



## Intentional Parenting

### Part 1 – The Greatest Influence in a Child’s Life

Pastor Ted Cunningham

Good morning, and welcome to Woodland Hills Family Church, we are glad you’re here. Welcome to all of our guests, all of those here in the Castle, over at the Chapel, and all of those outside. What a beautiful morning. Let’s see if we can hear outside... And over in the Lobby, we are glad you’re here. To all those tuning in online, welcome.

As part of our worship every week, we take an offering. We celebrate generosity, and we want to be cheerful givers. There are four ways you can give today – offering boxes located in the foyer, going to the Church Center App, and hitting give online now at [woodhills.org](http://woodhills.org) or texting any amount to 84321. Right now, at 10:00 am, there is a group. I would say there are 75 to 80 people in there learning about the trip to Kenya this coming summer, so we are grateful for what your generosity continues to support, even in missions around the world.

Today, we are starting a three-part series on Intentional Parenting. If you have kids at home, this is for you. If you’re like *we don’t have kids; our kids are grown*, you need to know you are part of a church that cheers on the next generation of parents. We want to be a church that cheers on parents as they raise their children to follow Jesus.

Today we are going to talk about *The Greatest Influence in the Life of your child*. I’m here to tell you, Mom and Dad, it’s you. Next week, we’re going to talk about two combined influences - the church and parents together and working together. And then in the final week, we’re going to talk about *Doing life with your Teen and Adult Child*.

When our kids were very small, every now and then, Amy would leave them in my care alone. She trusted me, but she always gave me a lot of instruction. I mean pages of instruction. I mean, you drop a kid one time and your wife’s all upset. There’s a dad online that I love following because he’s a graphic artist, so he uses Photoshop to send his wife some pretty crazy pictures of pretty scary moments with his child. He’s got time on his hands. But some of them he didn’t have to doctor. I would always say this too. When you leave Corynn or Carson with me when they were small, I’m going to make sure they are fed. And this dad did the same thing. He made sure the kid was taken care of.

Then they go outside to play... We need to get back to this dads. If you want to raise resilient children, you have to put them in dangerous situations. We need to get back to this parenting from the 80’s right here. I miss this dad. I don’t know if you can tell, but he’s got a baby on his lap and all four of them are screaming. We’re having a good time.

This may be a little too much, but I'm open to try it if you think skydiving with your baby would work. Here's all we know... and if you believe this, say Amen. **Parenting ain't for wimps.** Our friend Kevin Leman says, "I have seen the enemy, and they are small."

Today, as we launch into *Intentional Parenting*, a friend of mine, Doug Fields, wrote a great book called *Intentional Parenting*. This is one of the quotes out of his book that I love. "*Good parenting doesn't just happen. You will need to be intentional and think through what values you want your children to have, decide how to model those values consistently, and make a plan for how to best shape the precious lives under your care.*" We say it all the time at this church. Our children see everything, they hear everything, forget nothing, and then they repeat. Mom and Dad, you are the greatest influence in the life of your child. They have a front-row seat to your marriage, to your life, to your faith, to your phone calls, to your driving, to the way you talk about what happens today on the way home from here. They see how you behave in parking lots and in stores. They have a front-row seat and they are taking it all in. This church has always been about helping parents steward that influence well. And then, as a church, we come alongside you and want to echo what you are teaching your children.

We are going to look at several passages in this morning's message that are key to us for parenting. Genesis 2: 24 which a lot of people see as a marriage verse, but we also see it as a parenting verse because it starts with, **24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother...** Will leave physically, relationally, emotionally, financially... **and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.**

We've been teaching this verse to our kids since they were very small. You could ask my son, Carson, when he was five years old – "What's your Dad's definition of maturity according to Genesis 2: 24?" Carson would go, "I will not be with Mom and Dad forever so plan accordingly." That's right. And we want every parent at Woodland Hills saying this to your children on a regular basis. "We love you. You are a welcomed addition to this home, but you are not the center of it. Your mom and I have big plans after you leave." Our kids would look at us, at five and seven years old, and be like, "What are you going to do." "Well, first of all, we're going to Disney World. That's how we are going to kick the whole thing off." We are for eradicating the kid-centered home. It's a blessing to your marriage and it's a blessing to your children to know that "Yes, we love you, you're a welcomed addition, but our responsibility is to raise you to one day leave. Our prayer is that you will leave with a relationship with Christ Jesus and the responsibility necessary for work and for relationships.

