



00:01 Hi ladies, we're back for week two of Parenting a Prodigal Child. And as Christian parents, we do our best, we do everything that we can to raise our Hi ladies, we're back for week two of Parenting a Prodigal Child.

00:14 And helping them to raise their wrong influences. So we've reared our kids with a lot of effort into doing our best of is that our kids do have may rebel despite our best efforts.

00:49 So called good parent that situation, you need to know how to handle it, but also it because it can be hard to recognize and be aware of a lot of emotions that you're dealing with.

01:24 Of course or becomes prodigal. You'll also probably struggle with a lot of worry and fear over that child and what's going to come of them as they make wrong choices and you see them heading in a wrong direction.

01:38 So I want to talk to you about how you can survive those hard days, weeks, months, perhaps even years with a prodigal child.

01:49 Number one, I want to encourage you to never stop praying. I want to encourage you to be a prodigal child.

01:54 That is the most important thing you can do. So often, we're trying to figure out what can we do to bring this child back?

02:01 What can we say to make them realize they're making bad choices or they're going the wrong way? What can we do?

02:08 And our focus instead needs to be on let's pray and see what God can do because God can work in the hearts and lives of those prodigal children and change their heart, change their thinking.

02:20 Draw them back to Him. So pray God's promises over that prodigal child daily and trust God to be true to His Word.

02:29 His promises are that. They're promises, something we can count on Him to keep. So claim prayer promises and pray those for your children consistently.



02:39 And that brings me to our focus first for this month. And that's the verse in Proverbs 21, where it says, the king's heart is in the hand of the Lord as the rhythm.

02:48 In Proverbs of water, he turneth it with or so ever, he will. I love that verse and I have prayed that often over some of my kids when they were going through difficult times, making wrong choices and their heart was not where it should be.

03:02 I remember often praying and reminding God and saying to him, God, if you can change the heart of a king, you can change the heart of my child.

03:12 So again, keep in mind the truth that God is. Faithful, his word is true and we should never ever give up on our child even when things seem hopeless because God is on the throne and God changes hearts.

03:27 Number two, trust God. Keep your eyes. That's on him, not the problem. That makes me think of the song, turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full on his wonderful face and the things of earth will grow strangely down in the light of his glory and grace.

03:44 So often we get our eyes off of God and we forget to trust him in the midst of our concern and our worry and our hurt, our aching hearts when we have a prodigal child.

03:55 So I want to encourage you to trust God. And keep your eyes on him rather than on the situation. Obviously it's going to be in our mind because these are our kids and we love them and when they're going the wrong way, there's going to be concern, but don't let it consume you, but instead.

04:12 Trust that child to God and keep your eyes on him knowing that he will protect your child and can change their heart.

04:18 Number three, claim God's promises and believe that they are true. As Christians, we always talk about. How we believe the Bible.

04:28 We know it's true. We trust God. But often we don't live that out. We don't act like it. And I think we can send our kids a mixed



signal if we're not careful because they see us fretting and worrying about.

04:40 Things rather than watching us go to God with that problem or that concern or that need. And we need to kind of example for them that we can trust God and claim his promises.

04:53 And we believe in that they're true and the way we do that is by praying consistently when we have situations that require it, which obviously we have those every day, but something serious like a prodigal child.

05:05 Your other kids are watching. So show. One of them that we can claim God's promises and that we do believe them and we trust God to do what's best for our child.

05:15 Number four. I love this one. I think this is so important. Don't be afraid to just. For out your heart to God.

05:24 I love the verse in Psalm 6 to 8 where it says trust in him at all times you people pour out your heart before him.

05:31 God is a refuge for us. God invites us to just come to him and. Pour our heart out. Go to him with your aching heart with your concern, your worry, your guilt, your anger, your frustration, all those things.

05:45 God already knows what you're feeling and the struggles you're dealing with. So. So just go ahead and pour it all out before him and let him know, God, I'm struggling.

05:55 These are the feelings that I'm dealing with, the concerns, the worry. I know I can trust you, but I'm struggling.

06:02 God knows that and he loves for us to. Come to him and just pour that out before him. And as you do that, you'll find a piece will take over and fill your mind with his peace and his promises rather than that consuming worry or fear that you've been.

06:17 And you'll find a piece of joy in your life that you're dealing with. And number five, commit your child to God remembering that he loves that child even more than you do.



06:26 There have been many times over the years of raising eight children where we had different ones who were making wrong choices.

06:32 That different times. Some kids more than others. Some did it more than once. And there would be those times where I was very concerned about that child.

06:40 And I would have to remember to tell God, God, I know you love this child even. And more than I do.

06:47 I know they're safe in your hands. Please watch over them, take care of them, draw them back. And in the meantime, deal with them gently.

06:56 But yet do what you need to to bring them back to you and come. Commit that child to God. Kind of picture yourself reaching up and handing that child to God and letting go releasing your child into God's hands, knowing that he will care for them and he does love them.

07:13 And that brings me to the end of the day. So, point number six, as parents, we need to love our prodigal child unconditionally.

07:19 We do not have to love their sinful lifestyle or the sinful choices they're making because God loves the center but hates the sin and that's how, we should be, we can hate their sin while we still love them unconditionally and our prodigal child needs to know that we love them no matter what they do

07:38 because they're gonna have some doubts with that and they're gonna have some, concerns and we need to be very proactive in making sure they're aware that we love them no matter what, just like God does.

07:50 That's how we model God's love to them is by loving them unconditionally. The number, 7. Don't take their rebellion and wrong behavior personally or get angry and resentful towards them.

08:03 Remember this is a spiritual battle and your child is not the enemy. I'll be talking about that more in the next video.



08:10 But, That's an important thing to keep in mind that will help you keep your focus and your attitude right towards that child.

08:17 And then number eight, no matter how hopeless it seems, never ever give up on your child. God. Never gives up on us.

08:26 He waits for us. He waits patiently. He loves us while he waits and he tries to draw us back to him.

08:32 And we need to just keep trusting God to work in the heart of that protocol and bring the back. Don't ever give up hope on that child and let your child know that you're praying for them because, you know, they can run from us and our teaching, but they cannot do anything about the power of our prayers

08:48 . And that's where God takes over and does what we can do. Okay, some action steps for this week. Nothing big at all because I'm trying to keep things easy for you as your busy moms.

08:59 Number one, I would encourage you to write down Proverbs 21 1 and put it on a piece of paper and put it so.

09:06 Or you'll see it often throughout the day. Maybe over your kitchen sink, like if you have a window or just a wall over your kitchen sink or the bathroom mirror.

09:14 Someplace where you will see it often throughout the day. And each time you see that, I want you to claim.

09:20 And that promise and remind God that if he can change the heart of a king, he can change the heart of your child and then ask him to do the changing that needs to happen.

09:30 And then number two, pray daily and commit your prodigal child. I want to ask God to work in their heart and their life, drawing them back to him.

09:40 And then just to show your faith, even though there might be some doubt there and some worry you want to let God know I do trust you help my own.



09:48 I don't believe, and so I choose to thank you in advance for what you're going to do and thank you for what you're able to do in the heart of this prodigal child that you love even more than I do.

10:00 Raising a prodigal is not f-ing. It's fun, it's difficult, and it can cause a lot of tears and other emotions like I've mentioned, but we have a God who loves that child, who knows that child, and who cares, and we can trust him with the s- that prodigal child.