

A Prodigal Parent Story

After seeing an announcement in our church bulletin for a Faith Family Reunion gathering at our church, I thought it could be helpful. I signed up but was reluctant to show up. Everyone there would think my husband and I had a prodigal child.

We have two children that have fallen away from the faith. That was a hard thing for me to share. It meant, to me, that I was a failure as a parent. If I had done parenting correctly, I would not have prodigals.

I went to the gathering and cried almost through the entire thing. I can only imagine what everyone was thinking of me. But I went away encouraged, even though it was an emotional time for me.

I went away knowing God was with me and with my prodigals. He would never leave us. I learned it wasn't up to me nor was it anything I would do that would bring my children back to Jesus. Rather it would be the work of the Holy Spirit working through me and others that would bring changes. I learned from Paula, Rev. Heckert, and comments from others, that prayer was an important part of the process for the whole family to find healing and forgiveness.

Our daughter asked me to send her one of her Bibles and is now attending church again and speaking of getting our granddaughter baptized. She has put an app on her phone to go through the Bible in a year. Our son is asking us to pray for friends and family.

The Holy Spirit is certainly working in us through His Word. Faith Family Reunion has played a major part in enabling us to grow in our faith. I thank them and pray that the Lord will continue to use them for years to come.

Amen, it is so!

Testimonials

“Faith Family Reunion is biblical and Christ-centered. It has been a blessing for our family.”

“I love the encouraging Bible verses. They always speak to me. Thank you for your good work on behalf of families.”

“I love the encouragement I receive through the newsletter, devotions, and focus on God's Word. I always find encouragement and hope. Thank you for your work on behalf of prodigal families.”

New Family Shield Resources for Parents of Prodigals

Family Shield Ministries has designed a six-part radio & podcast series to help churches and Parent of Prodigals begin small groups within their congregation.

To learn more contact
witnesstofamily@gmail.com

The Missouri District Webinar entitled
I Have a Prodigal, Now What?
featured Paula Isakson

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrHaDOSmvdg&ab_channel=MissouriDistrictLCMS

Learn more about Faith Family Reunion here
<https://familyshieldministries.com/faith-family-reunion/>



Faith Family Reunion

a ministry of Family Shield Ministries



“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. We are all one under Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11



www.familyshieldministries.org
witnesstofamily@gmail.com

Serving Parents of Prodigals through prayer, encouragement, and offering hope through Christ

A Merger

Faith Family Reunion (FFR) merged with Family Shield Ministries, a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, in March of 2023. FFR was founded by Paula Isakson and her father, Dr. Jakob K. Heckert. He is now with the Lord. She was a prodigal child for 25 years. After she returned to her faith in Christ, they founded Faith Family Reunion.

Paula, her family, and Family Shield Ministries have hearts for hurting parents and their prodigals. To learn more, check out the Faith Family Reunion link on the Family Shield website here:

<https://familyshieldministries.com/faith-family-reunion/>



Prodigal Parents Often Feel All Alone

We invite you to
begin the journey
of discovery with us
as we explore the notion
that we might all share
similar stories and that we
are not alone on this road.

We work together
to encourage and offer
hope and help to hurting
Parents of Prodigals.

When children have left the church and faith in Christ, parents that are left behind often find themselves feeling isolated and alone. The feelings of guilt and shame can become overwhelming as they wonder what they did wrong, what they could have done better or what they failed to do. This makes parents feel as though they are living alone, carrying this burden on their own.

*Remember you are not alone!
The Lord walks with you.*

Faith – provide resources to congregations, pastors and church leadership to engage hurting parents

Family – create community and outreach, within the church family, for hurting parents

Reunion – help parents to come to an emotional place of peace

We are not going to tell you what to do or tell you what you could have done better, but rather offer you a place where you can hear from a prodigal that has returned to the faith and to be surrounded by other parents going through similar situations in life.

To learn more, go to
www.familyshieldministries.org

or email us at
witnesstofamily@gmail.com