This verse is actually teaching us something very important and that is that the bond between a husband and wife is to be stronger. It is actually glue-like. It's a covenant relationship. It's stronger than the bond between a parent and a child. They are not to be with us forever. I don't have children at home anymore. I have young adult children. I now am an influence in their life, but I don't have control over their life. For me, the relationship has changed. I have a married daughter. We have a great relationship, but it's a different relationship. Emotionally it's different. I've taught my kids that when you're married and you have a good day, Dad is no longer your first phone call; it's your spouse. When you have a bad day and need to work through things, it's your spouse. When you can't figure out how to fix something around the house, ask him first. He can borrow my tools but give him a shot at it. We get the leaving home physically. Sometimes we struggle with the leaving home relationally and emotionally. We love the leaving home financially, but we need to understand this today and this affects everyone across this campus. Parenting is for a season. That's why Stephanie had the marble jars.

I brought my marble jar today. This is Carson's, our last child. You can tell it's empty. So, I'm at the bottom here. All I have is influence. Our kids, when we got to the last marble, it was on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. We would take them somewhere special to eat. I'd pull that last marble out and put it in my pocket and I'd have an honor list prepared. I'd have a blessing that I was going to speak over them as I declared them adults fully. We did this when they were much younger, but it's like "You are ready to go. I'm launching you."

I remember Corynn's special dinner. Amy had the marble in her purse. I go, "It's time." It was between the entrée and dessert. Amy hands me the marble and I'm getting ready to speak this emotional... I'm already crying. Corynn takes the marble out of my hand, puts it back in my wife's purse and says, "We're not doing this right now."

I think this leaving home is where a lot of parents make the mistake. "I'm going to be their parent for a lifetime, but I'm just no longer parenting." I don't know if you noticed, but Stephanie is giving out jars that are like this big. I don't know what happened to our budget. We may need to talk about that. But we used to give out these massive jars. That's because there's something else these jars teach us, and every parent can say amen to this, **the days go slow but the years go fast**. I just leaned over to my friend right here during that sad song leading into baby dedication. He's not even married yet. I said, "You are going to be a dad before you know it. You're going to be at their high school graduation before you know it because Kenny Chesney says don't blink." It's just like that. You have them, you raise them, and they're gone. We know the days go slow, but the years go fast.

Today, we start by celebrating what God has called us to do as parents – raising children to leave home. But in that, we can have some struggles and some tendencies we need to keep in check as parents. One of the things we tend to do in this process of leaving home is we tend to accelerate childhood milestones and then delay adulthood milestones. Zero to ten years old, what do we tell our kids? It's go, go, go, run, run, run, faster, faster, faster. Commercials like My Baby Can Read. Parents get competitive over potty training. I just want to encourage parents. It's going to go fast enough. And this pushing our kids... I remember Corynn used a binky until she was four years old. We got the looks, we got the judgment from people. I want to remind parents today as we launch into this series. You are under no obligation to explain or defend your parenting choices. We let her use her binky. You remember those Barbie Jeeps? Now you can get any vehicle you can imagine. But we had the Gator and the Jeep. I said, "I'm going to buy you a Barbie Jeep if you get rid of that thing." She chose the binky over the Barbie Jeep. Then one day, she walked over to the garbage can in the kitchen, opened it up and I saw her just standing there. She pulled it out of her mouth, looked at it, and threw it away. And we got a Barbie Jeep. To this day, people are like I can't believe you let her use a binky until she was four. Listen, she can't pronounce her S's, but she has excelled in a lot of other areas and I'm proud of her. You should be proud of your kids. Stop comparing your kids. But we do this. Guess what happens around 10, 11, 12 years old. Engines placed in your child by Almighty God kick in, called individualization and separations.

