



THE POWER OF DAD Wk 2: *When Dad's Actively Wait* | Luke 15:17:20 @thestoryhouston www.thestory.church

One of the hardest things for a Dad to do is to let their child _____!

Powerful Parenting Axiom:

You cannot make your child follow God BUT you can influence their choices and journey!

Urgency of the Moment: Birthing a generation of _____ - 70% abandoning their faith!

How to INFLUENCE your Child's Choices and Spiritual Journey?

1. _____ WAIT for the turn of the heart!

Truth: Believe that the prodigals profound turning to God was influenced by the passionate and persistence prayers of the Father.

True repentance is a turning _____ sin and a turning _____ God!

Components of powerful prayer:

- *"Bring them to the end of themselves."*
- *"May nothing satisfy them except God alone."*
- *"Help them to realize their true spiritual condition."*
- *"Remind them of how much God loves them and their standing as sonship."*

2. _____ WATCH for positive spiritual progress!

Truth: Waiting and watching on your children's growth will remind you of God's grace in your own life.

In regards to our children's growth, are you becoming bitter or helping them to be better?

3. _____ WELCOME all spiritual growth and development!

Truth: Cannot overestimate the power of encouragement and positive reinforcement on our children's behavior.

PRACTICAL PRODIGAL PREVENTION PROGRAM (How to positively promote the change you want to see?)

- _____ - Pray often for your child and with your child!
- _____ - Model the person you want them to become!



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- _____ - Talk often about the values and characteristics of a follower of Jesus!
- _____ - Do as much as you can with your child - “*fight together*”
- _____ - Celebrate and affirm wins often and with great enthusiasm!

LEARNING GUIDE:

THE POWER OF DAD series is to remind you of the most important responsibility you have in life -nurturing and raising our children to run hard after Jesus. As Fathers, we are the spiritual thermostats of our home - so goes our spiritual fire, so goes the spiritual fire of our home. It is a true statement that very few children rise above the spiritual passion of their homes - especially their fathers. Said another way, it matters what goes on in our homes as Fathers.

One of the most difficult things for a Father to do is to let their children fail, especially when it comes to their spiritual growth! In the famous passage know of the Prodigal Son, one of the lessons that the Father beautifully models is the ability to wait and watch for the spiritual turn of his son's heart. He realized that he cannot control his child's decision about God, BUT he can influence this choice.

Question: What makes Fathering hard for you, especially when it comes to nurturing and developing your child's spiritual choices and growth?

What are you doing well in this process? Where can you improve?

The Father in Luke 15, does three things that are important for us as he waited for the change in his son's heart? The father:

- 1. Prayerfully Waited - I truly believe that the radical turn back to God in his child's life was a direct result of his own prayers. He fought for his son's faith through his own prayer life.*
- 2. Graciously Watched - Instead of becoming bitter at his son's squandering of his inheritance, he graciously anticipated his son's return to God and to himself. He prepared his heart for the return of his son!*
- 3. Celebratory Welcomed - The Father made a big deal about his son's return. He drove home the point that love overcomes a multitudes of sins.*

Several Questions for Reflection in Relation to the above characteristics of the Father:

- *What are you praying on behalf of your children? Your prayers matter.*
- *In what ways are your children choices and actions making you more like Christ yourself?*
- *What is our response to our child's behavior and actions?*

As Fathers and on behalf of our children, “may we not grow weary in doing good (Galatians 6:9).