



0:01 Hi ladies, welcome back. We are on week three of Parenting a Prodigal Child and as we talk about the prodigal child this month, I want to just remind you that there can be a wide range of people who are in the room.

0:14 A wide range of behavior that describes a prodigal child or a rebellious child. Some of your kids or some prodigals may be showing some beginning signs of rebellion where others may be living in outright rebellion to, what they've been taught from God's word.

0:31 And I know over the years when we've had kids that were rebellious or had turned prodigal for a short time or a few months even or longer, I was guilty at making mistakes.

0:42 During different times and especially when I was concerned that one of my children was going in the wrong direction were headed towards becoming a prodigal.

0:51 And I also found that there are obstacles that are very common when we're parenting a prodigal. So I want to look today at those obstacles or the wrong mindset that we need to overcome as we parent a prodigal child.

1:05 Number one, the first obstacle is fretting over your prodigal child or that is just really a wrong mindset. Very common by the way.

1:14 It's very normal to fret over a child who's going the wrong direction. We have a heart for our children. We love them and we, we hurt, we worry, we.

1:24 When we see them making wrong choices because we know where those choices can take them. And as parents who spend time investing in the training of their children, we long for God's blessing in their lives and on their lives.

1:38 So when we see them making those wrong choices that we know can bring unpleasant consequences. It's very easy to begin to worry.



1:45 If we're not careful though, we can be consumed or just become consumed with worry. And you know. God doesn't want us to carry that burden, but He wants us to give it to Him.

1:56 God invites us to come to Him and seek His wisdom. God invites us to come to Him for help. God invites us to command the work of His hands.

2:07 And so, you don't need to fret, but we do need to give them to God. And I know there were times over the last 40 plus years of parenting our eight kids that I would lay in bed just fretting.

2:20 Over a prodigal child, a child who was involved in some things that were not healthy or good for them. And again, it might not have even been a huge, huge major issue, but I knew where that could take them.

2:33 And I knew there was, a problem in their heart that could make them then go even more off of the path that, you know, God wants them to be on.

2:42 And so I would have trouble letting go and I would lay there and just fret and worry. So I had to intentionally, picture myself handing that child and the situation to God and letting go.

2:55 So often after doing that, I would realize soon that I was holding it again and I'd have to repeat that process of saying, God, I know you're in control and you've told us to cast our cares on you.

3:07 So I'm going to give you this burden, this concern, this child. And I want you to carry this burden for me.

3:14 Hold it up to God. With open hands that he can take that and let him have it and just let go.

3:20 And remember that fretting and worrying accomplishes nothing. And other than I shouldn't say accomplishes nothing, it stresses you and it wastes.

3:30 Precious energy and I do not mean at all to make light of this because I know how much I struggled with it.



3:36 But it definitely weighs you down and then you're not as good of a parent to your other kids because you're so busy fretting about this.

3:43 It's one child and they're wrong choices. So let go and give that to God rather than fretting about it and letting it consume you.

3:50 Number two, a common thing that we do is we run and we talk to others about that prodigal child. Rather than praying for them.

4:00 And I remember a specific time years ago when I had a conversation with one of my kids that immediately caused me to be concerned about the way that they were thinking and where it could.

4:11 Or might lead them. And I tried to communicate my concerns but I didn't feel that I really got too far with that.

4:18 So I walked away from that conversation wondering why do so many of our so called good Christian kids struggle so much with the issues that they struggle with.

4:29 And my wondering then led me to think that I really wanted to talk to a certain friend and get her perspective and opinion about this.

4:38 But immediately. After that thought, God convicted my heart and said, you are so eager to run to your friend and ask for her thoughts and her, her wisdom, but you haven't come to me.

4:50 And often we want to run to someone. And we want to run to someone else and ask our friend what should we do?

4:56 Or someone who maybe has raised their children and has godly children. We want to run to them and say, here, here's what's going on.

5:02 What do you suggest? Did this ever happen to you? And we forget. To go to god first. Now, don't get me wrong.

5:09 I think it is very wise to seek advice and counsel about your kids if they're struggling, but be sure you seek god first and also continue To seek him throughout the whole time.



5:20 Until you seek god, bring that child back. And at that point you keep praying that they'll stay on track. And I, like I said, I've been guilty of that just wanting to run to a person because it's so easy to talk about the problem and our concern to everyone except the one who has all the answers that

5:37 we need. God's the only one who's able to work in the hearts of our kids and bring the conviction that we cannot bring.

5:45 So again, that reminds me of the verse. If you can change. The heart of a king. He can change the heart of our prodigal.

5:51 So we need to go to him before we run to someone else and seek his help and his wisdom. And again, I don't mean to sound contradictory, but I would also encourage you to have a godly friend who you can go to when you're discouraged, but rather than just go to her for answers, go to her and say, Hey,

6:10 I'm really discouraged. I'm really struggling right now. Will you pray with me and get a friend who will encourage you to.

6:15 Take that child and their needs to God in prayer. And then number three, often the thing that we do is wrong is when our child rebels or becomes prodigal, we take it personally rather than real life.

6:32 And then number three, often the thing that we do is wrong. It's like us against them and we're in conflict, we're fighting against them.

6:48 And often without even meaning to or even realizing it, we allow that conflict to damage the relationship that we have.

6:55 And that's exactly what the devil wants us to do. One of his biggest tricks is to get us fighting against each other.

7:03 Like if he can get soldiers in a war to fight against the people on their side, then it's going to weaken their army and they're not going to win.

7:11 We're in the battle and we're in a spiritual battle and we don't want to wound those that are on the same side as us.



7:17 We're on God's side and so are our children. And we don't want to fight against them, but rather with them against the devil.

7:25 So whenever you're having rebellion problems with any of your kids, immediately remind yourself, this is a spiritual battle and put on the armor of God and go to battle for that child against the devil.

7:36 So seek God's power, His strength. And the best thing is to love that child rather than fight against God. The best thing that you can do is to seek to restore the relationship with that child and win their heart back.

7:52 When we lose our hearts, we can't have that child. If we lose our kids hearts, then they're no longer open to our teaching and our instruction, and we don't have that influence with them that we need to help point them towards God.

8:02 So our focus first for this week is in John 8.32, and I'm going to encourage you to paraphrase that with your child's name.

8:10 Lord, I pray that your child's name there so and so will know the truth and the truth will set him or her free.

8:17 If you brought your kids up in God's word, they'd. Do know the truth and that's what will guide them and set them free from whatever bondage or things they're struggling with that will set them free and bring them back to the truth of God's word.

8:32 So make sure you claim that and pray. That for your child. Some action steps. First of all, and I did just mention this have that friend that you can go to and I would encourage you to set up a time this week to get together with that friend and pray together over your prodigal.

8:49 Child as well as praying that God will help you to trust him and have his peace. And maybe even set that up as something you do weekly.

8:57 There was a time at our church where several ladies got together at one of their houses just to pray for their young adult children that they were concerned about or just praying for them because they



know that there's a whole world of temptation and confusion out there for our children.

9:14 Number two, when you find yourself fretting over your wayward child, which you will. Do you? That's what we're going to try to avoid, but you will find that something that keeps happening and you have to keep going back.

9:24 And when it happens when you catch yourself fretting, go to scripture and claim a promise to pray for that child and.

9:31 Don't forget to subscribe to our channel and click on the link here. That will give you some ideas. Print those out and start praying for those or praying those verses for your protocol.

9:42 Any time you find yourself fretting. Don't give up. God is in control. Keep trusting him and seeking him for that prodigal child.