‘Mom and Dad ask, “Where did we go wrong!??”

The purpose of this article is to address a situation that is causing much grief in many families. It seems to have no solution, leaving many parents to face agonizing grief and guilt.

Let’s take a peak into the lives of some honest, committed-to-their-children, self-sacrificing parents. These parents, after a life of sincerely caring for their family and purposefully providing a Christian home, can be heard making the following statements.

“I don’t know what’s come over our son. He’s hanging around with some corrupt kids and he’s staying out late at night getting into all kinds of trouble.”

“The guy our daughter’s dating doesn’t believe in God. We’ve talked ‘till we’re blue in the face about it and she rejects everything we say. He treats her like trash, and she keeps going back for more”

“We’ve just found out that our son has been drinking and using drugs for a long time. He knows we’re against it. We’ve tried to reason with him but he gets angry at us and doesn’t listen.”

“Our daughter’s getting into this vampire stuff. She doesn’t talk with us, and when she’s home she goes straight to her room where she listens to loud blaring stuff she calls music. And we’ve started noticing scratches or cuts on her arms.”

“Our son has quit going to church and has stopped praying or reading his Bible.”

“Our daughter makes spiteful remarks about and is ready to debate our perspectives on Christianity and the Bible, and she is frequently ready to debate us.”

You may have either faced similar situations or you know someone who has. And if it’s happened to you, you’ve wondered, “Where did we go wrong?”

Some parents might say, “It’s as if Satan stole our son or daughter and replaced him/her with a demon possessed clone!” Even though your situation may vary, the same attitudes are apparent.

As a Christian parent, you may be facing or have faced this dilemma. If so, that’s what I want to address.

Let me use a real case as an example. This case is meant to be generic so it could easily be about a son or daughter. If this example seems more radical than your situation, keep in mind, if you can gain understanding about a radical situation, surely the solution can apply to lesser situations.
Here’s the scenario: This family attended church “religiously.” (Attending church religiously is not a contributing factor.) Their son accepted Christ as his Savior at an early age and regularly attended church with his parents. They made sure that their son’s Sunday school teachers were teaching the fundamentals of Christianity. The family practiced traditionally understood Christianity in their home.

In other words they did everything they believed Christian parents should do. Still, during their son’s high school years or shortly after his graduation, these parents started noticing changes in their son. Let’s call their son Ben. Then he went (about five hours away) to college. That’s when his changes really became noticeable or more exaggerated.

Soon after Ben arrived at college, his parents watched him get in relationships with girls who were at best, questionable. Because they tried to reason with him about his associations and the moral consequences of his behavior, his contact with his parents became noticeably less frequent and very artificial. (I’ll address this later, in “Point 1.”)

As the school year was coming to an end, in an attempt to remove Ben from the negative atmosphere, he promised his parents he would come home during the summer to be with the family. Ben agreed, but it was only to get them “off of his back.” It wasn’t long before they discovered he had no intention of honoring his promise. Instead he planned to stay on campus. (I’ll address this later, in “Point 2.”)

Ben gave multiple excuses for not coming home. Initially he gave excuses like he could get extra credit if he completed additional studies during the summer. Secondly, he needed to use the summer to practice at improving his talents at his chosen sport. And, finally, because dorm life was so distracting to his studies, he needed to get an apartment during the summer. In order to get a good one at a fair price, he needed to get this apartment before school resumed. Therefore, if he were to come home over the summer break, only junky places would be available once he returned to the college. So, once he found acceptable living arrangements, he wanted to rent it at the better “off school season” price. And upon signing the lease, he decided he might as well live in it? So, now, he needs to get a decent paying job to pay for the apartment along with other expenses.

But mom and dad suspected (and later it would be verified) the real reason for Ben’s hesitation to return home… he was planning to spend the summer with his girl friend.

Knowing the family and having some rapport with the children, I received a call from Ben’s parents for help. They explained that Ben wouldn’t discuss any of their concerns with them, so I agreed to talk with him.

When I called and asked if we could talk, Ben suspected that his parents were probably behind my call. He started explaining that he was sick and tired of arguing with his parents. They didn’t listen to him. And, he was done with their manipulation, control and intimidation. (I’ll address controlling later in “Point 3.”) He then began repeating all
the same reasons that his parents had already mentioned. After listening for about a half hour, (I’ll address the idea of listening later in “Point 4.”) I asked if he would like to know the real reason he was facing all this turmoil. He had been living with turmoil and confusion long enough, so he answered, “Yeah.”