Genesis 2: 24 has kicked in at that age whether you know it or not. They begin backing away from Mom and Dad. Why? They start picking their own friends. They want to dress themselves. They want to make decisions for themselves. They start pushing away and when Mom and Dad feel that, this is when they start to freak out. And they move from go, go, go, run, run, fun, faster, faster, faster. We started your professional sports career when you were five and now we are going to get you going. And then they start taking off and what do we say as parents? Whoa, whoa, whoa, slow down. You're going too

fast. You don't need a full-time job, you're only 27 ½. Bring it down a notch. What are these adulthood milestones? Leave home, finish school, get a job, get married, start a family. These are just traditional adulthood relationship milestones and the seniors in this room finish those five milestones in a very short period of time... if not in the same week. It was fast. Your parents said, "Go, get out, get it started." You got a job, you got married, you got pregnant on the honeymoon. But now what we tell kids is to slow down.

If you read the scripture, there are only two seasons of life in the bible. Childhood and adulthood. In 1904, we created the term adolescence. I don't fight against adolescence. I know we have counselors in our church, I go to the American Association of Christian Counselors every year and they come at my throat when I start preaching about adolescence, but I will, till the Lord calls me home and as long as I have breath in me, I'm going to preach against prolonged adolescence, where we just stretched out these milestones and we told our kids to slow down, you don't need to grow up. And many of them aren't even moving into these now until their 30s. We have to get away from this. It has stretched this gap between childhood and adulthood called adolescence so large one UCLA professor wanted to add a gap called "Youthood" between adolescence and adulthood.

There is something better to do. What can we do? And this is another tendency we have as parents. **We give our children too much privilege and not enough responsibility.** We're all guilty of this. There are no guilt trips today. This message series is not about going on a guilt trip. But we give privilege, privilege, privilege and this is what moves us into the adulthood milestones. And it starts early on.

So, we've got summer camp coming up. We have trips people want to take. We have activities that your teenager is going to want to get involved in this summer and we'll start hearing this from parents. "How do we pay for this?" I get to explain to you today about a program in Branson. For some of you, you've already participated in it and for others, it's brand new. I am excited to announce it, but it will pay for your child's summer camp at Passion. It will pay for whatever trip or activity they want to do this summer. I'm excited about this program... It's called a job. J-O-B. So, before you call and ask me to pay for it, I want you to know, I already got a job. Before I get another job to pay for your activity, I would like for you to have one. And let me tell you. This town has plenty of opportunities for young people to have money. Don't be afraid of a job. Don't be afraid of it.

Some of you are like, "You know, Ted is just turning into that 'get off my lawn' guy." I truly don't want to go there, but Doug Fields and Jim Burns, in the last week... My friend Jim Burns wrote a great book called "Doing life with Your adult Child." We're going to use some of that in the last message. But he's the president of Homeward, and I agree with what he says here. *"No teen will become a responsible adult if their parents carry the load for them."* Help them figure it out, that's great. But give them the responsibility. "If you want to do this, I think that's great. If you want a car, that's awesome. We can help you, but we're going to need you to carry your load on this. We need you to get after it." One of the biggest mistakes we make as parents is treating our children like children right up until the very day we expect them to be adults.

We see this in college. Maybe if you went to college freshman year, You saw parents who were control, control, control. They dropped their child off in a dorm and this kid loses their mind because they don't know what to do. Mom has gotten them up every morning, and Dad takes care of everything, meals are prepared, and now they are on campus.

My son is a Freshman at Liberty. This is horrible and this is going to be my only get off the lawn moment I have today. But my absolute favorite page is the Liberty University Parents Facebook page. I love it for all the wrong reasons. Because it's this principle right here. I get on there... I don't troll, but if I were to become a troll, it would be on that page right there. I'd be like, "Mom and Dad, I have some news for you. "Shut up. Leave them alone." I mean a mom gets on there panicking. "He woke up with a headache this morning. Who do I call?" I'm like, you didn't leave your kid with some Aleve? Just a bottle of Aleve in their dorm room? "Oh, I got to get somebody!" No, you don't. Leave him alone. Let him grow up. "There will be bread crumbs to the dining halls so he can find his way there. He'll be fine. Back off. Get off."

My son will call me every now and then. It's not as much as it used to be. But he'll call with a question, but it's really more like he's asking for permission to do something. I'm like, "Bro, I'm not making that decision. That's your decision to make."

