



**Sermon Discussion Guide**  
**“OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF PARENTING”**  
**(Freedom From Fear – Part 5)**  
August 21, 2022  
Written by Pastor Scott Underwood



**Icebreaker:** What has been your biggest failure as a parent, as a son or daughter?

*“I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.” (Psalm 34:4)*

(Luke 15:11-32)

**THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE.**

**OUR DESIRE IS THAT YOU WOULD USE THIS “GUIDE” TO LEAD YOU INTO DEEPER PERSONAL STUDY.**

I love the story of the prodigal son. (Luke 15:11-32) I remind myself of it often. I ran off on God too as a younger man, and sometimes I wonder why He was willing to take me back. I suppose that’s just what fathers do.

Twenty-nine years ago, I became a dad. I remember that day well. I was so nervous. My Dad had set the bar high, and I wanted to live up to his example. But there was so much I didn’t know. How in the world was I going to figure it all out?

If you have kids, it probably doesn’t surprise you to learn that I never did figure it “all” out. Mostly, I just did the best I could and worried a lot.

I’m not sure my worry accomplished much. But the stakes were high, and decisions had to be made, and I tend to make a lot of mistakes. So, I worried about almost everything.

But I never worried that anything would ever happen to make me stop loving them. I bet you feel the same way about your children. I know God feels that way about us.

Our God is the perfect Father. Even though He knows the best path for us, He gives us the freedom to choose. (Luke 15:12) He also lets us face the consequences of those choices. (Luke 15:13) And if we abandon Him, He doesn’t give up on us. He doesn’t harden His heart toward us. (Luke 15:20) He patiently waits for us. And when we return to Him, He treats us as if we never left and celebrates our return. (Luke 15:22-24)

So, let’s thank Him today for all the patience and mercy and grace He’s shown us. And if we find another one of His children that has wandered away, let’s remind them that our Father is eager to welcome them home.

**Questions:**

1. Allowing our children, the freedom to make mistakes and knowing that they will face the consequences for their actions can cause fear and worry. How can we relate this to how God deals with us as His children?
2. What does it mean to you that God never gives up on us? What does that look like?
3. When we return to God like the prodigal son, God treats us like we never left. How can we use that to encourage others to return to Him? How does that encourage you when you feel ashamed?

4. Heaven rejoices over one who was lost and then is found. Why do you think the one is so important to God?

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(Luke 6:38)

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