In order to help Ben capture what I wanted to tell him, I used the following illustration. Some time back I was leading one of our Christ-Quest Institutes classes in California. (We conduct discipleship classes where the students are married couples. Our goal is for Christian husbands to literally illustrate Christ to their wives.) Anyhow, this Christ-Quest Institute class had been going for about three months. During this particular class I was going around the circle asking the husbands what they thought God wanted to teach them during the past week. After discussing this topic with five of the husbands in the group I came to the sixth husband. Upon asking him what he believed God wanted to teach him he replied, “I don’t think I care what God might be teaching me or, if I care about God!”

Let me remind you, those words were spoken by a man who said he was a Christian husband!

Hi wife was astounded. And you could literally hear a gasp come from the other students. The atmosphere instantly became very tense. With a smile on my face I responded, “That’s fantastic!” Almost with a snarl, he asked, “Why is that fantastic?” Later, the other students expressed they were glad he asked that question because they had the same question.

(The following response is used to convey a point. Every time I’ve used it people identify with it. If it seems irreverent, please understand that these words have been carefully chosen to convey a concept. Regardless, since I’m running a risk, let me apologize ahead of time.)

I told the student, “Here’s why I believe your response is fantastic. As Christians we are all members of various forms of our local “Christian Club.” And, we all understood what it takes to be members-in-good-standing of our “Christian Club.” Being acceptable in our “Christian Club” depends on learning it’s particular philosophy and theology; what version of the Bible is acceptable; the acceptable “spiritual” language; singing the acceptable songs also which causes are acceptable to support; etc.

We usually join the “Christian Club” our parents were members of. Or the one which the person (or persons) who introduced us to Christianity belong.

I continued explaining why his comment was fantastic. “You’re at a place where you have to make a decision. And you have three options to choose from: number 1. I’m outta here. I’m sick and tired of playing the “Christian Club” game and I’m not doing it any more! Number 2. You can conclude, “Whatever!” and, decide, to kick into neutral and just stay where you are, continuing to play the ‘Christian Club’ game. Number 3. You could decide, “I’m sick and tired of playing the “Christian Club” game. I’ve decided I want my own personal relationship with God!”
Ben exclaimed, “‘Christian Club’… that’s an exact description of where I am.

Continuing with Ben… I said “Even though this husband showed up in class each week, I didn’t engage him. He’d never said he’d changed his thinking. However, about four weeks later, as I was going around the room he raised his hand. When I acknowledged him… he said, ‘I’ve made a decision!’ I inquired, “Good, what’s your decision?” He responded, “I’m sick of playing the ‘Christian Club’ game. I’ve decided I want my own personal relationship with God!”

Quite frankly, God’s intentions are to bring each of us to the end of ourselves. At some point we all must make (or already have made) this same decision. Facing this decision is, as earlier stated, a very good position in which to find oneself.

The whole class inwardly (some outwardly) rejoiced at his decision. They were also able to observe, that no one needs to panic when they hear those kinds of statements. We’re especially free, to remain calm, if we understand what God is doing in each situation. In this particular situation, God was bringing this student to a place where he could see the need to quit playing the Christian “game” and make a decision. But it had to be his decision.

His decision to gain maturity beyond his “Christian Club” membership and to develop his own personal relationship with God, led to opportunities for everything in his life to improve.

The conversation between this husband and me covered a wide range of topics concerning “Christian Club” membership. But the “Christian club” membership illustration opened a door and enabled this husband to consider what kind of relationship he wanted with God. He recognized what he needed to do… discover who God was to him. He needed to discover if he was willing to let Christ be Lord of his life. Honestly, I think everyone needs to make those discoveries. But it needs to be each person’s decision.

Upon sharing the discussion between Ben and me, Ben’s mom and dad reflected, “But Ben already had his own relationship with God. He wouldn’t hang around with the “wrong crowd.” He read his Bible regularly without us reminding him. He didn’t even date.

I accepted their statement. I wasn’t doubting that Ben had, as a child, accepted Christ as his Savior. But we were dealing with something different here. I explained that there was a difference between accepting Christ as Savior and letting Christ be Lord of our life. This is an experience that is based upon maturing attitudes. (I’ll address this later in “Point 5.”)
It’s surprising to see how many Christian’s don’t seem to recognize or understand the difference between Christ as Savior and Christ as Lord. Being unable to recognize Ben’s struggle resulted in alienation between him and his parents.

