

"Loving a Prodigal Child"

There may be no more painful and disorienting experience for a parent than when a child rejects the teaching and truth offered to them by their parents. Watching a child pursue a course of action that is self destructive and that drives a wedge into family relationships can be frustrating, as well as emotionally and intellectually exhausting. In this 12 week class, we'll seek to establish a biblical perspective on how best to love prodigal children. We'll look at how Christian parents can be uniquely vulnerable when confronted by the realities of a prodigal child. We'll consider how, sometimes, Christian parents harbor superstitious views which should be rejected in favor of a more biblically grounded perspective and how such grounding can bring some relief to those parents who feel overwhelmed by their loss.

We'll deal with moral accountability, parental responsibility, freedom, suffering, and how having a prodigal child may affect your relationship with other believers. We'll learn that faithfulness is more central than outcomes. That joy can really be found in the midst of suffering. And we'll be reminded that God loves our children more than we do.

Most of the material for this "App" was developed out of hard necessity as the group leader, faced with the inadequacy of previously held views, struggled to find a coherent biblical understanding that would shine the light on how to love his own extreme prodigal.