

Notes for: "First Thoughts On Working With Parents" (Two Videos)

- Take a second to think about your youth and their parents. Does the thought of reaching out to the "whole" family intimidate or overwhelm you if you are honest? What about the "unchurched" families?
- Have you ever had the tendency to judge parents and want to act like the replacement parent when you feel the situation at home is "too bad?"
- Have you ever thought about moving past being a youth worker to being a family worker? Not just empowering parents, but walking it with them?
- What are the greatest challenges in working with the youth and their family?
- Have you ever thought about the fact that a changed parent = a changed city (or area)? What does that mean to you?
- When a student talks about their home life do you reach out to the parent and find out their side of the story too? Have you ever reached out to try and help?

Yes, situations in the home can be dire. When Christ looks at us he sees the fullness of our journey: past, present and future all at the same time. He is the Shepherd leaving the 99 to find us, to bring us home.

Look at Luke 15: 3-10

"So Jesus told them this story: "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away! "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins[a] and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents."

- Have you ever thought about how in these passages the lost do not look for the "finder." No in these representations of the Lord- HE is searching for the lost?

- Have you ever received the attitude that the "parent" is just too lost so we should just focus on the student? Have you ever thought about the reality that the parent may feel the same way about themselves?
- How do you think our ministries and student's lives would changed if we shifted paradigms? What if we were willing to step in and see the **WHOLE FAMILY** the way that Christ does, as lost in need of finding?

Finish with thinking through the challenges to shifting the paradigm. What **CAN** make it work in becoming extended family to a student and their family? What might that look like?