 22:6 encourage parents dealing with a rebellious child?