

Water of Life Community Church
YOUR FAMILY'S SPIRITUAL LIFE
WEEK 3
LUKE 15:11-32

ICEBREAKER

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

As we've been learning what it means to invest well in the spiritual lives of our families, we've discovered that our own spiritual life is our very best tool. This is true when our children are young and also when they grow up. Mistakes will be made by us and by our children, and sometimes decisions will cause us great pain. However, the Lord calls us into endurance and sacrificial service in every relationship of our lives, including with our adult children with whom there is conflict and reconciliation is needed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. READ LUKE 15:11-32.

- a. Jim Burns lists six reasons children's faith atrophies in his book, *Doing Life With Your Adult Children*: neglect, drifting, unbelief or lack of trust, disobedience or an act of the will, hardening of hearts, and forgetting spiritual destiny. Which of these causes do you find in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son?
- b. What are some reasons we go and search out a "better life"? How do you feel when you consider the prospect of one of your children embracing one of those reasons and turning away from God? How might it be beneficial for a parent to consider that possibility?
- c. Why did Jesus make the son realize his need, come to his senses, and head home instead of telling the story so that the father went and found the son and brought him home?
- d. What do you like about the way the father handled this "domestic crisis"? What would you have liked to see him do differently?
- e. What are some things people tend to think they are missing out on if they fully commit to Jesus? How did session one of this series teach you is the best way to head off that line of thinking in your children?
- f. Some people see Jesus as merely a part of their lives instead of their whole life. What do we miss out on by compartmentalizing relationship with Him in this way?

g. Why should this parable cultivate sympathy for people who have wandered away from faith in Jesus or never experienced it to begin with? It's easier to respond with compassion when it's not your own child who is the one that has wandered. Why do you think this is so often true?

2. READ PROVERBS 22:6.

a. This proverb is often taken as a promise, but do you know of any examples of a child departing from God's way when he or she grew up?

b. How, then, should we understand this proverb?

c. When thinking about parenting your adult children, what encouragement can you take from this verse?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

GOING DEEPER

Subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting "eDevotional" to 67076; or go to wolgroups.com and click on the eDevotional button for daily testimonies relating to this week's theme.

MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 22:6, English Standard Version (ESV)

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.