You know what he says to me? And I just love it. He goes, "Oh don't you dare put this on me." Don't I dare? I absolutely put this on you. This is all on you. If you have a headache, if your tummy hurts, I got you two bottles of Pepto, and that's what it's for. Why are you calling me?" But the parents get on there with, "Oh this professor said some mean things to my kid." Let your kid work it out. I loved when I heard that colleges were no longer allowing parents to call anyone on campus in the administration or in the school. I was like, "Thank you Father in Heaven." Let your kid go work it out.

Here's what we do... I'm going to back it off now. That felt so good. We create environments for our children to succeed rather than teaching them to succeed in environments we can't control. We all do this. Your kids are here at church today. They didn't pick this church. Well, some of them did. But you did. You pick their schools, you pick their church, you pick their neighborhood. You pick the town they live in. Many of you moved here recently after the pandemic. You're creating environments. But what about preparing our children for environments we can't control? What about your fourth grader coming home and going, "I don't like the teacher." "We'll get you a new one." So, you call the principal. You know I'm not talking about some toxic or abusive situation. You know I'm not talking about that.

Again, I grew up in a time when my parents always sided with the teacher. There were times when I was like, "Are you ever going to listen to me?" "No. Your teacher is right. You've got a mouth. And you're running it all the time. Shut it."

But nowadays it's like... Let me just ask you. Wouldn't it be better with a fourth grader in a difficult homeroom or with a teacher, for you to... Mom and Dad, this is the joy of parenting. You get to now walk alongside that child for a year, teaching them how to deal with a difficult person. Do you know why that's important? I'm not saying it's going to happen, but are they likely to have a difficult boss one day. They are likely to have a difficult neighbor one day. They may have a difficult pastor at some point. Instead of rescuing them from that, because this is what the trophy parent does and what the rescue parent does. We're constantly rescuing our children from all hurt, pain, and loss, when instead, maybe we walk alongside them with that.

Parenting is a journey from control to influence, and all I've got left is influence. If you want to squander the influence, take back the control. This is why I am passionate about that. I love the parents that are seeking help for their child. "How do I get my child to do this and do that with a new person..." At the college level, I'm like Mom and Dad, it's time for you to back off here so you can have influence.

You're just too much. And that's why we now come to the influence. This is the text. What's the most important influence in the life of a child and what do we want them to have written on their hearts? If you've been around here for some time, you know this is like the mission statement for our marriage, family, children's ministry here at woodland hills.

Deuteronomy 6: 4-7 **Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.** That's Verse 4. And Verse 4 has four truths. There is a god. There is only one God, He is the Lord, He is our Lord. I want my children to have written on their heart there is a god, there is only one god, He is the Lord. He is our Lord.

**5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.** I want them to know there is a god, there is only one god, he is the Lord, He is our Lord, and in this home, we love the Lord.

Verse 6 says here's where it starts. **6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts...** Mom and Dad, it starts with you. What's on your heart will find its way onto the hearts of your children. Why? Because our children are watching, Listening, Remembering, and Repeating. If you want them to have a love for Jesus, do you have a love for Jesus? If you want them to have a love for the church, do you have a love for the church? This is what intentional parenting is all about. Because Verse 7 gives us how you take what's on your heart and get it on the hearts of your children. **7 Impress them on your children...** How do you impress something on your child? **...Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.** In other words, what we learn from Deuteronomy 6, Mom Dad, you are the primary author of your child's heart. You are the greatest influence. And you get to write messages on the hearts of your children.

Now the church... and we will talk more about this next week, but want to introduce it here. The church is an additional voice. Stephanie will often say, "A voice that echoes what you are teaching at home." So, it's why we come alongside to encourage and equip parents with this responsibility.

When our kids were small, we started these family Devos. I wrote them and Stephanie Watson, who has now been with us I think for right at 20 years at this church as our family ministries director. She did all the graphics for this series. I call it Hooked on Phonics for the Bible. It's the A to Z series. We know that since the pandemic.... On campus today if we have 2500 or 2600 people, at least 1,000, if not more are brand new since the pandemic. So, we have taught this since 2019, so if you have this set for your family, let me just see your hands.

If you do not have this set and you have preschoolers, toddlers, and elementary age at home, here's what you are going to do. When you leave here today, if you do not have a set and have that age group, they are going to be stacked up back there at the Welcome Center. Go by and it's our gift to you today. We want you to have it. How old are your kids? 10 and 8 – perfect. The eight-year-old, boy or girl?

