



*from the desk of*

Randy Moerbe

## They are all different...

...but yet are all the same.

### **Luke 15:22-24 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

<sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.

<sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Dear Parents,

While we've long called the parable "The Prodigal Son" many now, and I think rightly, call it "The Forgiving Father."

You know the story. The younger son, after totally disrespecting his father, goes off and burns through his inheritance on wild living. His only hope is that his father will take him back as a slave. Yet the father's love is so much that he totally forgives and restores him.

His older brother also has his issues and complains about the father's forgiveness for his younger brother. His father replies as follows:

<sup>31</sup> *"My son," the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."*  
**Luke 15:31-32 (NIV)**

Last week's principle was "*You are safe.*" This week's is "*You are loved.*"

Continuing in their web article entitled, "A New Goal for Discipline,"<sup>i</sup> where authors Jim and Lynne Jackson give four "You are..." discipline suggestions based on Hebrews 4:16, we continue with ***"You are loved."***

### ***You are loved no matter what***

*In the story of the prodigal son, both sons, in their own way, were selfish and disrespectful. Yet the father (a picture of our heavenly Father) offered extravagant and unconditional love to each.*

*Our kids know unconditional love when they experience love in their worst moments. As we show them unconditional love, their hearts are opened to understand God's redemptive love. In the midst of discipline, empathize with your child or offer a hug; maybe even say, "I love you!" out loud.*

We can also make our children feel loved just by the way we treat them (hint - spouses, this works for your partner too!)<sup>ii</sup>

## 15 Small Things Parents Should Do To Their Children Every Day To Make Them Feel Loved

1. Turn off your smartphone.
2. Turn off the TV and all gadgets at mealtimes.
3. Make bedtime a precious moment.
4. Show physical affection.
5. Spend quality time with each child.
6. Discipline them with love and affection.
7. Leave funny and affectionate notes and messages.
8. Look into their eyes.
9. Smile more often.
10. Be a great role model.
11. Involve them in decision making.
12. Just play with them.
13. Take action when your child is unhappy.
14. Save the cards and gifts.
15. Never interrupt their stories.

In showing love the little things add up. Look at the list and see what you can do today to make your child feel loved!

Next week: Focusing on what they *can do* as opposed to what they *shouldn't do*.

Need further ideas with specific needs? I'm only an email away! (dcerandy@blcbcs.org).

DCE Randy

---

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/effective-biblical-discipline/discipline/new-goal-for-discipline>

<sup>ii</sup> Fuller explanations of each of these can be found at <http://www.lifehack.org/articles/communication/15-small-things-parents-should-their-children-every-day-make-them-feel-loved.html>