

# LISTEN UP & WRITE IT DOWN

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## *The Gospel & Your Kids*

*The Gospel for Real Life*

Luke 15:11-32

Sunday, November 9, 2008

### **4 Reminders for Gospel Parenting. . . .**

#### **1. Our Father God HAS Lost Children.**

A. In the parable, there is not one lost son, but two!

1. The younger brother's lostness . . .

2. The elder brother's lostness . . .

B. Our RESPONSIBILITY as parents: parent with the Gospel

C. Our REST as parents: live in the Gospel ourselves

#### **2. Our Father God RELEASES His Lost Children.**

A. In the parable, the father complies with the son's crazy request.

B. Our Father "gives us over" to experience the full consequences of our choices and desires. (Rom. 1)

C. Releasing involves letting go of our own expectations for control over our children.

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#### **3. Our Father God WAITS FOR His Lost Children.**

A. The father releases without "cutting off."

B. The father is expectantly looking for the son's return.

C. The father leads with compassion, laying aside all proper decorum to meet both sons.

#### **4. Our Father God REJOICES at the return of His Lost Children.**

A. The father doesn't punish or guilt.

B. The father lavishes Gospel grace on both sons.

C. The father is uninhibited in the expression of his joy.

# THINK IT OVER!

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1. Read Luke 15:11-32 again. Why does Jesus tell this story according to 15:1-2? Who do the grumbling Pharisees remind you of in the parable? Who, then, symbolizes the “tax collectors and sinners” in the parable? Who is Jesus identified with in the parable?
2. Describe the lostness of the younger son. How is the elder son, also lost and far from the Father’s hear? What are some indications of the elder son’s lostness in the text? To put it another way, how do we know both sons “wish their father was dead”?
3. What happens to the younger son to turn him around? What does he realize and admit? What does the Bible call this?
4. How do we know the father releases without “cutting off”? How do we know he “gives him over” without giving up?
5. Break down the father’s multifaceted response to the younger brother’s return? What does the father feel? What does he do? How is this an example of extravagant grace?

# WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and most challenging for you in this week’s text/message?
2. Which son do you most identify with in the parable? Describe your own lostness and the forms it took earlier in your life.
3. How do you see the Gospel in action in the “parable of the two lost sons”?
4. How does the Gospel keep us from enabling our kids?
5. How does the Gospel keep from building our identity around our kids?
6. How does the Gospel keep us from cutting off from our kids?
7. How does the Gospel help us show extravagant grace toward our kids when they return from the far country?
8. If you have kids, describe your current relationship with your kids and where they are spiritually? Likewise, describe your current relationship with your parents and where they are spiritually?