

LETTING GO: Rugged Love For Wayward
Souls
(FAQ)

Letting Go Events (FAQ)

1) What is the Letting Go material?

Drawing from the material from his book, as well as other content developed for these events, Dave has traveled within the US and abroad delivering gospel-centered messages in the context of retreats, seminars and conferences.

2) How many messages does Dave typically do?

It varies. Dave has been invited into events to deliver one message, and he has also been the featured speaker for Letting Go Conferences titled “*Letting Go*”. Typically, a church or ministry has Dave in for two days where he is asked to deliver 3 - 4 messages. This is often done on a Friday evening and Saturday morning. Dave has also done Saturday morning and/or weeknight evening seminars. (Note: Saturday events appear to be most effective when they do not go beyond lunch).

3) Does Kimm speak as well?

Groups often prefer to have Kimm present when material is being presented. This is a preference for some churches and ministries, not an expectation from the Harvey's. Kimm does not teach, but serves very effectively doing Q & A with Dave at the conclusion of an event.

4) What kind of content does Dave offer?

What do you do when someone you love *leaves*? And how do you pursue someone who has hurt you, who has sinned against you? In *Letting Go*, pastors Dave Harvey and Paul Gilbert share stories of pain and stories of hope as they reveal how to care for the prodigal who has strayed. Whether you are dealing with an unfaithful marriage partner, a rebellious child, or a wayward friend, the counsel they offer will help you to pursue a gospel-rooted approach, grounded in truth and practiced in the midst of Christian community.

While each situation is unique, most stories deal with common themes of shame, guilt, confusion, uncertainty, and struggle. You will understand the spiritual dynamics at work in the heart of the prodigal and how you as a family member, spouse, friend, or church leader can best relate to them in love. You will learn how to practice “redemptive release” through confrontation and discipline as well as how to forgive the person who has hurt you through a process of reconciliation. For those in a time of waiting and wondering if their loved one will ever return home, there is a reminder of the hope of the gospel and the necessity of depending upon the Holy Spirit through prayer.

Here are the session topics.

Profile of the Prodigal: Prone to wander describe all of us. But we all know or love someone who just goes rogue and doesn't seem to care. How should we understand from Scripture what is happening here? We'll talk specifically about things the wayward want which include 'choices without consequences' and 'autonomy with accountability'. Most importantly, we will examine how the gospel speaks to this kind of foolishness.

Rugged Love - Part I: Does love accommodate wrong in the interest of a greater right? This question creates the need for 'rugged love'. A love with teeth! The first session will cover the first three components of rugged love: (1) It's strong enough to face evil; (2) It's tenacious enough to do good; and (3) It's courageous enough to enforce consequences

Rugged Love - Part II: *Continuing to explore the question of: Does true love ever tolerate evil in the name of good? The session will explore the remaining 3 features of Rugged Love:* (4) It's sturdy enough to be patient; (5) It's resilient enough to forgive; (6) It's trusting enough to pray boldly.

Rugged Grace - The Shame and Weariness of Loving the Wayward: Face it. When you love someone more than they love you, shame is born. Being paired to a prodigal is a relational nightmare. Think Stephen King writing family stories, but the stories are real. Imagine a person who, due to idolatries, addictions, or brain chemistry, lives as if there are no rules – only rights. *Their* rights! Add a strong dose of violation, butter it with entitlement, and pepper it with victimhood. What happens? You get a human hurricane on a collision course with personal self-destruction and familial devastation. This session will explore both the shame and weariness that accompany loving a prodigal.

Faith For Waiting: It's a truth that few will honestly talk about: Prodigals rarely return quickly. Looking at Romans 4 and the life of Abraham, we will discover how he found faith towards God while his situation was entirely barren. This session will arm us to trust God so that even when our circumstances don't change, our faith towards God will!

- 5) If we want to bring Dave in, are there promotional materials already produced that would help us spread the word?

Yes! Here's some vides produced from a conference by Paul Gilbert and I:
<http://www.fouroakchurch.com/lettinggo/>

Here is a link to the interview with Family Life: <http://familylifetoday.com/series/letting-go/>

You could also check out this Desiring God article: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/love-might-win-the-wayward-in-your-life>

Another article written for Desiring God: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/lift-the-heavy-burden-of-shame>

Tim Challies: <https://www.challies.com/articles/what-the-wayward-wants/>

6) If we do an event, are there outlines we can obtain for use?

Message outlines might be available but would need to be customized by the inviting group.

This video has been used in several events, particularly to close the event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbTK-mKxrAc>

7) Are there additional materials for Letting Go?

- Yes! There is a devotional you can receive by Pdf once you sign up an event.

8) What have others said about Letting Go?

“I loved this book. It is very needed, and frankly, so very helpful. I say that because too many of us refuse to let go and are fighting battles we will not win, and so many of us have already let go and don’t know what to do with our grief and shame, so this tool could not be more timely.

I pray Letting Go finds you and, that when it does, you’ll let it take you by the hand and lead you from where you are to that better place where, by God’s grace, He has called you to be.”

Paul Tripp - Paul Tripp Ministries

“Read this book. The authors’ wise biblical counsel is rich in compassion, sympathy, and empathy.”

