

parenting at the crossroads

the three

■ day one: three strands

READ Luke 15:11-31

How might this story look differently if these two sons had all three strands of influence in their lives?

When you were a youth, who were the adults that influenced you?

TALK about this as a family.

Are there any weak strands in your student's life?

How can they be stronger? What can you do to make them stronger?

next steps

PRAY for each member of your immediate family.

PRAY together as a family.

TEACH your student how to pray.

■ day two: partner with the other influences

READ Ecclesiastes 4:7-12.

Are you trying to parent alone? Are you partnering with the other strands of influence in your student's life?

Are you united with the other influences in your student's life?

Who are the adults at church that are influencing your student's life?

Who are the adults within our community that are impacting your student's life?

next steps

ASK your student who the most influential adults are in his/her life.

TEACH your student how to discern positive /negative adult influences.

SEND a note of encouragement to your student's youth pastor, youth leader, small group leader, teacher, coach, or your student's friends' parents.

INTRODUCE yourself to and get to know your student's small group leader.

Get to **KNOW** your student's friends' parents.

■ day three: pray for the other influences

Today, spend some extra time praying for all the other adult influences in your student's life.

Make a list of all of the other adult influences in your student's life.

PRAY:

- for each person individually and specifically if you can.
- that their lives, passions, attitudes would be centered upon Jesus.
- for them to build meaningful relationships with students which bring meaningful conversations.
- that your student would be open and responsive to their teaching and guiding.
- that your student would talk to them if they aren't comfortable talking to you.
- that God would bring more positive adult influences into your student's life at church and in the community.

■ day four: be the other influence

READ 2 Samuel 9:1-13.

Jonathan (Mephibosheth's dad) had an amazing impact on David.

Are you making an impact on your student's generation?

Who are your student's friends?

Do they have strong families, church and community influences?

Even if you don't have children, what can you do to be a positive, lasting influence on a student's life?

next steps

Get to **KNOW** your student's friends. Encourage your student to invite his/her friends over. Serve up some food and they'll talk to you.

SERVE with the youth at Jacob's Well or serve in the community.

TALK to students at church. Talk to them about what they're into.

■ day five: the plan

*Take some time today reviewing the **NEXT STEPS** sections of the previous days. Today, make a plan to take these steps.*

next steps

PRIORITIZE the most important and start there.

PRAY for yourself as a parent.

PRAY that the church and community would be full of adults with a positive and lasting influence on students.

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