Too many parents themselves have been functioning as members-in-good-standing of their own “Christian Club.” They have not been faced with the concept of Lordship…making a decision to let Christ be Lord of their lives.

The following factors lead me to believe what I’ve just communicated. Let’s say a child has, indeed, accepted Christ as his/her personal Savior. Then, he becomes a young adult and enters into a whole world of new things to consider. This child’s world has expanded past the “Christian Club.” Life brings him in contact with people who mock his life style. This is something he is totally unprepared to deal with. So this young believer is challenged…and the challenge is for him to decide…is he going to remain an acceptable member of the “Christian Club,” or yield and become acceptable to this new non-Christian world?

If however, he yields to the non-Christian world and doesn’t want to give up the pleasures of sin, he will soon discover that his “Christian Club” people can be fooled. But his conscience might bother him because of the double standards he’s living. And, he finds himself struggling because he’s lying about his “Christian Club” membership. And, quite possibly, even though he doesn’t know it, he is actually faced with the bottom line question, “In my life, who is God? And how much will I let Him impact my life?

Then, (as a young adult) because his lifestyle is consistent with a non believer, his parents try to rationalize with him about his conduct. His parents try to control his direction through debates and arguments. However, the problem is not his friends or the direction in which he’s headed. The real problem is centered upon his need to make a decision. Will he let Christ become his Lord as well as his Savior?

Remember, I mentioned that although I’m using the illustration of a guy, it also can be applied to a woman.

Here is yet another insight. Parents who become hostile, argumentative and controlling toward their young adult are demonstrating that they are not familiar with or are ill-equipped to deal with this type of situation. Approaching this precarious situation with hostile attitudes is proof that the parents don’t know how to deal with it. I believe the reason might be, that the parents, themselves, need to make the same decision their young adult is facing.

May I ask you to consider this… how does a parent who has decided to receive Christ as his/her Savior and yet has never faced the decision to also yield to Christ as Lord…recognize this as the same struggle going on in the heart of his/her child? How would the parent know the proper response to this child? How would this father or mother illustrate the kind of Christ-like example that would cause their child to be drawn to them and consequently to Christ, instead of responding to that child in such a way that causes the
child to be driven away? I propose that this parent will not know how to help their child through this situation.
(I’ll cover the difference between Christ as Savior and Christ as Lord later)

This scenario introduces yet another consideration. How does a parent know whether or not their child only “went through the motions” of accepting Christ as their Savior? Did this son or daughter “accept” Christ because they knew that their parents had those expectations? The child knew what his/her parents…the leaders of the only “Christian Club” they knew…expected of them. Parents must be certain that their child is responding to Jesus because there is a longing in their child’s own heart. It must be a child’s own quest for Salvation. Again, a parent must be certain that their son or daughter is not simply yielding to his or her parent’s pressure.

Back to Ben. Talking to Ben’s dad, about his son living in the adult world, being faced with adult decisions… I brought up First Corinthians 13: 11. It reads, “When I was a child I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man (an adult) I put away those childish things.” That verse inspires a question, how does a child or young adult know the difference between childish and adult thoughts, adult understanding or words? Isn’t that what a father, as the spiritual leader, is supposed to teach his children through example? Having said that, it is extremely important to realize that a parent’s example, provides the power behind his words. But neither Ben nor his dad had been taught how to re-evaluate the philosophies they learned and developed as children.

As if that weren’t enough, the whole system (the world) is against Christian parents. Are you aware of the statistics that show 80% of Christian kids leave their faith as they become young adults and start associating with the world?

And this is nothing new. In 1608 the Christians, living in England, who committed to living according to the Bible were persecuted... so they moved to Holland. One was seventeen year old William Bradford. After living in Holland for 12 years (he would be 29) and keeping a journal, he wrote of suffering under the Dutch. He also wrote, Most lamentable of all, our young people were being influenced by the ‘great licentiousness of the youth in that countrie’ and were being drawn away by evil examples. Some of the youth were even leaving their families and living dissolute lives, ‘to the great grief of their parents and the dishonor to God.’

You can imagine the damage caused when they get in college (even Christian colleges). Why does that happen… because they haven’t made Jesus Christ Lord of their lives. Nor have they studied God’s Word. They haven’t studied the manufacturer’s instruction manual (The Bible) for human being’s thoroughly enough to know precisely what are the true answers that God has for life’s challenges.

