

Prodigal Child Ministry Scripture References

THE IMPORTANCE OF SCRIPTURE

II Timothy 3

16All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17**so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

II Timothy 4:2 Preach the Word. Be prepared both in season and out of season. Correct rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Proverbs 30

5 "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

Psalm 119 (entire length of Psalm emphasizes the wisdom of scripture)

1 Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD. **2** Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart. **3** They do nothing wrong; they walk in his ways.

4 You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed.

5 Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!

6 Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands. **7** I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. **8** I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.

FOR PRODIGALS

How we can make change for the better:

#1. Making change begins with a vision of who God wants you to be

2 Corinthians 5:17;

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!

Psalm 119:

9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word **10** I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. **11** I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you **12** Praise be to you, O LORD; teach me your decrees. **13** With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth **14** I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. **15** I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. **16** I delight in your

decrees; I will not neglect your word.

#2. Making change involves seeing yourself as God does.

Genesis 1:26;

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the creatures that move along the ground

1 Corinthians 6: 19-20:

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Ephesians 2:10;

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

2 Corinthians 8:9;

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

#3. Making change means becoming a person of discipline.

Philippians 3: 10, 12;

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, Not that I have already obtained all this or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

John 14:15;

(Jesus said) If you love me, you will obey what I command.

Romans 12:1-2;

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12(need for accountability)

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also if two lie down together they will keep warm but how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves, a cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

1 Timothy 4:8;

For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

#4. Change is sustained by participating in an accountable, loving Christian environment.

Acts 2:42;

They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1 Corinthians 15:33;

Do not be misled; "Bad company corrupts good character."

Matthew 18:20;

(Jesus said) For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Hebrews 10:24-25;

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Proverbs 27:17;

a friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Miscellaneous

Proverbs 1 (The Enticement of Sinners)

8Hear, my son, your father's instruction, And do not forsake your mother's teaching; **9**Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head,And ornaments about your neck. **10**My son, if sinners entice you,Do not consent. **11**If they say, "Come with us, Let us lie in wait for blood, Let us ambush the innocent without cause; **12**Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, Even whole, as those who go down to the pit; **13**We will find all kinds of precious wealth, We will fill our houses with spoil; **14**Throw in your lot with us, We shall all have one purse," **15**My son, do not walk in the way with them Keep your feet from their path, **16**For their feet run to evil And they hasten to shed blood. **17**Indeed, it is useless to spread the baited net In the sight of any bird; **18**But they lie in wait for their own blood;They ambush their own lives. **19**So are the ways of everyone who gains by violence; It takes away the life of its possessors.

Proverbs 13:18

18Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline, But he who regards reproof will be honored.

Proverbs 3 (The Rewards of Wisdom)

1My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments;
2For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you. **3**Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. **4**So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man. **5**Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. **6**In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. **7**Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. **8**It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones. **9**Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; **10**So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine. **11**My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD Or loathe His reproof, **12**For whom the LORD loves He reproveth, Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.

Proverbs 29 (Warnings and Instructions)

1A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy. **3**A man who loves wisdom makes his father glad, But he who keeps company with harlots wastes his wealth.

Proverbs 12 (Contrast the Upright and the Wicked)

1Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, But he who hates reproof is stupid.

Proverbs 15

5A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards reproof is sensible. **10**Grievous punishment is for him who forsakes the way; He who hates reproof will die. **14**The mind of the intelligent seeks knowledge, But the mouth of fools feeds on folly. **20**A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish man despises his mother.

Friends

Proverbs 13:20

20He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Proverbs 14:7

7Leave the presence of a fool, Or you will not discern words of knowledge.

Proverbs 4(A Father's Instruction)

1Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father,And give attention that you may gain understanding, **2**For I give you sound teaching; Do not abandon my instruction. **3**When I was a son to my father,Tender and the only son in the sight of my mother, **4**Then he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; Keep my commandments and live; **5**Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth. **6**"Do not forsake her, and she will guard you; Love her, and she will watch over you. **7**"The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom; And with all your acquiring, get understanding. **8**"Prize her, and she will exalt you; She will honor you if you embrace her. **9**"She will place on your head a garland of grace; She will present you with a crown of beauty." **10**Hear, my son, and accept my sayings And the years of your life will be many. **11**I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths. **12**When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; And if you run, you will not stumble. **13**Take hold of instruction; do not let go Guard her, for she is your life. **14**Do not enter the path of the wicked And do not proceed in the way of evil men. **15**Avoid it, do not pass by it; Turn away from it and pass on. **16**For they cannot sleep unless they do evil; And they are robbed of sleep unless they make someone stumble. **17**For they eat the bread of wickedness And drink the wine of violence. **18**But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,That shines brighter and brighter until the full day.**19**The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know over what they stumble. **20**My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. **21**Do not let them depart from your sight. Keep them in the midst of your heart. **22**For they are life to those who find them. And health to all their body. **23**Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life. **24**Put away from you a deceitful mouth And put devious speech far from you. **25**Let your eyes look directly ahead And let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. **26**Watch the path of your feet And all your ways will be established. **27**Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your foot from evil.

