

# When Good Kids Go Bad

## Luke 15:11-32

### **WHOSE FAULT IS IT?**

Ezekiel 18:1-20/ Genesis 3:1-7/ Proverbs 22:6

- ✓ It's the **rebel's** fault!
- ✓ Parents have great **influence** – but not **ultimate control**

### **THE STORY**

#### **A Prodigal & His Father**

Luke 15:11-32

### **THE PRINCIPLES**

#### **Dealing With A Rebel**

- ❶ When they insist on leaving – **Let them leave**  
Luke 15:11-13, 24, 32
  
- ❷ When things get tough – **Don't run to the rescue**  
Luke 15:13-16/ Judges 10:10-16
  
- ❸ If they come back – **Run to greet them**  
Luke 15:20-24/ Colossians 3:13
  
- ❹ After they're back – **Don't punish the obedient!**  
Luke 15:28-32/ 2 Samuel 12:13-14/ Jeremiah 18:1-8

## TAKING IT HOME

1. Looking back at this week's teaching and study, is there a point or principle you especially want to focus on this week?

2. Take some time to really digest the fact that we have a Father who "runs to greet us" when we return to Him. Look up Zephaniah 3:17 and thank God for how He treats us.

Is there an issue or relationship that you need to bring to God?

Is there a person you need to run to?



## ON-PURPOSE PARENTING

**Presenters:** Dave & Koreena Enns

**Date/Time:** Thursday, May 20, 7-9 PM

**Location:** North Coast Church, Live Auditorium

**Cost:** \$5/person; \$8/couple

**Child care is available:** \$10/child, Family Max/\$25

This workshop will offer you a practical framework of parenting techniques to provide love and discipline that will WORK for children ages 2-12. You won't need to study child psychology to understand the simple steps and powerful techniques to encourage good behavior, divert problem behavior, and reinforce and strengthen your bond with your children. Sign up online at [www.northcoastchurch.com/ncu](http://www.northcoastchurch.com/ncu) or call the church office at 760-724-6700.

**NORTH COAST**  
**community service**

We have a variety of new service projects now available. Check them out and sign up at <http://www.northcoastchurch.com/service/>

WHO'S IN YOUR FAVE 5? *Life's Most Important Relationships*

Message #6: When Good Kids Go Bad

Luke 15:11-32

Dr. Larry Osborne

North Coast Church

May 15-16, 2010

## When Good Kids Go Bad

Luke 15:11-32

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- ✓ It's the \_\_\_\_\_ fault!
- ✓ Parents have great \_\_\_\_\_ – but not \_\_\_\_\_

### THE STORY

#### A Prodigal & His Father

Luke 15:11-32

### THE PRINCIPLES

#### Dealing With A Rebel

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Luke 15:11-13, 24, 32
- ❷ When things get tough – \_\_\_\_\_  
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- ❹ After they're back – \_\_\_\_\_!  
Luke 15:28-32/ 2 Samuel 12:13-14/ Jeremiah 18:1-8

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 16, 2010

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**QUICK REVIEW** - Looking back over your sermon notes, was there any particular point or passage of Scripture that challenged, confused or caught your attention?

## MY STORY

1. Most of us can hear the story of the wayward son and relate with at least one of the characters. Can you think of a time in the past or present when you identified with either the father, the wayward son or the older brother?

If you could go back and apply any of this week's teaching to the situation that came to mind, what would you repeat or what might you change?

2. It's been said that *rules without reasons or relationship lead to rebellion*. Do you agree or disagree with that statement – and why?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. A common breeding ground for long-term rebellion is enablement. Read 1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-25, and 3:11-14. How and why do you think the priest named Eli found himself in the enablement trap? What do you see as the thought process behind his decisions?

List as many reasons as you can think of as to why we run to the rescue and enable our kids, spouses or friends to continue their destructive behavior.

2. This weekend's sermon highlighted the compassion and mercy of a loving father AND the wisdom of a dad who let his kid leave and experience major consequences. How do the following passages help us follow the Father's example and blend both of these responses in love?

Psalms 103:8-13

Mark 1:40-42

Galatians 6:7-10

Zechariah 7:8-14

How would you define compassion based on these verses?

Does your natural and initial response to rebellion lean more toward compassion or consequences? How could these passages help you balance your response?

3. King David's colossal mistake with Bathsheba could have destroyed his whole life. Yet David is also known as a "man after God's own heart." Note how he responded to the truth about himself in 2 Samuel 12:1-14. Now take a look over David's shoulder as he prays about the same situation in Psalm 51. In your own words, what is it about this guilty sinner's response to God that still allows us to accurately describe him as a "man after God's own heart"?

4. The religious leaders who heard Jesus tell the story of the lost son probably believed that there would be joy in heaven over one sinner who is obliterated before God. They thought God would only receive us when we come to Him *after* we've "cleaned ourselves up." How might the stories of the lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son in Luke 15 (read the chapter) help us respond to a person who holds the same beliefs today?