Jon Bloom – Desiring God

“Offers practical help for parents, spouses, and friends trying to love someone who gas completely gone off the rails...I’m really thankful for this book”

Elyse Fitzpatrick – Give Them Grace

“This book gives us room to vent, grace to be understood, counsel to get through the next hour, the next day. A superb help for pastoral care.”

Zack Eswine – Riverside Church

9) Can we get a bio for Dave?

DAVE HARVEY (*D. Min – Westminster Theological Seminary*) serves as the president of Great Commission Collective, a church planting ministry in the US, Canada and abroad. In his 33 years of ministry, Dave was president of Sojourn Network, oversaw church planting, church care & international outreach for Sovereign Grace Churches, was a lead pastor for 19 years, and pastored for a total of 33 years. He is also the founder of AmICalled.com. Dave presently serves on the board for the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation (CCEF) and has traveled nationally and internationally doing conferences where he teaches Christians, trains pastors & church planters and conducts marriage events. Dave served as general editor for the Sojourn Network ‘How-To’ series and contributes regularly at www.thegospelcoalition.org, www.desiringgod.org and For the Church (ftc.co). Dave is the author of When Sinners Say I Do, Am I Called?, Rescuing Ambition, Am I Called?, Letting Go: Rugged Love For Wayward Soul (co-authored w/ Paul Gilbert), and the upcoming-release I Still DO, Growing Closer & Stronger Through Life’s Defining Moments. Married for 37 years, Dave and Kimm have four kids, four grandkids and live in southwest Florida. For videos, articles, or to book an event, visit www.revdaveharvey.com.

(Note: Paul Gilbert -my coauthor--may also be available if you desired to have us both in. Things have evolved to where we are doing the events individually because it’s less expensive for the event hosts.)

10)What are the event fees?

It’s customary for the hosting church, group, or ministry to assume responsibility for travel, hotel and food costs. Some groups prefer to have Kimm join Dave at their expense, but that is not required. The speaker fee can be sent to you by emailing Dave at dtHarvey@gmail.com.

11)How do churches who have hosted other events Dave has done describe their experience?

“Most marriage seminars teach you about communication, finances, or sex. While all of this is important, as someone who wants to think distinctively as a Christian, I want more. Dave Harvey’s marriage seminar, based on his popular book When Sinners Say ‘I Do’, was a blessing to our church. He was soundly biblical, honest about sin’s dreadful effects on marriage, and glorious in its pointing to mercy and forgiveness found through the Cross.”

Deepak Reju

Pastor of Counseling and Family Ministry

Capitol Hill Baptist Church (Washington, DC)

Author of *On Guard* and *The Pastor and Counseling*

“We were so well-served as a church by the “When Sinners Say I Do” retreat. The sessions were rich—thoroughly grounded in the freeing truth of the gospel and, at the same time, immensely practical. Marriages in our church were both envisioned and strengthened.”

Mike Bullmore, Senior Pastor,
CrossWay Community Church, Bristol, Wisconsin.

“As a pastor, I’m constantly looking for ways to strengthen and enrich the marriages of our church family. Having Dave Harvey come and offer valuable teaching from his excellent book, When Sinners Say ‘I Do’ has proven to be a key investment for us, and we continue to see the fruitfulness from his time with us.”

Jonathan Holmes, Counseling Pastor, Parkside Church (Cleveland, OH);
Council Member, Biblical Counseling Coalition

Dave excels at bringing the heart of the gospel to the heart of marriage in his “When Sinners Say I Do” conference. He does so with warmth, candor, humor, and a servant’s heart. This material is for all marriages, regardless of how long or strong your marriage is- you’ll be blessed.

John Rogers - Pastor, Discipleship & Family Ministry
Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church - Houston, Texas

“There are as many ideas, techniques and opinions on how to improve our marriages as there are different marriage seminars available! What we so appreciated about WSSID was that it was really only about one thing: applying the gospel. Dave Harvey graciously and humorously helped us reconsider the motives of our hearts rather than looking for a quick fix for the challenges that are common to us all. In bringing us back to the mercy we’ve received in Christ, he not only instructed us, but more important, motivated us to want to be more like Jesus to each other in our marriages and relationships. A day well spent with lasting effect!”

Pete Greasley, Lead Pastor,
Christ Church (Newport Wales, UK)

“Dave Harvey was our guest speaker at our BCTC Fall Conference. Using his material from When Sinners Say ‘I Do’, he did a wonderful job in pointing out how the gospel is much needed in the everyday life of a married Christian couple.

Darrell Gustafson - Grace Covenant Church, Gilbert, AZ
Director of Grace Covenant Counseling Center
Director of Biblical Counseling Training Center of AZ (ACBC Certified)

“Dave Harvey’s teaching from When Sinners Say ‘I Do’ has been a tremendous blessing to people in the Portuguese speaking world. Dave’s book, published almost 10 years ago, continues to be one of the most popular titles we have ever published in this category despite the fact that we offered the book as a free download to countless thousands of online readers!”

Rick Denham
Executive Director - Fiel Ministries (Brazil)