

A GENERATION WORTH FIGHTING FOR

CIRCLE UP | GLENN CAMPBELL

Question: What happens if an older generation fails to invest, teach, and impart Godly truth, wisdom, and guidance in the next generation?

The book of Judges tells us: And everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

→ **If left without guidance, the younger generation will write their own scripts for what is right and wrong.**

For the first time in history, our younger generation is more lonely than the elderly. They are digitally connected, but relationally fractured.

But our Father sees us with eyes of belief, compassion, and joy.

Two Kind of Sinners in the Prodigal Son

Religious vs irreligious

Moral vs immoral

Geographically distant vs close at home

Parable Defined: A parable takes an earthly reality (two rebel sons who both resent their father) and teaches a heavenly meaning (God rejoices when sinners repent).

Luke 15:11-32

And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am

no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.” And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

...But when he came to his senses.

1 The Father’s Belief

- He sees a long way off: “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him.”
- Prayer fights for that which is lost (whether far away or sitting at our dinner table).
- Our kids are worth fighting for.
- Without faithful prayer, hope diminishes.
- He sees their pain, longings and real need in grief.
 - Healthy lamenting keeps anger and bitterness at arm’s length.

2 The Father’s Compassion

- His compassion runs: “...he ran to his son.”
- Focus shifts from the son’s shame to his.
 - Jesus endured the mocking crowd and accusations for us.
- His compassion forgives and forgets.
- His compassion restores immediately.

3 The Father's Joy is Celebrated

- Parable of the Prodigal Son verse 22
- Parable of the Lost Sheep verse 7
- Parable of the Lost Coin verse 10

Our Mission: To believe in the next generation of who they can become in Christ.

Our Method: Run with compassion that models grace, forgiveness and forgetting their past.

Our Mindset: Celebrate daily our own salvation with heavenly joy.



CIRCLE UP