Ben’s dad and mom were insulted when they heard me say, that Ben stopped talking with them and didn’t want to be around them because he felt they were so hostile, controlling and intimidating. (I helped them realize that becoming insulted was a defensive response
and if Ben were to see that response, he would find it intimidating.) Ben’s dad wondered, “What, am I supposed to do, accept him rejecting everything we believe?” Ben’s father also wanted me to know that although he had those characteristics in the past he wasn’t that way now … recently he had become especially careful to be attentive and non-intimidating.

I helped Ben’s father understand, if he wanted restoration, he would need to accept responsibility for whatever it was that caused Ben to feel controlled and intimidated. I asked this father the following question, “Do you remember anyone in your past that was insensitive? Someone who refused to listen to you and made you feel threatened, controlled and intimidated?” He recalled a former boss at work.

I asked him this question, “If they were to re-hire that former boss would your past experience with him make you feel threatened? Would you worry because that former boss used to be so controlling? Would re-hiring him be intimidating to you? He answered, “Very!”

I continued, “So because that person treated you offensively in the past… that person’s reputation still worries and intimidates you? He acknowledged that it did.

I drew a parallel between that person’s past and how it still affects him today and his past with his son, and how it still affects his son’s opinion about him today. That brought him to a place where he could see his son’s point of view.

Regarding restoration, the previously mentioned parallel is very important. If Ben’s dad is going to rebuild with his son, he will need to believe he has negatively impacted his son. Then, he can seek Ben’s forgiveness by apologizing for those offenses. And, an apology is much more than, “I’m sorry.” An apology should convey an attitude of humility and sound more like this, “Son, I know I’ve wounded your spirit by making you feel rejected, inferior, intimidated and controlled. I’ve not illustrated Christ to you and that is not acceptable to God, Christ, your mother or me. You deserve to have a living illustration of how Christ would care for you. You deserve to be trained the way Christ would train you, not like I have done in the past. I want to let you know that being like Christ to you is my goal now. Since I’ve failed God, Christ, your mother and you, I need to ask for your forgiveness, would you forgive me.” Once forgiveness has been gained (from his wife also) a father could then ask his son (or daughter) and his wife to help him in his commitment to becoming more and more Christ-like. He could ask them if they would point out any situations in which he’s not illustrating Christ.

To greatly reduce the possibility of living through this same experience, while your children are young, begin talking with them about the challenges that are awaiting them. Study with your children. Read books to them about cases where young adults who wandered away from Christ and what happened to those people as a result of their decisions. Then, share with your children the victories those same young adults experienced once they reconsidered their decisions and began to walk down the right paths. Study the story of the prodigal son found in Luke 15:11.
It is essential that parents develop a relationship of love and trust with each of their children. Toward that goal may I ask you to keep in mind one important truth… the best rules in the world, without meaningful relationships, will likely generate rebellion. A rule of thumb could be, “Rules, Minus Relationships, Equals Rebellion.”

Take your children with you as you interview young adults who have gone astray. Let these young adults tell you and your children what the costs were for rebellion and what they had to go through to get back on track. Don’t expect that you can address this once and for all and then live happily ever after. Instead, plan to address this problem and others, whenever circumstances reveal similar attitudes and situations while your children develop and mature.

Now is the time to address Point 1. When your children have stopped listening. Typically, when children are struggling with unacceptable behavior, and their parents begin to confront them (more commonly known as lecturing) these children stop listening. And typically, when children stop listening, parents intensify their discussions, both in volume and length. Parents need to recognize that their children cannot grow up in their home without knowing their parents’ standards. May I point out that by the time children reach the teen-age years, they already know exactly what their parents think and why. In fact, because they have heard their parents’ argument so many times, these children can probably finish their parents sentences.

When a young adult is entering the new world of adulthood, they are struggling over life-altering decisions they’ve never faced before. During this time they don’t need their parent to become an enemy. But the fact is, their child’s struggle, also brings a new struggle into their parents lives. The parent or parents become puzzled and perplexed knowing they had done their best but feel their best was not good enough. Their child, who is wrestling with perplexing situations, will get quieter and quieter. Because they don’t have answers, this son or daughter will be struggling with which of their two worlds is more important. The parents may sense their child withdrawing. But, the child is unable to discuss the situation, both because of the parent’s argumentative attitudes and their own lack of familiarity with these new problems. Most parents will conclude their child is becoming rebellious and defiant.

