



## Small Group Discussion Guide

**ICE BREAKER:** What is your favorite summer pie? And even though it's hot outside, do you still want it served warm with some ice cream?

**INSTRUCTIONS:** If your group meets bi-weekly, do 1, 2 & 4.

1. Pastor Tom explained that adult children are free moral agents. Read Romans 14:12. Who is included in this verse? How does this verse help us think about parenting adult children or living as a responsible adult? How does this verse help us realize that parental responsibility is limited?
2. Pastor Tom said, "parental control isn't permanent." As a group look over the definition of parenting in your message notes. How does this definition address parental control? When does this control come to an end? What is the difference between parental control and parental influence? How can parents influence adult children without trying to control them? How important is your personal example in your influence of others?
3. Read Proverbs 22:6. What misunderstanding of this verse often occurs? What is the difference between a maxim and a promise as Pastor Tom demonstrated in the message? According to this verse, how important is it for parents to lead children in the way they should go versus the way a parent wants the child to go? Each person is unique and has a specific wiring. How can parents either develop or stifle a child's unique wiring? What are the risks of each? How do you help encourage a child who has grown up stifled?
4. Read Luke 15:11-32. How does the father respond to the son's decisions? What is the father's role in this parable? Pastor Tom explained that parents must let their children go. What are next steps after letting go that parents can take to love and care for their adult children?
5. How has God worked in your life to help you take healthy steps as a child? As an adult? How does looking back on your journey bring you hope and encouragement for the future? Are there any steps God is asking you to take with your parents, children, or siblings? If so, how might your group support you in taking these steps? Take time to pray with one another, asking God to help you move forward.

## Personal Guide for Week of June 3rd

**DAY 1:** Read Matthew 12:22-37

**DAY 2:** Read Romans 2:1-4

**DAY 3:** Read Colossians 3:1-17

**DAY 4:** Read Luke 15:11-32 (read from the perspective of each of the sons)

**DAY 5:** Read Luke 15:11-32 (read from the perspective of the father)

# IS THIS US?

## MESSAGE NOTES AND SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION & PERSONAL GUIDES

“JUST YOU WAIT...”

JUNE 3, 2018

# IS THIS US?

A SERIES ON PARENTING AND FAMILIES

“Just You Wait...”  
[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

## MESSAGE NOTES

It's not an accident that the beginning of the parenting journey is something called “\_\_\_\_\_”.

...the vast majority of family relationships/dynamics in the Scriptures involve parents and their \_\_\_\_\_ children.

Not every child from \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus-loving parents ends up in a healthy spiritual place as adults; and not every child from dysfunctional, or i \_\_\_\_\_ parents ends up in a negative place spiritually.

So what does it mean to “\_\_\_\_\_” adult children, and why is it so much more challenging than we ever think it might be?

### 1. Adult Children are Free \_\_\_\_\_ Agents

Scriptures clearly teach that every person relates to God and is \_\_\_\_\_ to God personally and individually (note Matthew 12:36-37; Romans 14:12; I Peter 4:5; II Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 20:12).

Parental \_\_\_\_\_ isn't permanent.

Parenting is the \_\_\_\_\_ process of teaching and training your children to leave. (Young)

### 2. Misunderstanding Proverbs \_\_\_\_\_

Most of the Proverbs are not p \_\_\_\_\_.

They are “m \_\_\_\_\_” (“an expression of a general truth or principle”).

Good and godly parenting makes a huge difference in giving children better opportunities to be positive, godly adults; but it is not an \_\_\_\_\_ guarantee...

Also help our kids understand how God has \_\_\_\_\_ them.

God designed the world to just need \_\_\_\_\_.

Is This Us?:

So how do we \_\_\_\_\_ life with adult children we can't control anymore? (note Luke 15)

- Let them \_\_\_\_\_.
- Let them make their own mistakes.
- Let them experience the c \_\_\_\_\_ of their own choices (note Galatians 6:7).

So what do parents of adult children do while waiting to see them make better \_\_\_\_\_, repent of sin, and embrace a relationship with Jesus? (note Luke 15:17)

- \_\_\_\_\_ for them.
- Commit your child into God's hands (\_\_\_\_\_ Him).
- Learn to wait patiently.

Jesus' parable of the Prodigal son (s) describes how the \_\_\_\_\_ father (parent) responds to a straying adult child...this is how God responds to you and me when we \_\_\_\_\_...(note Luke 15:20).

- \_\_\_\_\_ them stubbornly (note Romans 2:4).
- \_\_\_\_\_ them unconditionally (Love is not license for misbehavior; acceptance is not \_\_\_\_\_; forgiveness is not compromise.—Cook).
- Forgive like God forgives you (note Colossians 3:13).

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use it to let us know about your commitment, too!



**“Just You Wait...”**  
[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

## MESSAGE NOTES

It's not an accident that the beginning of the parenting journey is something called “labor”.  
...the vast majority of family relationships/dynamics in the Scriptures involve parents and their adult children.

Not every child from solid, Jesus-loving parents ends up in a healthy spiritual place as adults; and not every child from dysfunctional, or irreligious parents ends up in a negative place spiritually.

So what does it mean to “parent” adult children, and why is it so much more challenging than we ever think it might be?

### 1. Adult Children are Free Moral Agents

Scriptures clearly teach that every person relates to God and is accountable to God personally and individually (note Matthew 12:36-37; Romans 14:12; 1 Peter 4:5; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 20:12).

Parental control isn't permanent.

*Parenting is the Biblical process of teaching and training your children to leave. (Young)*

### 2. Misunderstanding Proverbs 22:6

Most of the Proverbs are not promises.

They are “maxims” (“and expression of a general truth or principle”).

Good and godly parenting makes a huge difference in giving children better opportunities to be positive, godly adults; but it is not an ironclad guarantee...

Also help our kids understand how God has wired them.

God designed the world to just need one of you.

*Is This Us?:*

So how do we navigate life with adult children we can't control anymore (note Luke 15)?

- Let them go.
- Let them make their own mistakes.
- Let them experience the consequences of their own choices (note Galatians 6:7).

So what do parents of adult children do while waiting to see them make better choices, repent of sin, and embrace a relationship with Jesus (note Luke 15:17)?

- Pray for them.
- Commit your child into God's hands (trust Him).
- Learn to wait patiently.

Jesus' parable of the Prodigal son(s) describes how the ideal father (parent) responds to a straying adult child...this is how God responds to you and me when we rebel... (note Luke 15:20):

- Love them stubbornly (note Romans 2:4).

- Accept them unconditionally (*Love is not license for misbehavior; acceptance is not agreement; forgiveness is not compromise. – Cook*).
- Forgive like God forgives you (note Colossians 3:13).

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use it to let us know about your commitment, too!