Okay. Here's what I want you to do. This is how simple this gets. We did kids' devotional Bibles and children's Bibles. Many of them and then we repeated them. Finally, one night I looked at Amy and said, "If I see one more picture of Noah petting a zebra, I'm going to stab myself in the neck with a fork." It's just because our kids can learn so much more. I felt like we had covered a lot, but there was so much more to cover. That's why we created these. We went into the scripture and found critters and nature just to teach more. A lot of what we are talking about today, but to get into the hearts of our children. So, if you'll start every night with A and then go up to the next letter, within a couple of

months, an 8 and a 10-year-old for sure are going to have 26 passages of scripture memorized quickly. Because the A, as you probably picked up from the J-O-B conversation, is hard work. ***“Go to the ant you sluggard, consider his ways and be wise.*** And we would talk about hard work a little bit.

The B – ***Kind words are like honey, sweet to the soul, healthy to the body.*** And we would talk about honor, esteeming each other as highly valuable as a family,

The Camel – ***It’s easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter heaven*** and we would talk to the family about having less stuff. Why do we get to a place sometimes where we love stuff more than Jesus.

This was my son’s favorite when he was small. ***As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats it’s folly.*** I would love to ask my kids when they were small, Do we allow mistakes in the Cunningham home? “Yes we do.” “What do we try to avoid at all costs?” “Making the same mistake over and over again.”

We were on a canoe once in Taney Commo. Again, I don’t carry these in my back pocket, but we talked about them at home and we carried it with us. I’ll never forget being on a canoe on Taney Como, this side of the Power site Dam and we’re canoeing out and an eagle flies over. The Eagle is Isaiah 40: 31 from our series. Carson looks at it and, d like a Mighty Morphine Power Ranger goes, “UNLIMITED POWER!!” AND I went, ***YES! They are getting it.*** So, tonight, the 8-year-old... So, tomorrow you can start with A and do the system. As you sit at home, as you walk along the way, but tonight, just for fun, I want you to start with the V. I want you to tuck him in, get him all comfortable, pull out the V in our series and read for him Proverbs 30: 17 – ***The eye that mocks a father, that scorns an aged mother will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley and will be eaten by the vultures.*** “Night Night, Buddy. Sleep good for mommy.” You’ve got to read it right before he dozes off. This is the talk time. “Having your eyes pecked out by ravens and eaten by vultures is a word picture for death. Not listening to your parents, making fun of your dad, treating your mom as your servant will cause you much pain as an adult.” The Bible is very clear. We are supposed to honor our parents even after we leave home. It’s the first commandment with a promise. God gives us parents for life in the world. When you listen to their instruction, it helps you throughout your entire life.

I have parents from around the country who say, “We keep the V on the refrigerator.” Because the main point is respect for parents and when the kids are messing up, we tell them, “Go get the V.

Here’s what Doug Fields says about this being the voice. ***“Children will hear a lot of voices during their growing-up years, but your words will be the loudest.”***

When you go to 2 Timothy, I love the words Paul shares with Timothy to remind him of his family of origin. To me, it’s Deuteronomy 6 jumping off the page in a real-life story.

***5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois... it was in her heart first. ...and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.***

When you get to Chapter 3, Paul tells Timothy, “Don’t quit, don’t stop.” This is a lesson for the teens in here, for the young adults in here. All that your parents have poured into you, ***14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from***

***whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures...*** Mom and Dad, it is never too early to start teaching your kids the Bible.

I have parents who get these cards. Their kids can't even talk yet, but they just want them to see the pictures that when they start talking and when they start walking, they can now read the scripture and then get into the talking time and ask questions.

But here's the key. ***which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*** Mom and Dad, you are going to be bombarded this week like you have been your entire child's life with non-essentials. This is essential Faith in Christ Jesus. This church cheers you on as you lead your children to faith in Christ Jesus. Listen, binkies, when you potty train the kid, when they start reading, public school, private school, Christian school, when do I get them a cell phone? When do I allow them on a tablet? How long should they be on a tablet? When should they start dating? When do they get a job? All of these are questions I know you have to answer and work through, but don't let those crowd out the most important thing. What's the most important thing? Faith in Christ Jesus. This is what we're doing, this is where we're going and this is our prayer for you in this series.