Before successful communication can take place, parents must acknowledge the legitimacy of this new frontier their child is facing. Parents need to evaluate the various situations with their child. And help them examine what the results might be if they make certain choices this new world is offering them. A parent must help their child explore available solutions. Most parents believe they are doing just that, but a key factor in successful conversations must involve calm attitudes on the part of the parent. Parents need to convey attitudes that successfully communicate to their child that they are also looking for godly answers. That they’re learning right alongside their child.

A parent loses when their child feels as though they are being attacked by them. Especially while they’re wrestling with influences that they need to decide whether they should, or should not allow, in their life. Instead of acting like an enemy… ready to
attack, a parent needs become a listener. Recognizing that listening means more than just hearing words. It means understanding the emotions behind the words and what motivated those words. Being a Christ-like listener does not mean conceding and just, “Doing it your child’s way” either.

When our youngsters quit listening, it’s usually because they feel we’ve quit listening. Or, they’ve decided they can’t convince us that they’re right and we’re wrong. If the last is true, a child is at the place where they have to decide whether or not they want their own personal relationship with God. A parent cannot make this decision for them! A child must make this decision for him or herself. A parent cannot have a right relationship with God for their child!

Point 2. Forcing the issue.
If you force an issue, insisting that your child make a decision, (and he or she are not yet defiant) they will probably make the decision they know you want them to make. Initially, you may believe they’ve accepted your perspective only to find out later that is not the case at all. If you force the issue, and your child agrees just to “get you off his back,” might that not be construed as your forcing that child to lie? Again, when this happens, it is likely because a dialog is not taking place. At least, from your child’s perspective, this youngster is not fully convinced you really care.

Point 3. Controlling, managing and manipulating.
Remember the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11? The prodigal son’s father realized that his young adult needed to make some serious decisions about the direction of his life. His father didn’t debate him or try to control him. This loving father let his son go, hoping that the consequences of the son’s decisions would have a serious impact.

Incidentally, too many parents wait until problems arise before they sit down with their child to talk. Then, the conversations become centered on the problems, disobedience and the consequences of that disobedience. Conversations should begin while a child is a child. If you wait ‘till your children are young adults to conduct serious conversations, it’s usually too late. Don’t expect conversations to be normal. A lot of rebuilding will be necessary.

If you are anything like me you will need some help learning what to talk about. I had to have my wife Nancy help me find topics to have conversations about. The point is, don’t hesitate to get help finding topics to discuss.

Point 4. Listening is more than hearing words.
When I mention the need for a parent to listen, I don’t mean… just hearing words. I mean it’s critical that a parent listen to the child’s spirit. You must listen to a child’s heart before you can understand what is motivating their attitudes, their conclusions, their attitudes, actions or words. There is no way to do that without taking the time necessary to listen effectively. Prior to any conversation with a child, a parent must purpose to put more effort into listening than talking.
This would be a good place to again call attention to the prodigal son’s father. He loved his son (daughters are included in this example) even during the time his son had taken up running with the world, loose living and whatever else that might have included. Each day the father watched for his boy’s return. He saw his son coming far off in the distance and ran to hug him (even though his son probably reeked of smelly, stinky pigs). I like to believe his father smothered his son with kisses. What an excellent example for all who are struggling with their questioning, confrontational kids. Now there’s a challenge! When a young adult realizes that being at home isn’t so bad after all, it is important that a parent does not give himself the freedom to use this opportunity to communicate to his son or daughter, “Well, now that you realized how rotten life can treat you, are you ready to come back and behave yourself?”

Point 5. Christ as Savior and Lord!
Even though you do everything you can, you cannot accept Christ as your child’s Savior. Neither can you determine for that son or daughter that Christ will be Lord of their lives. That also means you cannot choose how your youngster will conduct himself in their Christian walk.

I think many people have accepted Christ as their Savior. But I think far fewer have accepted Him as their Lord. Read Luke 6:46. It begins with Jesus saying, “Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and to not do what I say?” Christ could have communicated just as easily, “Because you are not obedient and you are not an illustration of me to the world, stop calling me your Lord!”