Proverbs 2 (The Pursuit of Wisdom Brings Security)

1My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you, **2**Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding; **3**For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding; **4**If you seek her

as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures; **5**Then you will discern the fear of the LORD And discover the knowledge of God. **6**For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. **7**He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, **8**Guarding the paths of justice, And He preserves the way of His godly ones. **9**Then you will discern righteousness and justice And equity and every good course. **10**For wisdom will enter your heart, And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; **11**Discretion will guard you, Understanding will watch over you, **12**To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things; **13**From those who leave the paths of uprightnes To walk in the ways of darkness; **14**Who delight in doing evil And rejoice in the perversity of evil; **15**Whose paths are crooked, And who are devious in their ways; **16**To deliver you from the strange woman, From the adulteress who flatters with her words; **17**That leaves the companion of her youth And forgets the covenant of her God; **18**For her house sinks down to death And her tracks lead to the dead; **19**None who go to her return again, Nor do they reach the paths of life. **20**So you will walk in the way of good men And keep to the paths of the righteous.

Proverbs 13 :Contrast the Upright and the Wicked

1A wise son accepts his father's discipline, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

13The one who despises the word will be in debt to it, But the one who fears the commandment will be rewarded. **14**The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, To turn aside from the snares of death. **18**Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline, But he who regards reproof will be honored.

Proverbs 10

8 The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin **9** The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.

Proverbs 16

2 All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD.

James 4

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you

sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9**Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. **10**Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Psalm 119

36 Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.**37** Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.**45** I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.**59** I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes.**60** I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.**67** Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.**68** You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.**73** Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands.**74** May those who fear you rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in your word.**104** I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path.**118** You reject all who stray from your decrees, for their deceitfulness is in vain.**119** All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross; therefore I love your statutes.**120** My flesh trembles in fear of you; I stand in awe of your laws.

Proverbs 6:12-15

12A worthless person, a wicked man, Is the one who walks with a perverse mouth,**13**Who winks with his eyes, who signals with his feet, Who points with his fingers; **14**Who with perversity in his heart continually devises evil, Who spreads strife.**15**Therefore his calamity will come suddenly; Instantly he will be broken and there will be no healing.**20**My son, observe the commandment of your father And do not forsake the teaching of your mother; **21**Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck. **22**When you walk about, they will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you. **23**For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life

Proverbs 25:27-28 (New Living Translation)

27 It's not good to eat too much honey, and it's not good to seek honors for yourself.**28** A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls.

Pride/humility

Proverbs 11:

2When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom

Proverbs 13:10 (New Living Translation)

10 Pride leads to conflict; those who take advice are wise.

Proverbs 16:18-19 (New Living Translation)

18 Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall. **19** Better to live humbly with the poor than to share plunder with the proud.

Proverbs 22:4 (New Living Translation)

4 True humility and fear of the Lord lead to riches, honor, and long life.

Proverbs 26:12 (New Living Translation)

12 There is more hope for fools than for people who think they are wise.

Addiction/Alcohol

Proverbs 23:13-35 (New American Standard Bible)

13Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. **14**You shall strike him with the rod And rescue his soul from Sheol. **15**My son, if your heart is wise, My own heart also will be glad; **16**And my inmost being will rejoice When your lips speak what is right. **17**Do not let your heart envy sinners, But live in the fear of the LORD always. **18**Surely there is a future, And your hope will not be cut off. **19**Listen, my son, and be wise, And direct your heart in the way. **20**Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, Or with gluttonous eaters of meat; **21**For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe one with rags. **22**Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old. **23**Buy truth, and do not sell it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding. **24**The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who sires a wise son will be glad in him. **25**Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her rejoice who gave birth to you. **26**Give me your heart, my son, And let your eyes delight in my ways. **27**For a harlot is a deep pit And an adulterous woman is a narrow well. **28**Surely she lurks as a robber, And increases the faithless among men. **29**Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? **30**Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine. **31**Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it goes down smoothly; **32**At the last it bites like a serpent And stings like a viper. **33**Your eyes will see strange things And your mind will utter perverse things. **34**And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, Or like one who lies down on the top of a mast. **35**"They struck me, but I did not become ill; They beat me, but I did not know it When shall I awake? I will seek another drink."

Proverbs 20

1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.

