

IMAGINE: MY KIDS CARING ABOUT SPIRITUAL THINGS

Message Notes ~ May 13, 2007

1. WHY CHRISTIAN KIDS LEAVE THE FAITH

- Because they have troubling, unanswered questions about their faith.
- Because their faith isn't working for them.

"...having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica." 2 Timothy 4.10

"...honesty from the heart; yes, utter sincerity and truthfulness." Psalms 51.6 (Living Bible)

- Because other things in life become more important than their faith.

"...you have left your first love." Revelation 2.4

- Because they never personally owned their faith.
- "X" Factor in faith rejection.

"Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us...He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ." Romans 3.23-26 (Message)

2. WORKING WITH YOUR CHILD'S PERSONALITY

"Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22.6 (Amplified Bible)

3. GOOD NEWS ABOUT PRODIGALS

- Reasons for hope
- Turning points in the life of prodigals.
 - The influence of another person
 - A difficult personal or family problem
 - A sense of emotional or spiritual emptiness
 - Concern over their children's moral and spiritual future
 - An unexpected, life-changing spiritual experience
- What prodigals never forget
- Never give up on a prodigal because God doesn't.

"Count on it--there's more joy in heaven over one sinner's rescued life than over ninety -nine good people in no need of rescue." Luke 15.7 (The Message)

"I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night--but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day." Psalm 139.11-12 (New Living Translation)

"God's kindness [that] leads you toward repentance." Romans 2.4

Recommended Resources

Tom Bissett, *Why Christian Kids Leave the Faith*, Discovery House Publishers, 1992, ISBN 1-57293-026-8