I know there are parents in here right now that are like me. You have nothing but empty marble jars. Your kids are raised, and this message is not at all about taking you on a guilt trip. That is not what we do at this church. We know that when it comes to our kids, we take too much credit and too much blame for the way our children turn out.

My friend Ron Deal at Family Life is kind of the expert over blended families. He says this: *"God's design for the home is perfect, but the homes of god's people, however have never been, nor do I suspect ever will be perfect."* And Mom and Dad, we don't want you to go on the guilt trip. We want you to know that you have influence now as a grandma, as a grandpa, as a mom, dad of adult children, so here's what we're going to ask. Delete the narrative that repeats "it's too late and it's my fault" That's not helping you and it's not helping anyone.

Now, if you need to confess sin, repent, ask an adult child for forgiveness, I encourage you to do that. I've done this with my young adult children with something I say or do. I have those moments. But some of you are like, "My kids are raised. I didn't know any of this. We haven't talked about this. No one in our church growing up disciplined us on how to be parents. We never walked through that. I wish I could go back."

We hear this about marriage all the time too. I wish I would have had this. I wish I had known this in my first marriage" This isn't what we're doing. Stop feeding your regrets and ask Jesus to redeem your remaining days. You have influence. Why? Because your children and your grandchildren are still watching. They are still listening.

I was just kind of blown away by it sitting at my table at Christmastime. Two sets of parents on one end. My adult children, one now married, on this end. And just any conversation that would start. Just watching my adult children, watching how I respond to things and what I say. Watching what their grandparents say. I'm telling you they may be in their 20s and 30s, but they are still watching, they are still listening. They are still remembering. Don't feed your regrets. Ask Jesus to redeem your remaining days as we move through this series.



I want to encourage you. We've received a lot of questions and we're going to answer many of them next week. Very heavy questions. Some of the first questions we received were gut wrenching. We're going to get into those a little more next week, but if you have questions about parenting or something going on at our church and you would like more information, we know you are probably not the only one asking that question. So, if you wouldn't mind sending an email to [hello@woodhills.org](mailto:hello@woodhills.org) and ask your question. It can be something in the home. We wrestled with whether or not to share this, to end this. The first question I received last week was from a grandmother saying, "What should a grandparent do if they know their grandchild is being abused?" That was the first question. I just want to answer that now and we'll answer it and get in more detail next week, but you need to immediately call the hotline. If you think your grandchild is in danger, get your grandchild to safety immediately. A lot of times, grandchildren are not protected because grandparents are worried about their relationship with their adult child. Listen, the safety of your grandchild is more important than your relationship with your child. So, think through the safety and take that responsibility seriously.

I share that to say we know there is heavy content in this series as well that we need to deal with and we will. There is no question off limits so please feel free to go to [hello@woodhills.org](mailto:hello@woodhills.org) to ask that question.

Father, this morning, as a church, we know that there is a god, there is only one god. You are the Lord and you are our Lord. For that we are grateful. And we will love you and we want that on the hearts of every mom and dad, grandma and grandpa in here. Finding its way onto the hearts of our children and our grandchildren,

I pray for peace in homes right now that are just chaos, nothing but chaos. Mom and Dad are always yelling and screaming or mom and dad are neglecting. We know that with a church this size, what's happening in homes. We pray for the safety of our children. We pray for moms and dads to repent where they need to repent. We pray mom and dad, who are doing the best they can, and they don't know any better that in this series they would be called by name, that the holy spirit would call them by name. For the one right now who listens to a message like this and has nothing but regret and guilt, give them peace of heart and mind today as they seek moving forward for you to redeem their days. Give them great influence in their homes, influence that they think back with regret so they don't say anything now, but moving forward, I pray conversations are opened up, and dialog between mom, dad, and adult children start taking place along with grandma and grandpa and grandchildren take place. There are those in here right now thinking about a prodigal child who hasn't spoken to them for years. I pray for a prodigal child in this series to return home.

I pray for a parent to find a renewed relationship with a child that's been strained for years. I pray for a child who has no desire, no faith in Christ Jesus, to find faith in Christ Jesus in this series. For mom and dad to take their influence seriously as they move from control to the greatest influence in a child's life.

We pray all of this in the authority of the name of Jesus and everyone agreed and said... Amen.