

When A Child Is Lost.

Luke 15:17-24

Introduction: Too many of our young people are leaving the Lord's Church. Factors that lead to this could be **poor parenting, our evil society, and the free moral choices of our children**. It must be a primary goal of our congregations to keep our kids and to restore those who have left the faith, Jms 5:20. BRING WANDERING CHILD

Stages of a Wandering child

15:11 Man had two sons

Don't see anything the parent did wrong

15:12 Rebelling against parents

Father give me my share of inheritance

Wanted everything he could get and then run

Rebelling is a sign of a deeper spiritual problem, Eph. 6:1-3

15:13 Rejecting God's Word

Child wanted to get as far away as possible

Lived as badly as he could

15:14-16. Reaps Consequences

Money gone = friends gone

Put in a Terrible place for a Jew

Application: If you see this chain coming, engage in prayer, communication, and change environment (friends, etc.)

What brings a child back?

15:17. Remember's his father's teaching

Memories of good godly life, Deut 6:6-8

Knew it was better there than elsewhere

15:18-19. Child Repents, 2 Cor. 7:10

The pride is gone, child wants to be right again.

15:20. Returns to parents

Father had been praying and seed planted had grown, Lk 8:11

Application:

Parents must always pray for their children

This father had no contact but we can always influence, 1 Pet. 3:1-6

This parent.... Had compassion on his son, 15:20b

He had a heart of love rather than discipline

Forgiveness, 15:21

Celebration, 15:22-24

Robe, ring, shoes meant he was a son

Focus on what's important, not details.