

# WHEN KIDS LEAVE THE FAITH

## EPISODE 3: YOUR PART IN BRINGING THEM HOME

### 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.

#### Follow Up on Last Episode’s Assignment

- What did it look like for you to begin praying intentionally for your loved one this past week?
- How did taking a step to express unconditional love—without pressure or expectation—impact your relationship?
- What did you notice in your own heart as you trusted God to do what you cannot?
- In what ways is God shaping your patience, trust, or response moving forward?

### 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: “*Your Part in Bringing Them Home*.” Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH: Episode 3: Your Part in Bringing Them Home**

#### Episode Summary

Waiting for loved ones to return to faith calls for faithful presence, not control. The Father’s example shows a posture of unconditional love and open-hearted grace, while the older brother warns against outward faithfulness that drifts from the heart of God. True closeness to the Father is marked by both holiness and compassion. As we wait, we are also called to reach others who are far from God, reflecting the heart and mission of Jesus.

*Love them before they’re in the far country.  
Let the far country do its 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. Why is it so important to build a foundation of love before a child ever enters the “far country”? How might that shape their desire to return?
2. Why is it important to let the “far country” do its work instead of trying to rescue someone too quickly?
3. How can someone be physically present in church yet still be “far from the Father’s heart”?
4. What are some signs of an “older brother” attitude, and does that contradict either holiness or grace?
5. What does unconditional love look like in real-life situations where someone is making difficult or harmful choices?

## WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

### KEY SCRIPTURE

**Luke 15:20** - “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” God’s heart is always ready to receive those who return, and we are called to reflect that same compassion.

### SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

**Luke 19:10** - “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Jesus actively pursues those who are far from God, and invites us to share in that mission.

**Romans 5:8** - “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

God’s love is extended even in our rebellion, and we are called to reflect that same grace.



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

Luke 15:4–6

Luke 15:8–10

### THIS EPISODE’S ASSIGNMENT

This week, begin establishing a daily habit of intentional prayer for your loved ones, bringing them before God by name and trusting Him to work over time. Ask Him to shape your heart with both holiness and grace, so you are ready to respond with love in every situation.

Finally, while you wait for your own loved ones, ask God to make you attentive and ready to reach others who may be far from Him, and take a step toward them with compassion and truth.

### 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 God to deepen your love, strengthen your trust, and use your life as a place of welcome and a reflection of His grace. Pray for those who are far from Him, trusting that He is still at work in their story.

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