

WHEN KIDS LEAVE THE FAITH

EPISODE 1: A HEALTHY PERSPECTIVE

look back

First, **LOOK BACK** at the past week by asking, “How did we do?” Begin with prayer, then check in with one another—sharing honestly, celebrating victories, acknowledging struggles, and graciously offering practical help.


 **PRAYER** - Begin with prayer, inviting Jesus into the conversation.

Since this is the first episode in this series, take time to:

- Share what brought you to this study and what you hope to gain.
- Talk about the challenges or heartache you’ve experienced related to children or grandchildren and their faith.
- Ask God to bring comfort, clarity, and hope as you begin this journey together.

look up

Next, **LOOK UP** to God’s Word by asking, “What does Jesus want us to know?” If you haven’t already, watch this week’s video: “*A Healthy Perspective*.” Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH: Episode 1: A Healthy Perspective**

Episode Summary

Many children and grandchildren walk away from their faith, raising painful questions about what went wrong and who is to blame. Scripture reminds us that even godly parents have faced this same struggle, and that being “lost” is ultimately about distance from the Father’s heart, not simply parenting success or failure. Because of this, guilt and condemnation are not the answer—Jesus came to save, not to condemn. With that freedom, we can move forward in hope, trusting that God is still at work.

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Whether you’re studying on your own or with a group, each guide follows a simple yet powerful rhythm: **Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward**. For group leaders, additional instructions for leading a small group are included at the end of the first workbook in each series.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

This series helps parents and grandparents navigate one of the most painful realities they may face: watching a child or grandchild walk away from their faith. Each episode offers biblical perspective, practical wisdom, and steady hope for those who feel the weight of this challenge. The goal is not to assign blame or provide quick fixes, but to guide you toward a faithful response—anchored in truth, shaped by grace, and sustained by trust in God’s ongoing work.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Were you surprised by how many young people are walking away from the faith? What have you personally seen or experienced?
2. When someone you love drifts away spiritually, what kinds of questions or emotions tend to surface in you?
3. How does the idea of the “far country” being distant from the Father’s heart—not a physical place—change how you think about those who have wandered?
4. Why do you think parents and grandparents often carry guilt or shame when their children leave the faith?
5. What would it look like for you to release self-condemnation and trust how Jesus sees you in this situation?

Even God Himself has children who rebel.

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

John 3:17-18 - "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned." Jesus removes condemnation and replaces it with grace, inviting you to trust His work rather than carry the weight of guilt.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:11-32 (abbreviated) - "The younger son said, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' ... He set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ... When he came to his senses, he said, 'I will set out and go back to my father.' ... But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him." Being "lost" is about distance from the Father, and this story reveals the depth of His love for those who wander from His heart.



Finally, **LOOK FORWARD** by asking, "What does Jesus want us to do?" Commit to practical steps for living out this week's lesson. Review the assignment, share commitments with the group, pray for one another, and move forward together in faith and hope.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Romans 8:1
Philippians 3:13-14

THIS EPISODE'S ASSIGNMENT

This week, bring any guilt, shame, or self-condemnation you've been carrying to Jesus. Be honest about your regrets, and receive His grace in place of those burdens.

If needed, take a step toward humility or forgiveness in a relationship. Then move forward, trusting that your past does not define your future and that God is still at work.

PERSONAL GROWTH COMMITMENTS



- What has God laid on my heart?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading me to change?
- What will I do in my own life, in my relationships, and to reach next-gen loved ones?

SHARE WITH THE GROUP



Encourage sharing commitments, prayer needs, and personal experiences. Close in prayer, asking Jesus to lift burdens of guilt and shame, to bring comfort and hope to hurting hearts, and to draw each loved one back to the Father's heart in His perfect time.



ESSENTIALS FOR LEADING A SMALL GROUP

These principles help create a safe, encouraging environment where everyone can grow and connect:

- **Begin with Prayer** – Invite Jesus into the meeting and ask for His guidance.
- **Create a Welcoming Setup** – Sit in a circle so everyone can see each other.
- **Facilitate, Don't Lecture** – Guide the conversation using thoughtful, Scripture-based questions.
- **Stay on Mission** – Gently redirect if conversation strays into politics or unrelated topics.
- **Model Grace & Openness** – Be transparent about your own journey, admit you don't have all the answers, and set expectations for confidentiality.
- **Build Relationships** – Include social time before or after the session.
- **Follow the Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward Rhythm** – Celebrate progress and offer grace for struggles.



Explore additional resources and upcoming events at LegacyImperative.org. If this series blesses you, please share it—and consider helping us reach more families by clicking the donate button.