

Building Blocks #4 – When Children Stray

1. How have you observed or been affected by the “choices” of your own children/siblings/friends in a way that has been a sobering reminder that we all have free will to follow or not follow God’s ways.
2. What do you think are important ways we provide “a way back home” for those who have strayed away from God?

Read Luke 15:11-20

1. From this reading, what sort of parent was the father?
2. From this reading, what sort of young-man was the son?
3. When the son strayed, what did the father do in response?
4. When the son came to his senses, what did he know about the home he left behind?
5. If a person hasn’t built a godly foundation in the past or if a home has not been an easy one to return to for various reasons, can a person “renovate” after the fact, building a new kind of home and changing how it is/looks/sounds?
6. What does it look like to “pray and watch” for children who have strayed? What is the main thing that we pray for and why?
7. Have you, as an individual, ever considered that you might be the person someone is praying for who could be an influence on someone else’s child and assist in their return to the LORD? Have you had a chance to BLESS someone in this way?
8. **Read 2 Peter 3:9** – why is this verse important to know as we pray for wayward kids?
9. What does this mean: “We can’t hope to have our children responding to God’s way if we aren’t.” How are we as adults to respond to God’s ways as we wait for wayward kids to return to the LORD?
10. In small groups pray
 - a. For children who are right now being taught the ways of God. Pray that their hearts would be soft towards God. Pray for their salvation.
 - b. Pray for those involved in their teaching: parents, grandparents, relatives, Sunland teachers, youth leaders...
 - c. Pray for children who are currently running from God. If you can pray for them by name, do. Pray they would come to their senses, shake of rebellion, and return to God.
 - d. Take a moment and pause to pray that the LORD would use you to be an answer to someone’s prayer to BLESS their child (*whether they are children, teens or young adults*)