Life Partners Christian Ministries and the Christ Quest Institute are dedicated to helping Christian husbands literally illustrate Christ to their wives and family. Illustrating Christ gives a parent incredible insight. It enables a person to reinterpret and resolve life’s events, so that those events (even the painful ones) are recognized as blessings from God.

Nancy and I have our own testimony about children who abandoned everything we stood for. We struggled as we watched them over the years. We mourned as each one of our children got caught up in different phases of a worldly lifestyle. Their lifestyles were marked by drinking, drugs and immorality, as well as relationships with (to say the least) questionable characters. We felt like complete failures. Nancy and I struggled with questions about whether or not we were qualified to stay in the ministry. We wondered how our children could betray their own Christianity. Why were these children of ours questioning all of the standards we imparted to them? We also wondered where we went wrong.

Although I felt completely defeated, God convicted me and showed me that I could not allow myself to become passive about my responsibilities, especially regarding God’s command that I illustrate Christ to them each time we had an encounter. I challenged myself about my past unChrist-like character and how that character affected my children. Then, each time God let me see my character flaws, I required of myself to make the necessary character changes within. That type of discipline was the key to
making Jesus Christ Lord of my life. And, I am far from done; I also recognize this will be a life-long project.

As demonstrated in the story of the prodigal son, Nancy and I believe each one of our children went through their trials so they could realized there was something much better at home. As time passed, each one of our children decided to make Jesus Lord of their lives. Now they each have their own deep quests to understand more and more about God and His ways. Not only did we get to patiently wait for them to make their own decisions about who God would be in their lives… but we also are now able to encourage them with a more complete understanding along with examples of Christ-like leadership as they walk through the same difficulties with their children.

It would be easy to believe that each child would have witnessed their older sibling’s experiences and trials then, as a result, decide not to walk that road; however that seems to rarely be the case.

We live in an evil world. I remember telling my children that the world was pagan, and it couldn’t wait for them to join it. This world would be so welcoming because it desperately wanted to chew them to pieces, so it could spit them out. My children, of course, could not relate to that illustration until after they had gotten out there in the world and experienced it themselves.

In conclusion, it’s been interesting to watch what causes young adults to get serious about their Christianity. The reasons why young adults get serious about their own Christianity may vary. The duration of their time away may vary. A few children decide to get serious shortly after they begin challenging the validity of Christianity. Others may take years to see the truth. The most common catalyst I’ve seen, causing young adults to decide they want to be true followers of Christ is when they, themselves, experience marriage and start raising children of their own.

You may be saying, “I can’t wait that long for my children to make that decision!” However, you must remember it’s their life. They have to make their own decisions. However, if you feel you cannot let them decide who God will be to them and you feel that you must be the one who makes decisions for them, maybe you should consider getting a pet or a robot.

A couple more questions for you to ponder. Is God showing you how grievous it is when your child is not totally yielded and obedient? Is He using that occasion to help you understand how grievous it is to Him when you (His child) are not totally yielded and obedient to Him? As God would prefer, do you daily interact with your family and the world, by seriously comparing yourself to Christ?

When, and if you do, daily measure yourself with Christ, you will start finding that there are answers for life. You will approach life from an entirely different perspective. Christ is completely aware of His Spirit, and, as such, is spiritually mature and fully spiritually
functional. That means a Christ-like person will also become more aware of his human spirit, spiritually maturing and becoming more fully functional spiritually. Because God is Spirit, being spiritually functional means looking more affectively at life, from God’s… or the Author of life’s... perspective. And, The Author of life understands life and His designs for all of life’s events.

I believe children who see a more consistent, genuine Christ-likeness in their parents (in other words, parents who have yielded to Christ as Lord) are more likely to follow that example and make a decision to have Christ reign as Lord of their own lives. I also believe a parent who doesn’t see his child return to Christ, might need to re-examine his own Christ-likeness and evaluate his own yieldedness to Christ as Lord.

Three closing summaries.
First, this decision is your child’s decision! You cannot decide for them.
Second, keep track of and remember what God is teaching you through your trials. You may get the opportunity to pass on what you learned through your trials to your children once they return. Then your children, in turn, can pass those lessons on to their children.

Second, didn’t we all stray? Do we have any proof that our parents made our decisions for us? Didn’t we all have to decide for ourselves that we needed to change our life’s direction? How long did they have to wait? I know, we thought we could save our children that grief. Did it work?

I pray God will use this article to provide some answers, and bless those who are struggling with the, Where Did I Go Wrong syndrome with understanding and direction.