

WHAT IF....

Read Luke 15:11-32

2nd Sunday of Lent February 25, 2018

The Prodigal Son wants to leave home. That is a natural and growing up response that is supposed to happen. Sons and daughters are supposed to leave home and create their own lives. Unfortunately, today many leave their home because their addiction to opioids has made it impossible for them to live in their parent's house.

When a child's life becomes ruled by substance abuse everyone's lives are affected...in bad ways. It would be a whole lot easier for everyone to prevent the addiction in the first place.

Today as you fast, pray, listen and respond ask God to show you how we can prevent our children from ever becoming addicted. How do we keep a child from ever falling into the grip of opioids?

What can the church do in the lives of the children in our community (not just the ones in our church, but those that live all around us) that will help prevent them from ever turning to drugs? Ask God to show you who the vulnerable children are in your community. Ask God to help you find these children and get to know them by name. Give God thanks for the adults who knew your name, who cared about your success when you were young.

Drug endangered children need loving adults to show them they are beloved children of God and are worthy of our time and concern. What if God answers our prayer? Are we willing to mentor a drug endangered child and help prevent them from becoming a prodigal son or daughter?

It is not enough to open our church doors and wait for the children to come to us clean, well fed and well behaved. We must leave our sanctuaries and find them!

Prayer: Dear God, show me how we can prevent our children from ever becoming addicted. Help me find these children and get to know them by name. Holy Spirit, guide us to know how to make a difference in the lives of Your prodigal children. Amen.

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