

SHEPHERDING LEADERS WHO HAVE A PRODIGAL CHILD

Pastor Dave Kirk

I. Leaders who have prodigals deal with

- A. Grief
- B. Guilt, shame, failure
- C. Fear
- D. Despair
- E. Anger/ bitterness
- F. Grace vs. Enablement

II. Helpful practical steps to love and shepherd leaders of prodigals well

A. Grieve with them (Job 2:11-13)

B. Persevere in providing prayer and radical hospitality for parents and maybe their prodigal.

- 1. Persistent prayer for the refreshment and encouragement of the parents
- 2. Pray for unity for the parents. To be on the same page together in parenting.
- 3. Persistent prayer for redemption for eyes to be open and to experience God's love in real ways for prodigal child (James 5:16)

C. Speak the gospel into the lives of those leaders....

- 1. **Who is God and what is he doing?**
- 2. **Who they are in Christ and where their hope is found?**

3. Help them discern what they are not responsible for.....

"Help them to see that they are not responsible to do what only the Holy Spirit can do, which is change the heart of their child."

Brad Bigney

"Prodigals need redemption not reformation"

Craig Svensson

4. Help them discern what they are responsible for..... (2 Cor. 5:17-21)

"Help the parents understand that they are called to be ambassadors of Christ to their child. They are to demonstrate Christ's love, grace, truth and mercy in abundance without enabling them which ceases to be loving or gracious."

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D. Encourage them in their spiritual growth during suffering and waiting (Jam. 1:2-4)

E. Encourage leaders to be unified in their parenting towards their prodigal

F. Encourage leaders to seek biblical counseling for themselves and or the whole family.

G. Encourage them to not forget other relationships in their lives.

H. Encourage them to rest in the grace of God.

"O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love and with him is plentiful redemption" Ps. 130:7

Recommended Resources:

Graham, Ruth, Bell. *Prodigals and Those Who Love Them*, Baker Book House, Co. 1999

Svensson, Craig K. *The Painful Path of the Prodigal – Biblical Help and Hope For Those Who Love the Wayward and Rebellious*. Shepherd Press, 2019.

Harvey, Dave and Gilbert, Paul. *Letting Go: Rugged Love for Wayward Souls*. Zondervan 2016.

Idleman, Kyle. *Praying for your Prodigal*. David C. Cook, 2014

Bigney, Brad. Grace Fellowship Church, *Hope and Help For Hurting Parents*, Sermon...
www.graceky.org

Bigney, Harrison. Grace Fellowship Church, vimeo, Harrison is Brads son who was a prodigal. This is Harrisons story about coming to Christ and being baptized. HUGE encouragement and instructive to parents who have prodigals. www.graceky.org

Vision of Hope Home: Faith Church, Lafayette, IN. www.fbcmlafayette.org, residential home for young women ages 14-28. Grace filled residential living for those young women who have life altering and dominating issues going on. There is daily counseling, biblical community involvement, education and job opportunities in a structured healthy environment.

Restoration Ranch: Faith Church, Lafayette, IN. www.fbcmlafayette.org , residential home for men ages 18 and up. Grace filled residential living for those men who have life altering and dominating issues going on. There is daily counseling, biblical community involvement, education and work opportunities in a structured healthy environment.

SHEPHERDING PARENTS WHO HAVE A PRODIGAL CHILD

Pastor Dave Kirk

EIBCC Monthly Meeting

8/21/25

I. What is a Prodigal? (Lk. 15:11-32)

II. Parents who have prodigals deal with

- A. _____
- B. _____, _____, _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____/_____
- F. _____ vs. _____

III. Helpful practical steps to love and shepherd parents of prodigals well

A. Grieve with them (Job 2:11-13)

B. Persevere in providing prayer and radical hospitality for parents and maybe their prodigal.

- 1. Persistent prayer for the _____ and _____ of the parents
- 2. Pray for _____ for the parents. To be on the same page together in parenting.
- 3. Persistent prayer for _____ for _____ to be open and to _____ God's love in real ways for prodigal child (James 5:16)

C. Speak the gospel into the lives of the parents....

- 1. Who is _____ and what is he _____?
- 2. Who they are in Christ and where their _____ is found?
- 3. Help them discern what they are not responsible for.....

"Help them to see that they are not responsible to do what only the Holy Spirit can do, which is change the heart of their child."

Brad Bigney

"Prodigals need redemption not reformation"

Craig Svensson

4. Help them discern what they are responsible for..... (2 Cor. 5:17-21)

"Help the parents understand that they are called to be ambassadors of Christ to their child. They are to demonstrate Christ's love, grace, truth and mercy in abundance without enabling them which ceases to be loving or gracious."

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D. Encourage them in their _____ during suffering and waiting (Jam. 1:2-4)

E. Encourage parents to be _____ in their parenting towards their prodigal

F. Encourage parents to seek _____ for themselves and or the whole family.

G. Encourage them to not _____ other relationships in their lives.

H. Encourage them to _____ in the _____

Some thoughts about Adult Children:

Recommended Resources:

Graham, Ruth, Bell. *Prodigals and Those Who Love Them*, Baker Book House, Co. 1999

Svensson, Craig K. *The Painful Path of the Prodigal – Biblical Help and Hope For Those Who Love the Wayward and Rebellious*. Shepherd Press, 2019.

Harvey, Dave and Gilbert, Paul. *Letting Go: Rugged Love for Wayward Souls*. Zondervan 2016.

Idleman, Kyle. *Praying for your Prodigal*. David C. Cook, 2014

Miller, C. John *Come Back Barbara*, R&R Publishing, 2020

Bigney, Brad. Grace Fellowship Church, *Hope and Help For Hurting Parents*, Sermon...
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Bigney, Harrison. Grace Fellowship Church, vimeo, Harrison is Brads son who was a prodigal. This is Harrisons story about coming to Christ and being baptized. HUGE encouragement and instructive to parents who have prodigals. www.graceky.org