Deuteronomy 21:20

20 "They shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.'

Luke 21:34 (New Living Translation)

34 "Watch out! Don't let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don't let that day catch you unaware,

Romans 13:13 (New Living Translation)

13 Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy.

Ephesians 5:18 (New Living Translation)

18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,

1 Timothy 3:3

3 He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money.

Proverbs 17:21

21 It is painful to be the parent of a fool; there is no joy for the father of a rebel.

FOR PARENTS

Psalm 119

76 May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your

servant.

77 Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.

124 Deal with your servant according to your love and teach me your decrees.

125 I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.

II Cor. 12:7-10

7To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. **8**Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. **9**But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. **10**That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Prov 24:10

10 If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength!

Psalms 119

27 Let me understand the teaching of your precepts; then I will meditate on your wonders.

28 My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.

29 Keep me from deceitful ways; be gracious to me through your law.

Peace

Proverbs 3:25-26

25Do not be afraid of sudden fear Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes; **26**For the LORD will be your confidence And will keep your foot from being caught.

Proverbs 14:32

32The wicked is thrust down by his wrongdoing, But the righteous has a refuge when he dies.

Proverbs 19:23

23The fear of the LORD leads to life, So that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.

Enabling

Proverbs 29

15The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

17Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul.

19A slave will not be instructed by words alone; For though he understands, there will be no response.

21He who pampers his slave from childhood Will in the end find him to be a son.

FOR BOTH

Proverbs 14:12

12There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Prov. 28:13

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces then finds mercy.

Proverbs 14:32

32The wicked is thrust down by his wrongdoing, But the righteous has a refuge when he dies.

Growth in suffering

Psalm 119

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.

71 It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.

75 I know, O LORD, that your laws are righteous, and in faithfulness you have afflicted me.

76 May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.

77 Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.

92 If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

93 I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life.

143 Trouble and distress have come upon me, but your commands are my delight.

144 Your statutes are forever right; give me understanding that I may live.

153 Look upon my suffering and deliver me, for I have not forgotten your law.

Wisdom from community

Encouragement

Heb 3 :13

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Proverbs 15:23

A man finds joy in giving an apt reply— and how good is a timely word!

2 Tim 4:2

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

Philemon 1:7

Your love has given me great joy and **encouragement**, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

Hebrews 10:24-25

24And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Titus 2:15

These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

Hebrews 12:4-6

4In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. **5**And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, **6**because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

1 Thessalonians 5:10-12

10He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. **11**Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Romans 15:4

4For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Colossians 2:1-3

1I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. **2**My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, **3**in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Proverbs 18

15 The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out.

Proverbs 9

8 Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you. **9** Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning. **10** "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Discipline

Proverbs 19

18Discipline your son while there is hope, And do not desire his death. **19**A man of great anger will bear the penalty, For if you rescue him, you will only have to do it again. **20**Listen to counsel and accept discipline, That you may be wise the rest of your days.

Proverbs 23

13Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. **14**You shall strike him with the rod And rescue his soul from Sheol. **15**My son, if your heart is wise, My own heart also will be glad; **16**And my inmost being will rejoice When your lips speak what is right. **17**Do not let your heart envy sinners, But live in the fear of the LORD always. **18**Surely there is a future, And your hope will not be cut off. **19**Listen, my son, and be wise, And direct your heart in the way. **20**Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, Or with gluttonous eaters of meat; **21**For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe one with rags. **22**Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old. **23**Buy truth, and do not sell it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding. **24**The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who sires a wise son will be glad in him. **25**Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her rejoice who gave birth to you. **26**Give me your heart, my son, And let your eyes delight in my ways. **27**For a harlot is a deep pit And an adulterous woman is a narrow well. **28**Surely she

lurks as a robber, And increases the faithless among men. **29**Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? **30**Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine.**31**Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it goes down smoothly;**32**At the last it bites like a serpent And stings like a viper. **33**Your eyes will see strange things And your mind will utter perverse things.**34**And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea,Or like one who lies down on the top of a mast. **35**"They struck me, but I did not become ill; They beat me, but I did not know it When shall I awake? I will seek another drink."

Psalm 141:5

5Let the righteous smite me in kindness and reprove me; It is oil upon the head; Do not let my head refuse it, For still my prayer is against their wicked deeds.

Proverbs 1:29-33

29Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD. **30**"They would not accept my counsel, They spurned all my reproof. **31**"So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way And be satiated with their own devices.**32**"For the waywardness of the naive will kill them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them. **33**"But he who listens to me shall live securely And will be at ease from the dread of evil."

Proverbs 12:15

15The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.

Ps. 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

Prov. 15:22

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Prov. 21:31

The horse is made ready for battle, but victory rests with the Lord.